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Oman's manufacturing output grows over 10%

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman's manufacturing sector has posted a solid year-on-year growth of 10.1% in the first half of 2024, driven by significant jumps in production value of oil refining and chemical industries, according to the latest data from National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The sector's output at constant prices rose to RO1.868bn in the January-June period of 2024, compared to RO1.697bn during the same period in 2023. This marked increase reflects continued expansion in key sub-sectors, notably oil refining, petrochemicals and basic chemicals.

Petroleum products refining saw a remarkable 63.8% surge in output with production value reaching RO138.2mn, accounting for 7% of total manufacturing output. The basic chemicals industry also experienced robust growth with production value expanding 17.8% to RO659mn in the first half of 2024, representing 35% of the manufacturing sector's total output.

In contrast, the production value of other industries - including metals, food and pharmaceuticals - grew at a more moderate pace of 4.7% to RO1.071bn, which together constitute 57% of total manufacturing output.

Mazin bin Humaid al Siyabi, Assistant Director General of In-



The average growth rate of the sector under the 10th Five-Year Plan is 7.5% at constant prices exceeding the Industrial Strategy 2040 aim for a sustainable annual growth rate of 7%

MAZIN BIN HUMAID AL SIYABI

dustry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, informed that the manufacturing sector accounted for 10% of Oman's GDP at constant prices in H1 2024. The average growth rate of the sector under the 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) is 7.5% at constant prices exceeding the government's Industrial Strategy 2040 aim for a sustainable annual growth rate of 7%.

"The manufacturing sector plays a crucial role in boosting local production, creating employment opportunities, improving Oman's trade balance and diversifying income sources away from oil dependency," Siyabi said in a statement to Oman News Agency.

"Furthermore, its expansion supports development of other industries by driving demand for raw materials, logistics, technical

services and infrastructure, while also encouraging greater investment in research, development and innovation," he added.

Jassim bin Saif al Jadidi, Technical Director at Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, added that in many industrialised nations, manufacturing is a key engine of economic growth, facilitating the development of other sectors through its deep supply chain linkages.

H M TO OPEN MEDICAL CITY HOSPITAL ON MONDAY

Muscat - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik will visit the Medical City for Military and Security Services in Muscat on Monday. During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan will officially open the Medical City Hospital.

The medical city was established through a Royal Decree in 2022 and is responsible for providing integrated medical services and healthcare to members of the military and security services.

Strategic agreements inked to advance knowledge economy

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman has intensified efforts to build a knowledge-based, innovation-driven economy through key agreements announced at the 2024 Ejaad Leadership Forum.

The event, held under Ministry of Higher Education, Research (MoHERI) and Innovation and attended by prominent figures on Thursday, highlighted Oman's commitment to sustainable growth and economic diversity aligned with Oman Vision 2040. H E Dr Said bin Mohammed al Saqri, Minister of Economy, underscored the importance of research, development and innovation in addressing Oman's economic priorities.

MoHERI signed pacts aimed at strengthening Oman's innovation ecosystem, prioritising local talent development and fostering international partnerships. These initiatives target growth in fields such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy and digital infrastructure, with plans for substantial investments in technology, education and research.



ology, education and research.

The intensified efforts include a partnership between Ejaad, Asyad Group, Dhofar Integrated Services, SLB, United Engineering Services, and Global Space and Technology to advance innovation across sectors crucial to Oman's economic development.

Other agreements support cutting-edge research in energy, water and environmental sustainability. Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) will test ETFE coatings for corrosion resistance in high-temperature environments in the oil and gas industry. PDO will also collaborate with Sohar University on safe disposal methods for naturally

occurring radioactive materials (NORM) in produced water, aiming to reduce environmental impact in industrial settings.

In renewable energy, Oman LNG and SQU will assess wave energy technologies in Sur, aiming to modernise Oman's energy grid with advanced storage systems to support green energy integration. An agreement between Oman LNG and German University of Technology explores adding green hydrogen to Oman's gas infrastructure, using existing networks to efficiently advance green hydrogen goals.

Additionally, Nama Water and SQU signed consultancy agreements to address water management challenges.

GCC prepares for ageing population surge with new strategy update

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Experts from across the Gulf states gathered in Muscat last week to discuss strategies to support the region's ageing population with the number of elderly projected to grow rapidly to 30% by 2050. The symposium - 'Following up on the Implementation of the Arab Strategy for the Elderly: Potential and Challenges' - brought together specialists from the GCC to address the unique needs and challenges facing the region's elderly population.

Safia bint Mohammed al Omairiya, Director of Department of Elderly Affairs at Ministry



of Social Development, emphasised the importance of digital inclusion for the elderly. She advocated training programmes to make technology accessible, noting that digital integration can

help seniors stay socially connected, access services and pursue personal growth. "This can be achieved by offering training, simplifying technology, and providing support and encourage-

ment," Safia said, adding that common barriers like fear of technology and sensory impairments must be addressed.

Representing Saudi Arabia, Ibtisam Abdullah al Humaizi, Director General of Elderly Care, outlined the kingdom's approach to supporting its ageing population, now comprising over 1.5mn citizens aged 60 and older. "We're committed to ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for our elderly," she stated, citing initiatives like the Senior Citizens Privilege Card and community projects that uphold the dignity and rights of older citizens.

In the UAE, the Ministry of Community Development has

launched innovative programmes under its national policy for senior citizens. Fatima Abdul Rahman al Zarouni, a social studies specialist, highlighted the 'We are Your Family' programme, a volunteer-based initiative that provides essential support to elderly citizens across all emirates, especially during emergencies.

Ali Salem Buharoon al Shamsi from the GCC Statistical Centre discussed the region's demographic trends, noting that the elderly population in these countries was 2.6mn in 2023 or 4.5% of the total and projected to grow to nearly 30% by 2050. He announced that the centre is preparing a specialised study on

the realities faced by seniors in GCC countries.

He also shared details of a recent workshop organised by the centre in collaboration with UN Population Fund's sub-regional office and HelpAge International. Held in Sharjah as part of the Regional Forum for Data and Community Development in October, the workshop - 'Data and the Rights of Older Persons: Strengthening Policies and Community Response' - focused on raising awareness on ageing and the rights of older individuals. It aimed to equip stakeholders with skills to adopt a human rights-based approach to policies and programmes to empower the elderly.



02

Suhar certified as WHO Healthy City



16

Children's exhibition opens at Matti Sirvio Art Galleria

Suhar is certified as WHO Healthy City for commitment to sustainable development

Our Correspondent
Suhar

World Health Organization (WHO) presented a certificate to Ministry of Health on Thursday officially recognising Suhar as a 'Healthy City'.

The presentation ceremony, held under the patronage of Mohammed bin Suleiman al Kindi, Governor of North Batinah, was attended by Dr Jean Yacoub Jabbour, WHO Representative in Oman.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah al Busaidi, Wali of Suhar and Chairperson of Suhar Health City Executive Committee, noted that it was one of the first cities in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to adopt the Healthy Cities Programme in 2005. After nearly two decades of committed efforts and meeting 80 criteria across nine thematic areas, Suhar achieved the recognition from the WHO Regional Office and joined the Regional Network of Healthy Cities.

Busaidi informed that the Healthy City Programme plays a crucial role in advancing the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and sustainable development.

He highlighted the fact that Suhar's approach, built on partnership and collaboration across public and private sectors, besides civil society, fosters a 'health is everyone's responsibility' ethos essential to creating a holistic and healthy urban envi-



(Supplied photo)

Suvar was one of the first cities in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to adopt the Healthy Cities Programme in 2005; it now meets 80 criteria across nine thematic areas

ronment.

Dr Khalid bin Saeed al Saadi, Director General of Health Services in North Batinah, outlined the milestones that led to Suhar's recognition at the presentation ceremony. Meeting WHO standards and advancing health and

environmental outcomes required extensive collaboration across sectors, he noted. Suhr Healthy City now features 17 public parks, walking paths, a bike lane, an engineered landfill and a sewage network - all of which contribute to creating a health-

promoting environment.

Saadi also pointed towards numerous initiatives that support Suhar's WHO recognition, including health-promoting schools and universities, a free mobile mammography unit and annual Physical Activity Day, which inspired creation of Oman's national Physical Activity Day. These initiatives reflect the city's dedication to community health, environmental sustainability and active living, establishing Suhar as a model for healthy urban development in Oman and beyond.

Oman Air announces year-round stopover option at WTM London

Our Correspondent

Muscat

Oman Air has announced a year-round stopover programme for those transiting through the sultanate. The announcement was made during Oman's participation, headed by Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, at World Travel Market London last week.

'We're thrilled to introduce a major national initiative, a unique year-round stopover programme spearheaded by Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in partnership with Visit Oman, the digitally native travel booking gateway of the sultanate,' the national carrier stated.

Announced by H E Salim Mohamed al Mahrouqi during WTM London, 'this strategic endeavour aims to position Oman as a pre-



(Supplied photo)

mier global travel destination, offering transit passengers from around the world the opportunity to incorporate Oman into their journeys'.

Mike Rutter, Chief Commercial Officer of the airline, said, "The programme combines the capabilities of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Visit

Oman's substantial packaging content of unique opportunities to enjoy all of the tourism aspects of Oman. We at Oman Air are packaging opportunities into the new digital journey for our guests, which will allow them, when they travel, using our services, to stop over to book a package from four hours to seven days."

Omani wins ALECSO Award for young researchers in educational field

Our Correspondent

Muscat

The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization has announced Omani researcher Dr Huda bint Mubarak al Dayri as winner of the ALECSO Award for Creativity and Innovation for Young Researchers in the Arab World.

Her award-winning research - 'The Extent to which Government School Principals and their Teachers practice their Roles in Activating Green Economy Fields in Education, and Mechanisms for Enhancing these in Light of



Dr Huda bint Mubarak al Dayri

Oman Vision 2040' - explores sustainable practices in education aligned with Oman Vision 2040 goals.

This recognition aligns with ALECSO's mission to support innovative Arab researchers, advance scientific research and promote a culture of innovation among Arab youth.

Huda's study highlights the fact that while school principals and teachers actively engage in promoting green economy practices in education, their involvement varies across specific areas of the green economy. The study offers valuable insights into enhancing these roles to better support environmental and economic sustainability within educational settings.



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Time to Recognize, Appreciate and Honour GCC's Exceptional Corporate Leaders

The Business Today CXO Awards will felicitate the most distinguished C-Level executives (CXOs) with exceptional achievements to their credit.

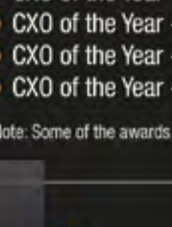
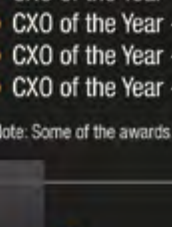
In a gala awards night, the leading CXOs across industries will be felicitated for their outstanding corporate achievements, transformative business strategies, excellence in governance, dedication to talent development and their positive contributions to the economic, social and environmental well-being of society.

AWARD CATEGORIES

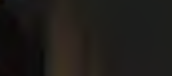
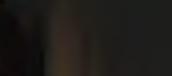
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Year
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Year
- Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Year
- Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) of the Year
- Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) of the Year
- Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the Year
- Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Year
- Chief Digital Officer (CDO) of the Year
- Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of the Year
- Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the Year
- Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of the Year
- Chief Audit Officer (CAO) of the Year
- Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) of the Year
- Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) of the Year
- Chief Legal Officer (CLO) of the Year
- Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of the Year
- CXO of the Year – Oman
- CXO of the Year – Saudi Arabia
- CXO of the Year – UAE
- CXO of the Year – Qatar
- CXO of the Year – Kuwait
- CXO of the Year – Bahrain

Note: Some of the awards will be presented in respective industry categories

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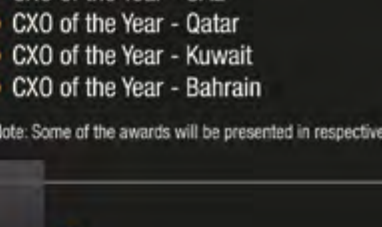
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For table reservations, award information and partnership opportunities, contact: sajir@apexmedia.co.om or +968 9947 4314

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S Batinah unveils comprehensive development plan

Our Correspondent
Muscat

South Batinah has unveiled a comprehensive development strategy in alignment with Oman Vision 2040 designed to enhance economic growth and quality of life. Drawn up with inputs from government and private sector stakeholders, the plan rests on three strategic pillars: communication, excellence and diversity.

According to Governor Masoud bin Saeed al Hashmi, the aim is to position South Batinah as a regional leader in data centres and e-commerce, establish a robust logistics zone, and develop advanced infrastructure within the logistics sector.

A significant component of the plan is development of South Batinah as the national centre for sports excellence. "We are committed to providing a wide range of sports services and hosting global sporting events," Hashmi stated. These efforts are designed to make the governorate a



preferred destination for both tourism and entertainment, thereby boosting the local economy and enhancing social engagement.

The agricultural and fisheries sectors are also high on the governorate's agenda. Investment in Barka and Musannah ports will support projected growth. Barka

Port is expected to see an investment of RO50mn. Additionally, artisanal fishing, supporting over 3,000 local fishermen, is a crucial sector with ongoing infrastructure upgrades aimed at enhancing economic sustainability and job creation.

To boost tourism, restoration projects are underway at Rustaq

Fort and Imam Ahmed bin Saeed Mosque. South Batinah's diverse landscapes - coastal areas, mountains and springs - and historical sites position it as a primary tourism destination. The governorate is encouraging private sector involvement to develop integrated resorts, visitor centres and basic infrastructure.

Healthcare services are receiving attention with upgrades planned for Wadi Bani Ghafir Hospital and health complexes in Barka and Nakhal. Collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Health include community awareness campaigns, improved healthcare facilities and ongoing expansion to cater to the gover-



We are committed to providing a wide range of sports services and hosting global sporting events

MASOUD AL HASHMI

maniyat Islands Nature Reserve. The governorate's focus includes balancing development with environmental preservation by working with Environment Authority to monitor and protect local biodiversity. The Al Alalan Park project in Jebel Shams highlights efforts to raise environmental awareness and enhance eco-tourism.

In education, South Batinah is improving infrastructure by building new schools in Barka and Al Awabi, and enhancing vocational and digital skills.

Upcoming projects include markets in Wadi al Maawil and Al Awabi, road improvement works, and development along seafronts in Barka and Musannah. The governorate is also addressing repair needs following recent climate-related damage in Rustaq, Al Awabi and Nakhal.

To facilitate entrepreneurship, the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development has launched initiatives to support small businesses and startups.

Bids invited for development of Rose Pathway in Jabal Akhdar

Our Correspondent
Jabal Akhdar

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has announced a tender for development of Rose Pathway in Jabal Akhdar, Dakhliyah in an effort to attract more visitors to the popular mountain destination.

The tender invites specialised companies to bid for rights to develop a scenic trail in the wilayat. 'The goal is to enhance the tourism experience, enabling visitors to explore Jabal Akhdar and participate in the annual rose harvesting season,' it stated.

Last year, rose production in Jabal Akhdar increased nine tonnes over 2022 to over 20 tonnes. The total value of the 2023 harvest is estimated at RO200,000, underscoring the economic importance of rose farming in the wilayat.

Starting late March and end-



ing in mid-April, the rose harvest season is a key cultural event in Jabal Akhdar. Farmers handpick the Damask flowers, which are then used to produce rose water, rose oil and other fragrance products. Visitors are invited to take part in the harvest, enjoy local cultural performances and traditional food, and experience the hospitality

of the region.

In March 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources launched a project to further boost rose cultivation in Jabal Akhdar. The RO150,000 initiative, financed by Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund, is a two-year project aimed at benefiting 15 farmers.

'A House of Wonders' wins special recognition at ASBU awards in UAE

Muscat - Omani documentary film *A House of Wonders* won a special recognition award - Outstanding Gulf Production - at the 14th Broadcast Pro Summit and Awards 2024 organised by Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) in Dubai, UAE recently.

Produced by the Ministry of Information, represented by *Nizwa Magazine*, *A House of Wonders* is a three-part documentary,

complemented by a book, that delves into the Omani presence in Zanzibar and East Africa. Each part is of 50-minute duration and available in Arabic, English and Swahili.

The film focuses on the significant contributions of Omanis in various fields - political, commercial, social and cultural - across East Africa, starting with the iconic Bait al Ajaib building - or House of Wonders - after which

the film is named.

Shot in ten countries, it is considered the biggest documentary project undertaken by the sultanate. It features 28 international scholars as well as prominent Omani actors and more than 600 supporting actors.

A landmark building dating back to 1883, House of Wonders is a Unesco World Heritage Site in Stone Town, Zanzibar.



TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2666050/2024	Construction of Water Distribution and Sewer System Networks for Al-Amerat Wilayat (A10) - Area (AZ8 & AZ9)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board in Excellent Grade and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	2500 /- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	21/11/2024	30/12/2024
T/2665052/2024	Construction of TE Supply from Wadi Al Janhi Discharge Pipeline to Agricultural Incubator in Al Amera Wilayat	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board in Excellent Grade and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	2500 /- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	21/11/2024	30/12/2024

The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into their (I-supplier Page).

Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> in order to receive the login credentials of the Supplier portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-tendering page (Supplier Login <https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Business-with-Us/Supplierlogin>). All participating companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope. Bid Bonds must be obtained from a local Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman addressed to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 2:00 pm on the bid submission date.

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of tender@owwsc.nama.om



CBO follows Fed's lead, cuts repo rate by 25 basis points



Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) on Friday announced a 25-basis-point reduction in its repo rate, mirroring a similar move by the US Federal Reserve.

Repo rate is the policy rate that allows commercial banks in Oman to borrow short-term liquidity from the CBO as the lender of last resort.

‘The Central Bank of Oman, effective from today (Friday), decreased its repo rate for local banks by 25 basis points to 5.25% from 5.50%.’ CBO said in a statement.

Oman, along with other GCC countries, typically aligns its monetary policy with the US Federal Reserve, as the currencies of these nations are pegged to the US dollar. Kuwait, however, maintains a currency peg to a basket of currencies that includes the dollar.

The US Federal Reserve's decision on Thursday to cut its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points brought the federal funds rate to a range of 4.5% to 4.75%, the lowest level since February 2023.

certainty for investors by mitigating exchange rate risk,’ the CBO noted.

Following the Fed's decision, all GCC central banks, with the exception of Kuwait, announced rate cuts on Thursday. Saudi Ara-

Bahrain's central bank implemented a 25-basis-point cut in its overnight deposit rate, according to reports.

The Fed's quarter-point reduction on Thursday follows a more aggressive 50-basis-point cut in September, signalling a more cautious approach as it continues to assess the economic landscape and inflation trends.

“The recalibration of our policy stance will support the strength of the economy and the labour market, and continue to advance progress on inflation as we move towards a more neutral stance over time,” said Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell during a press conference. “Even with today’s cut, the policy remains restrictive,” he added.

The Federal Reserve reaffirmed its commitment to a data-driven approach, leaving the door open for future rate adjustments depending on evolving economic conditions.

Following the US Federal Reserve’s decision to reduce interest rate by 25 basis points, all GCC central banks, with the exception of Kuwait, announced rate cuts

In its statement, the CBO reiterated that its primary monetary policy objective is to sustain and maintain its fixed exchange rate with US dollar.

‘This policy is aligned with the structure and nature of the Omani economy. It offers several advantages, including currency stability, protection against erratic capital flows, lower domestic funding costs, and greater

bia reduced both its repo and reverse repo rates by 25 basis points, bringing them to 5.25% and 4.75%, respectively. The Central Bank of the UAE followed suit, cutting its base rate on the overnight deposit facility by 25 basis points to 4.65%.

In Qatar, the central bank opted for a slightly deeper reduction of 30 basis points across its three main interest rates, while



Total investment in Sur Industrial City reaches RO2.3bn

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Sur Industrial City, which is affiliated with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), attracted five new projects during the first half of this year, bringing the total number of projects in the city to 113. These projects span various sectors, including industrial, commercial, service, residential, and academic sectors.

Sur Industrial City currently hosts around 2,737 employees working in established projects, with an Omanisation rate of 55%

According to a report by the Oman News Agency, the total cumulative investment in Sur Industrial City has reached approximately RO2.3bn. The city currently hosts around 2,737 employees working in the established projects, with an Omanisation rate exceeding 55%. The total area of the city covers 36mn square meters.

Nasser bin Hamoud al-Mabsali, Director General of Sur Industrial City, said, “Madayn is implementing several key projects within the industrial city, the most notable of which is the design and construction of a sewage treatment plant with a capacity of

500 cubic meters per day. The project is now 82% complete and is expected to undergo inspection and begin operations early next year.”

He also mentioned the OMIFCO Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, the design for which has been completed. Work is currently

belt afforestation project is 95% complete and is also expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

He highlighted several upcoming projects for Sur Industrial City, including a consulting services project for developing infrastructure for ship docking in the city. The tender for this project was issued to specialised consulting companies in the second half of this year, and the received offers are currently undergoing technical and financial evaluation. It is expected that the consulting contract will be awarded at the beginning of next year.

Additionally, there is a consulting services project for the design of the city's master plan development.

Mabsali emphasised that the Sur Industrial City management is making continuous efforts to facilitate subcontracting sessions between large companies and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Oman. These initiatives aim to provide subcontracting opportunities for SMEs and promote business growth within the sultanate.

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MAJAN GLASS COMPANY S.A.O.G.

P.O. Box 17, Postal Code 327, C.R. No: 3/19456/6, Sohar Industrial Estate, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel: +968 26751654/5/6, Fax: +968 26751658, E-mail: info@majanglass.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

Majan Glass Company SAOG hereby announces that it received the approval from the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to change its legal form from a public joint stock company (SAOG) to a closed joint stock company (SAOC). The company's shareholders have pledged to purchase the shares that the company's shareholders wish to sell, according to the following information:

- Company name:**
Majan Glass Company SAOG, whose address is P.O. Box 17, Postal Code 327, Sohar Industrial Area, and Majan Glass Company SAOG wishes to transform into a closed joint stock company (SAOC).
- Shareholders wishing to purchase shares are:**
Oman Investment Authority
- Presented purchase price:**
An amount of 0.004 Omani Rial per share, and the basis on which the share price was determined was based on a study conducted by the auditor licensed by the Financial Services Authority, Moore Stephens, based on the company's assets and possessions.
- Start and end date of the shares purchase offer**
The purchase of shares will begin after (14) calendar days from the date of this publication, as the offer will begin on 21/ 11/2024, and will continue for seven days to end on 27/11/2024.
- The name of the brokerage company to complete the shares purchase process is:**
United Securities LLC, whose address is in Muscat - Building No.: 1/299, Road No.: 5007, Complex No.: 250, First Floor, Ghala Commercial Area. The means of communication with them will be through telephone number: 24763300, and e-mail: info@usoman.com, where communication will be with Mr. Ayman Al Lawati, telephone numbers: 24763337, 96662368, e-mail: ayman@usoman.com, and his address is in P.O. Box 2566, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

Important Note: -
In the announcement on 06 November 2024, the price quoted was 3.60 Baiza per share which could not be updated on the MSX website as it exceeds 3 decimal places of the currency. Therefore, the same has been rounded off and changed to Omani Rial 0.004 as stated above

GME posts strong performance in 2024

Dubai, UAE – Dubai-based Gulf Mercantile Exchange (GME), the premier international commodity exchange in the Middle East, announced significant growth in its exchange performance for the first ten months of 2024.

The exchange experienced an impressive 8% growth in physical delivery volume, rising from 201mn barrels in 2023 to 217mn barrels in 2024. Furthermore, trading volume for the front month surged by 20%, with a total of 965mn barrels traded in 2024 compared to 800mn barrels in 2023. Additionally ex-



change total volume in October 2024 recorded a 29.26% increase with 116,931 contracts

traded, compared to 90,462 contracts in September 2024.

This growth reflects the confidence that traders and market participants have in the GME, which has established itself as a leading platform and a reliable pricing signal for crude oil produced in the Middle East. Currently, GME Oman is pricing over 5mn barrels of crude oil produced in the region and shipped to Asia daily.

Raid al-Salami, Managing Director, GME, said, “We are incredibly proud of our achievements in 2024. The continued

growth in both physical delivery and trading volumes is a testament to the trust our clients place in our exchange and the integrity of GME Oman. We remain committed to delivering exceptional service and fostering transparency in the oil market.”

“As we move forward, we are dedicated to further enhancing our services and expanding our role in the global oil market, ensuring that we continue to meet the evolving needs of our customers and regional national oil companies,” Salami added.

Development Bank CEO highlights Omani infrastructure projects at ADFIAP Forum

Muscat – With sustainable infrastructure being key to combating climate change and driving economic growth, Hussain al Lawati, CEO of Development Bank, discussed how impact investment can accelerate progress toward Oman Vision 2040 and the country's 2050 Net Zero strategy at the ADFIAP International CEO Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, from November 6 to 8.

Lawati participated in a panel titled Sustainable Futures: The Role of Impact Investment in Building Resilient Infrastructure, alongside leading financial experts from Asia and the



Middle East.

“Today, sustainable infrastructure is not just an environmental necessity; it is an economic imperative,” said Lawati. “The ADFIAP forum pro-

vided an ideal opportunity for development finance professionals to exchange ideas and insights that can help turn challenges into investment opportunities.”

At the Bali forum, Lawati highlighted major Omani infrastructure projects, including Sultan Haitham City, a 14.8-sqkm development that integrates smart technologies, solar power, and 2.9mn sqm of green space, designed to serve 100,000 residents.

He also discussed Oman's ambitious \$1.2bn investment in wind-based Independent Power Projects, which will collectively generate 1GW of renewable en-

ergy capacity by 2027, contributing to the country's Net Zero goals. “Oman's efforts in this space demonstrate how investment in sustainable infrastructure can drive economic growth, support climate action, protect biodiversity, reduce pollution, and enhance resilience to the risks posed by climate change,” Lawati added.

He emphasised that resilient infrastructure is not just about roads, housing, ports, and wind farms; it is about the people, businesses, and communities for whom such infrastructure serves as a lifeline to better health, education, and job opportunities.

Global economy braces for Trump's tariffs

Istanbul, Turkey – While President-elect Donald Trump is expected to draw the sword of protectionism in the coming years, experts are concerned about possible trade tensions, particularly between the US, Europe and China.

Citing Trump's reelection, Ilter Turan, emeritus professor in social sciences, said it turns out that the idea promised to Americans - "Make America Great Again" - is really about protecting the American market

through tariffs. It will lead to significant changes in American trade with many of the changes having a negative effect, particularly for Europe and China, Turan told Anadolu.

The German Chamber of Commerce and Industry's President Peter Adrian said Wednesday that Trump's win makes trade with the US much more difficult and the business community should prepare for protectionist trade from Washington.

Markets expect to see serious disruptions to Germany's industrial sector with high tariffs, fueling uncertainty for companies operating in Germany and a slowdown in investments in the new Trump era.

"Now we do not yet know what Trump will do, but based on his past experience, we have seen that he sometimes reshapes his statements after consulting with the power centers in the US, so it is difficult to give comments," said Turan.



US President-elect Donald Trump

Possible increases in tariffs on China are expected to escalate economic tensions between the two countries and disrupt global trade balances, particularly affecting technology and manufacturing.

Max Gillman, a professor of economic history at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said Trump will impose import tariffs, especially on China.

The tariffs would dampen economic activity in China which would decrease global growth

and lessen the financing of increasing Chinese militarism that we have all seen in recent years, he added.

Gillman said Chinese, Russian, Iranian and North Korean militaristic actions would be confronted more directly under Trump through diplomacy, economic growth, NATO enhancement, US military build-up and isolation if needed, for those autocratic regimes.

"This is likely to bring a more peaceful global era that will ex-

pand trade across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East," Turan said.

The head of an export association in Türkiye (Disyonder), Hakan Cinar, said Thursday that Trump believes the global trade system harms the US and creates huge trade deficits for his country.

Considering that he has already imposed high tariffs against China, it will not be a surprise if he adopts a similar stance in the new term, said Cinar.

Anadolu Agency



Oil prices rise 2.5% last week amid OPEC+ supply

London, UK – Oil prices recorded a weekly increase on Friday with OPEC+ decision to hold off on increasing output, the US Federal Reserve's second interest rate cut of the year and increased economic activity in both the US and China.

The International benchmark Brent crude traded at \$74.66 per barrel on Friday, up by around 2.5% relative to the closing price of \$72.84 a barrel last week.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the American benchmark, traded at \$71.07 a barrel at the same time on Friday, an increase of about 2.9% from last Friday's session, which closed at \$69.10 per barrel.

Oil prices rose on Monday following a decision by OPEC+ countries to extend production cuts and delay output increases by another month. The OPEC+ group which includes the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other

major producers, announced on November 3 a decision to continue production cuts of 2.2mn barrels per day through December.

The group was expected to increase production by 180,000 barrels daily from December. The reduction in oil supply by major producers supported upward price movement.

Market players this week were mainly focused on the November 5 presidential elections in the US and the Fed interest rate decision.

Donald Trump won his second term as president, beating Vice President Kamala Harris 277 to 224 in the electoral college vote in the 2024 election on November 5. Trump has 75 days to assemble an administrative cabinet for when he is inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2025 and officially begins his second presidential term.

Agencies

Eurozone's GDP forecasts slashed on Trump victory

Eleanor Butler

The eurozone can expect a 0.5% hit to real GDP due to Trump's victory in the US presidential election, predicted economists at Goldman Sachs.

In a report published in the wake of the results, experts at the investment bank said that the outcome will hurt some nations more than others.

Germany could expect a 0.6% hit to real GDP, while Italy and the UK could see negative effects of 0.3% and 0.4% respectively.

Economists predict the hit will materialise between the first and fourth quarter of 2025. They now estimate eurozone growth at 0.8% in 2025, down from a previous forecast of 1.1%. In 2026, growth is predicted at 1%, down from 1.1%.

One cause for concern is Trump's suggested tariffs on European imports.

"While the proposed 10% across-the-board tariff is a clear risk, our baseline expectation is that Trump imposes a more limited set of tariffs on European economies, targeting primarily auto exports," said GS re-

searchers.

According to the ACEA, the US is the second largest market for EU vehicle exports - after the UK (counting in units).

In 2023, 16.9% of new car exports from the EU went to the US. Goldman Sachs economists nonetheless added that despite the risk of import duties, "the actual magnitude of tariff increases might matter less for growth than the trade policy uncertainty created".

The report also explored the potential inflationary effects of tariffs in the eurozone, estimating a six-basis-point lift.

Tariffs could increase inflation as imported goods will be more expensive, although economists suggested that increased import costs will be balanced out by reduced demand for these goods in the eurozone.

On the subject of borrowing costs, the report said that Trump's policy agenda should reinforce the case for lower interest rates across Europe.

Reduced policy rates could help the eurozone to boost its output, set to be negatively affected by Trump's policies.

(Source: Euronews.com)



A'Sharqiya Investments Holding Co. (SAOG)

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Chairman's Report for the Quarter ended September 30, 2024

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it gives me great pleasure to present the unaudited consolidated financial statements of A'Sharqiya Investment Holding Company (SAOG) and its subsidiary – Qalhat Real Estate Investments & Services LLC. (QREIS) - for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2024.

Overview of Operations and Financial Performance

A summary of the company's operating performance for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2024 in comparison to the corresponding period in 2023 and the full year ended 2023 is presented below:

(RO In '000)

Quarter ended September 30, 2024	Sep 30 2024	Sep 30 2023	% Increase/ (Decrease)	Full Year ended 2023
Total Operating Income	892	817	9.2	1,234
Profit after Tax (PAT)	362	257	41.1	485
Total Assets	18,160	16,894	7.5	18,477
Shareholder's Equity	14,387	13,048	10.3	14,614

It may be noted from above; the company's operations during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2024 generated an income of RO 892,388 as compared to RO 817,289 during the corresponding period in 2023. Profit before tax recorded an increase of 33.3% at RO 405,012 as against RO 303,743. The profit after tax arising from the company's operations during this period aggregated to RO 362,123 as compared to RO 256,644 generated during the comparable period in 2023 reflecting an increase of 41.1%. The increase in operating income and Net Profit was due to higher investment income despite lower lease income recorded in comparison to the same period last year.

The total assets of the company as of September 30, 2024 was RO 18,159,781 as compared to a RO 16,894,121 as at September 30, 2023, reflecting an increase of 7.5%. Shareholder's Equity increased 10.3% to RO 14,386,976 from RO 13,048,411 in the same period last year. The break-up value of the company's equity share works out to Baizas 160 on September 30, 2024 as compared to Baizas 145 on September 30, 2023.

Investment and future Outlook

The global economy is expected to grow 3.2% in 2024 and 3.2% in 2025 after increasing 3.3% in 2023, as per IMF World Economic Outlook Update (October 2024). While the forecasts have remained virtually unchanged during the last 6 months, notable revisions have taken place beneath the surface, with upgrades to the forecast for the United States offsetting downgrades to those for other advanced economies—in particular, the largest European countries. Likewise, in emerging market and developing economies, disruptions to production and shipping of commodities, especially oil—conflicts, civil unrest, and extreme weather events have led to downward revisions to the outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia and that for sub-Saharan Africa. Cyclical imbalances have eased since the beginning of the year, bringing inflation rates across countries closer together and on balance has contributed to lower global inflation.

Oman's economic growth is estimated at 1.0% in 2024 after increasing 1.3% in 2023 and is expected to grow 3.1% in 2025. The change in global monetary conditions is easing the pressure on emerging market economies, with their currencies strengthening against the US dollar and inflation conditions improving. This will help reduce imported inflation pressures, allowing these countries to pursue more easily their own disinflation path.

The outlook for our investment portfolio is positive with the Company's increasing diversification into key geographies and other asset classes. The Company will continue to support its investee companies in the local market with a long-term view and focus on opportunities in other markets to achieve effective diversification of the portfolio.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for his able leadership of the country. I also thank the shareholders for their continued support and for the confidence reposed on the company. My appreciation also goes to the company's management and staff for their contributions and commitment to the company.

Mohammed Ali Mohammed Al Fannah
Chairman

Consolidated and separate interim statement of financial position as at 30 September 2024

	Group 30 September 2024	31 December 2023	Parent Company 30 September 2024	31 December 2023
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Plant and equipment	260,032	271,434	1,300	1,818
Lease receivables	3,478,104	3,518,927	-	-
Investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI")	7,655,746	7,798,096	7,655,746	7,798,096
Investments in equity instruments at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL")	633,481	416,074	633,481	416,074
Investments in debt instruments at FVOCI 8	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Investments in debt instruments at amortised cost	3,199,985	2,295,028	3,199,985	2,295,028
Investment in a subsidiary	-	-	250,000	250,000
Deferred tax asset	39,463	39,463	39,463	39,463
Total non-current assets	15,416,811	14,489,022	11,929,975	10,950,479
Current assets				
Other receivables	376,854	190,759	87,812	126,841
Lease receivables	255,082	854,141	-	-
Term deposits	1,850,000	1,500,000	-	-
Cash and bank balances	261,034	1,443,098	191,909	966,133
Total current assets	2,742,969	3,987,998	279,721	1,092,974
TOTAL ASSETS	18,159,781	18,477,020	12,209,696	12,043,453
EQUITY				
Capital and reserves				
Share capital	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000
Legal reserve	1,757,163	1,733,722	1,673,829	1,650,388
Fair value reserve	474,153	608,092	474,153	608,092
Retained earnings	3,155,660	3,272,138	316,059	560,255
Total capital and reserves	14,386,976	14,613,952	11,464,041	11,818,735
TOTAL EQUITY	14,386,976	14,613,952	11,464,041	11,818,735
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Employees' benefit liabilities	208,351	191,365	169,739	155,279
Lease liabilities	3,442,105	3,518,927	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	3,650,456	3,710,292	169,739	155,279
Current liabilities				
Other payables	47,525	65,236	39,702	39,439
Due to a subsidiary	-	-	513,417	-
Lease liabilities	29,488	16,266	-	-
Income tax payable	45,336	71,274	22,797	30,000
Total current liabilities	122,349	152,776	575,916	69,439
Total liabilities	3,772,805	3,863,068	745,655	224,718
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	18,159,781	18,477,020	12,209,696	12,043,453
Net assets per share	0.160	0.162	0.127	0.131

Consolidated and separate interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the nine months period ended 30 September 2024

	Group				Parent Company			
	Period from 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024	Period from 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024	Period from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024	Period from 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023	Period from 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024	Period from 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024	Period from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024	Period from 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023
	(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)
Income	367,292	267,723	8,903	2,463	367,292	667,723	8,903	2,463
Dividend income	214,922	130,283	62,360	51,536	150,539	101,387	39,664	39,345
Interest income	(18,463)	20,936	20,024	(2,827)	(18,463)	20,936	20,024	(2,827)
Unrealised fair value (losses) / gains on investments at FVTPL	21,810	24,421	7,097	21,077	21,810	24,421	7,097	21,077
Realised gains on disposal of investments at FVTPL	237,736	315,506	80,197	106,289	-	-	-	-
Finance income on lease receivables	69,091	58,420	35,188	24,059	70,809	60,522	15,000	15,000
Other income	892,388	817,289	213,769	202,597	591,987	874,989	90,688	75,058
Total income	892,388	817,289	213,769	202,597	591,987	874,989	90,688	75,058
Expenses								
Salaries and other related staff costs	(232,311)	(252,806)	(76,371)	(94,968)	(232,311)	(252,806)	(76,371)	(94,968)
General and administrative expenses	(96,265)	(105,946)	(33,618)	(20,827)	(94,379)	(96,551)	(33,321)	(20,443)
Depreciation	(12,837)	(13,675)	(3,857)	(4,557)	(1,953)	(2,773)	(229)	(929)
Other finance costs	(8,727)	(3,740)	(2,968)	(3,191)	(8,589)	(3,624)	(2,941)	(2,081)
Total expenses	(350,140)	(376,167)	(116,814)	(123,543)	(337,232)	(355,754)	(112,862)	(118,421)
Operating profit/(loss) for the period	542,248	441,122	96,955	79,054	254,755	519,235	(22,174)	(43,363)
Finance costs on lease liabilities	(137,236)	(137,379)	(46,697)	(46,913)	-	-	-	-
Net profit/(loss) before tax for the period	405,012	303,743	50,258	32,141	254,755	519,235	(22,174)	(43,363)
Income tax	(42,889)	(47,189)	(8,615)	(9,783)	(20,350)	(19,513)	-	-
Net profit/(loss) after tax for the period	362,123	256,554	41,643	22,358	234,405	499,722	(22,174)	(43,363)
Other comprehensive income:								
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:								
Unrealised fair value gains/(losses) on investments in equity instruments at FVOCI (140,975) (1,629,692)	593,375	881,396	(140,975)	(1,629,692)	593,375	881,396		
Deferred tax charge on unrealised fair value loss on investments at FVOCI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period (140,975) (1,629,692)	593,375	881,396	(140,975)	(1,629,692)	593,375	881,396		
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the shareholders of the Parent Company	221,148	(1,373,138)	635,018	903,754	93,430	(1,129,970)	571,201	838,033
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	221,148	(1,373,138)	635,018	903,754	93,430	(1,129,970)	571,201	838,033
Net profit after tax attributable to:								
Parent Company	221,148	(1,373,138)	635,018	903,754	93,430	(1,129,970)	571,201	838,033
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	221,148	(1,373,138)	635,018	903,754	93,430	(1,129,970)	571,201	838,033
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	0.004	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.006	0.000	0.000

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them in Arabic or English as requested, within 7 days of receipt of the request.

Bank Muscat exhibit draws attention at OCEC Science Festival

Bank Muscat's stall at the Oman Science Festival, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center (OCEC), drew a big turnout from students and visitors who commended the bank's commitment to spread awareness about financial literacy and its active role in fostering this concept across various segments of society.

This participation is part of a larger event featuring 2,500 participants from 120 institutions, with over 500 events spread across the OCEC, a press release said.

The bank's participation included interactive, state-of-the-art screens that provide a unique educational experience for all ages. These screens enabled visitors to engage with content on financial planning and money management. There were also a series of competitions and activities, including quizzes on financial literacy and money management.

Alizz Islamic Bank participates in Beijing Forum 2024 in Beijing

A delegation from Alizz Islamic Bank recently participated in the Beijing Forum 2024 in Beijing, China, themed 'The Harmony of Civilisations and Prosperity for All'. The forum brought together global scholars to discuss development across civilisations.

The Beijing Forum is an international academic event that has

The bank has developed a comprehensive programme through which the Chinese delegation gained knowledge of Oman, and learned about Islamic banking

been held annually since 2004. It is sponsored by the Beijing Municipal Government and is overseen by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. The Beijing Forum is co-sponsored by Peking University, Beijing Municipal Education Commission, and the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies.

Speaking about the visit, Ghalib al Khrausi, head of Human Capital at Alizz Islamic Bank, said, "At Alizz Islamic Bank



we strongly believe in the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences to support the development of Islamic Banking both, locally and globally. Knowledge sharing enables us to build on each other's experiences and discoveries, it is a powerful tool that enables individuals and organisations to thrive in today's knowledge-driven society. The forum was a great platform for all of us to transfer expertise, experience, and insights to unlock our full potential, foster innovation, and create a better future for all."

Previously, Alizz Islamic Bank launched the first-of-its-kind cultural exchange programme in Oman by hosting 8 delegates from the Peking University on a short exchange program to serve as a platform of sharing knowledge between the two nations. The bank has developed a comprehensive programme through which the Chinese delegation gained knowledge of Oman, learned about Islamic banking, met several officials in different institutions and visited some historical landmarks in the Sultanate of Oman.



SOHAR port wins environmental protection award for 2024

SOHAR Port and Freezone has been awarded the prestigious Environmental Protection Award at The Maritime Standard Awards 2024.

This accolade recognises their unwavering commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship within the maritime industry, a press release said.

In 2024 alone, SOHAR has launched several significant sus-

tainability initiatives including the establishment of the Marsa LNG bunkering hub, which positions SOHAR as a leader in providing cleaner energy solutions for maritime operations.

Additionally, the launch of the SOHAR Net Zero Alliance (SNZA) aims to accelerate Oman's transition toward carbon neutrality by 2050 through collaboration with various industrial

partners. Other noteworthy projects include biofuel bunkering in tugboat operations, the Polysilicon Factory by United Solar Holding, the Sunstar Lead Acid Battery Plant, and the Gemini Recycling Plant. Together, these projects exemplify SOHAR's dedication to reducing environmental impact and fostering sustainable practices for a greener future.

Women's badminton raises cancer awareness in Oman

The Women's Badminton Tournament - Season 1, conducted by the Women's Badminton Federation at Marvel Sports Club, Ghala, last month, was a resounding success, raising significant awareness for breast cancer prevention and support.

Organised in collaboration with Oman Cancer Association and Marvel Sports Club, the event drew the largest number of women participants till date and hundreds of spectators, uniting the community for a powerful cause of spreading knowledge about breast cancer and the importance of early detection, a press release said.

The tournament saw enthusiastic participation from women athletes across Oman, who came together to celebrate life, health and resilience. The matches played with high energy and a competitive spirit, provided both, entertainment and a platform for spreading vital breast cancer awareness.

The event exceeded expectations in terms of both participation and outreach. Over 60



The event was organised jointly by Oman Cancer Association and Marvel Sports Club

women competed in a series of matches in various categories. A special 'mother-daughter' category was introduced to promote sportsmanship during early age coupled by a unique opportunity to strengthen family bonding.

Winners of Season 1

Mother-Daughter Anitha and Christie Runners up Jessie Joseph and Grace	Singles B - Usha Murli Runner up - Amitha
Doubles B Meha Gandhi and Sharon Runners up Shilja Vinay and Usha Murli	Doubles A - Amrita Menon and Athira Runners up - Anshu Parihar and Jisha Manju
	Singles A - Athira Runner up - Amrita Menon

Indian School Darsait holds 32nd Annual Athletic Meet on Nov 7

Indian School Darsait held its 32nd Annual Athletic Meet on November 7 at the Royal Oman Police Stadium, Wattayah. The event was a showcase of sportsmanship and community spirit, bringing together students, staff, parents, and dignitaries for a memorable day.

The presence of the chief guest, Ali bin Khalfan bin Saeed al Hasani, member of the Majlis A'Shura, lent significance to the occasion. Accompanying him were the guests of honour, Dr Nasser bin Salim bin Mohamed al Saadi, director general of Muscat Municipality in Bausher, and Eng Taher bin Shaikh bin Mohamed al Dahab, deputy director general of Muscat Municipality in Bausher, a press release said.

Younis Sakhi Mahmood al Balushi, member of the Advisory



Committee, Oman Cricket, attended as special guest, emphasising the support for youth sports and community engagement.

The occasion was also graced by the presence of Vijaya Saravanan Sankaran, president, School Management Committee and Vinoba M P, senior principal and educational advisor to the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman.

The inaugural ceremony featured a spirited march past led by students of the four houses - Bapu, C V Raman, Tagore, and Vivekananda, demonstrating impeccable coordination and discipline. This was followed by the Torch Relay, the Oath of Sportsmanship, and the formal declaration of the meet open by the chief guest, igniting a sense of

excitement among all present.

A key highlight was the felicitation ceremony, recognising participants of the CBSE National Sports Meet, acknowledging their dedication and achievements.

The School Sports Day also featured three impressive mass drills highlighting themes of togetherness and fitness. Students from Classes I and II performed a synchronised pompom drill themed 'Unity', followed by Classes III to V with an energetic display of 'Lezim' and aerobics. Classes VI to VIII concluded with an inspiring aerobics routine, emphasising teamwork.

The track events included sprints and relays in various categories. Prizes were awarded to celebrate the achievements of the winners.



Go places in the new standout Ford Explorer

The Ford Explorer is a standout among SUVs, blending spacious design, cutting-edge technology, advanced safety features and remarkable power for an unmatched driving experience. Whether tackling rugged terrain or city streets, the Explorer's advanced systems and features ensure comfort, control and peace of mind, making it the ideal companion for families and adventure-seekers alike, a press release said.

The Ford Explorer is equipped with a powerful 2.3ltr turbocharged EcoBoost engine that produces 300Hp and

420Nm of torque. The engine is paired to an all-new 10-speed transmission and Intelligent All-Wheel-Drive system. With its quick-shifting 10-speed automatic transmission, Intelligent Four-Wheel Drive plus a Terrain Management System featuring seven selectable drive modes, the Explorer is built to tackle virtually any adventure. Sand mode comes standard on all models.

The Ford Explorer has improved off-road capability due to an intelligent four-wheel drive system and an available new Terrain Management System

that features seven easy-to-engage drive modes. Standard features include a power liftgate, 8-inch digital touch screen with SYNC 3, and a comprehensive package of driver assist and safety technologies.

When it comes to safety, the Explorer is equipped with some of the finest features including the standard Ford Co-Pilot360, a suite of driver-assist technologies that includes Pre-Collision Assist with Automatic Emergency Braking, Pedestrian Detection, Forward Collision Warning and Dynamic Brake Support; Blind Spot Information

System with Cross-Traffic Alert; Lane-Keeping System; 360 degree camera and Auto headlamps with auto high-beams.

Other available Ford Co-Pilot360 Assist+ technologies include Evasive Steering Assist, which provides steering support to help avoid a collision; and Post-Impact Braking provides braking after a collision to lessen injury and damage caused by a secondary crash event. Explorer also is available with Ford's all-new Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control which automatically slows the vehicle down when traffic ahead slows.

AJIA floats BMW Motorrad offers

With the open roads calling, now is the perfect time to experience the thrill and freedom of BMW Motorrad. Al Jenaibi International Automobiles (AJIA), the official importer of BMW Group vehicles in Oman, is kicking off the fourth quarter with an exclusive range of offers on BMW Motorrad motorcycles, making it easier than ever to take your dream ride home.

This season, whether you're looking to cruise the coastlines or tackle rugged terrains, the BMW Motorrad collection offers something for every kind of rider, a press release said.

Al Jenaibi International Automobiles is giving motorcycling enthusiasts the opportunity to experience BMW Motorrad with incredible value-adds to make your ride both thrilling and worry-free. From first-year insurance to extended warranties, there's much on offer.

Every BMW Motorrad purchase this season comes with BMW Motorrad Service coverage for three years or up to 30,000km, whichever comes first. This ensures that every ride is supported by BMW's exceptional service standards, letting



you focus on the thrill of the journey with the assurance of expert care.

In addition to this, every rider can enjoy the BMW Motorrad Warranty, valid for five years with unlimited mileage. New owners will also benefit from complimentary first-year insurance, so you can begin your journey fully covered from day one, enjoying added peace of mind on every mile.

Finally, each BMW Motorrad rider will receive a BMW Motorrad Lifestyle gift voucher. This

special voucher invites you to explore BMW Motorrad's premium lifestyle collection, adding a touch of BMW Motorrad style to your riding experience with accessories and apparel that perfectly complement your new ride.

Each of these exclusive benefits allows riders to focus on what matters most - the journey, the thrill, and the spirit of adventure. There's no better time to catch the riding season in Oman with these premium offers.

Workshop throws light on healthcare service contracts

A two-day workshop on monitoring the implementation of service contracts in healthcare institutions in Muscat Governorate was held last week at Oman National Bank Head Office.

The workshop, organised by the Department of Administrative Affairs at the Directorate General of Health Services in Muscat, was held under the patronage of Suleiman Nasser al Hajji, undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Administrative and Financial Affairs, a press release said.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr Thamra al Ghafri, director general of Health Services in Muscat Governorate, Hassan Abdul Amir Shaban, general manager and Chief Government and Alliance Banking Officer at NBO, along with a number of invited guests and participants.

Director of Administrative Affairs in DGHS-Muscat Mahmood al Nabhani emphasised in



the opening remarks that the workshop is an important step towards enhancing transparency and efficiency in managing service contracts in health institutions which, in turn, contributes to achieving the highest levels of quality in the services provided to both clients and patients.

The workshop programme covers a range of specialised topics, focusing on the policy of monitoring service contracts and the mechanisms for overseeing their implementation,

and methods to improve oversight procedures for upgrading service quality. The workshop further shed light on the project of the provision of food supplies to dialysis units, which aims to deliver healthy and balanced meals to patients, thus promoting the health and well-being of patients with kidney ailments.

The workshop aims to achieve several key objectives, including raising awareness among participants about the importance of monitoring service contracts and contract terms.

'Sayyarati' from Bank Muscat returns

In celebration of the Sultanate of Oman's 54th National Day, Bank Muscat has launched its new auto financing offer - Sayyarati - for individuals aspiring to own their dream car.

The offer features an attractive interest rate starting from 4.25% per annum on both, new and pre-owned, cars, with added benefits including repaying the installments after two months and an extended repayment period of up to 120 months (10 years), instead of

96 months (8 years). This offer is designed to enhance the banking experience for customers looking to benefit from Bank Muscat's auto financing solutions, a press release said.

The offer is available to customers working in government, quasi-government entities, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 companies. As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, Bank Muscat is also offering an additional discounted rate by 0.25% for eco-friendly, hybrid,

and electric vehicles. The offer also includes free third-party insurance for pre-owned car financing, a free credit card for the first year, and several other distinctive benefits.

Customers can apply at any of the Bank's branches across Oman or visit the specialized Sayyarati centers in Al Wataya, Muscat Governorate, and Salalah, Dhofar Governorate.

Abdullah Tamman al Maashani, general manager - Products, Bank Muscat, said,

"We are always keen to engage with our valued customers during national celebrations, such as the Sultanate's National Day, by offering special benefits on our products. Our Sayyarati offer is a direct response to the evolving needs of our customers, providing them with the opportunity to own their desired vehicle with a repayment period of up to 10 years. We are committed to delivering excellent service and helping our customers achieve their goals."



Japan-Oman ties celebrated in Sur

The recent 27th Literary and Artistic Forum in Sur not only celebrated the richness of Omani creativity but also signified a robust and growing relationship between Japan and Oman.

One of the standout features of the forum was the exhibition showcasing the outcomes of the 'Ryoma Manga Seminar', held in September. This workshop welcomed renowned Japanese manga artists Yoshihiro Iwagami and Yuka Yamashita from Kochi Prefecture, Japan, a press rele-

ase said.

During the seminar, the artists delved into the creative process behind manga storytelling, encouraging participants to express their own creativity while gaining insights into this unique art form.

The Japanese manga and anime, which vividly depict aspects of Japanese life and culture, has resonated deeply within Oman. In this context, manga and anime have become vital tools for strengthening the friendship between the two nations.

Zubair EDC participates in incubators conference

The Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC), a social initiative of The Zubair Corporation, recently participated in the 7th Gulf Business Incubators and Accelerators Conference, organised by the Bahrain Society for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises.

This event, held under the patronage of Ahmed bin Salman al Musallam, speaker of the Bahraini Council of Representatives, explored the theme 'The Future of Arab Incubators: Balancing Financing Needs with the Importance of Sustainability' and welcomed several ambassadors and officials from the GCC and other Arab nations, a press release said.

Ali Shaker, head of Business Development and Partnerships at Zubair EDC, attended alongside Hamza al Lawati, CEO of Wadiaa and a partner of Zubair EDC, as well as Bashayer al Abri, senior project management officer at Al Jabr, another Centre



partner.

During the conference's opening session, Shaker presented on 'The Role of Arab Incubators in Achieving Sustainable Economic Development: Achievements and Challenges', highlighting the significant role of business incubators and accelerators in empowering small, medium, and emerging enterprises to support sustainable development goals.

He discussed challenges faced by Arab incubators and shared successful initiatives from

Zubair EDC in Oman. Ahmed Sabah al Saloum, chairman of the Bahrain Society for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, praised Zubair EDC's ongoing commitment to regional development, noting that this conference emphasised the need for robust financing and sustainable practices in incubators and accelerators.

Expressing his gratitude for the invitation, Shaker remarked, "I thank the Bahrain Society for this valuable opportunity to par-

ticipate in the seventh edition of the conference. Such gatherings are crucial for exchanging knowledge and strengthening the entrepreneurship landscape across the Gulf and Arab regions." He emphasised that these events foster relationships between incubator leaders, accelerators, and entrepreneurs, enhancing knowledge sharing among regional entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneur Hamza al Lawati, CEO of Wadiaa, shared his enthusiasm, stating, "Partici-

pating in the 7th Gulf Business Incubators and Accelerators Conference was a valuable experience, enabling us to learn from entrepreneurs across the Gulf. This engagement has opened new opportunities and ideas that could shape our future strategies and expand external partnerships. I thank Zubair EDC for this platform to realise the goals and vision of Wadiaa." He described Wadiaa as an innovative digital platform connecting investors with entrepreneurial projects.

Grammy Awards: Beyonce breaks record for most nominations

Los Angeles, US - Beyonce has become the most Grammy nominated artist of all time, after the Recording Academy announced its nominations on Friday.

Beating her husband Jay-Z's record of 88 nominations, Beyonce has a whopping 99 nods under her belt, thanks to her first country album 'Cowboy Carter', which she released last spring.

The album earned the 43-year-old megastar 11 nominations, putting her in the lead of all other artists competing this year.

The award ceremony will take place on February 2 in Los Angeles.

Who else made the cut?

Billie Eilish, Charli XCX, Kendrick Lamar and Post Malone closely followed Beyonce, each snatching seven nominations.

Meanwhile Taylor Swift, Chappell Roan and Sabrina Carpenter scored six nominations each. The latter two are compet-



The megastar has an unrivaled 99 nominations and 32 wins under her belt

ing for the closely watched best new artist category, among others. Women dominated the album of the year category.

Swift's 'The Tortured Poets Department', Charli XCX's 'BRAT', Carpenter's 'Short 'n' Sweet', Roan's 'The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess' and Eilish's 'Hit me Hard and Soft' are among the albums competing with Beyonce's. Other artists vying for the prestigious category include Andre 3000 and Jacob Collier.

But perhaps the most unexpected nomination came for The Beatles. The legendary English band is competing in the top record category with 'Now and Then', a track reconstituted using Artificial Intelligence based on John Lennon's rough demo.

Beyonce's complicated relationship with the academy Despite a lead in Grammy nominations and wins, an unrivalled 32, Beyonce has never been awarded the album trophy, the academy's most prestigious

category. Artists who snatched the award from her include Adele, Harry Styles and Taylor Swift. Jay-Z called out the academy during a speech in the last award ceremony earlier this year, arguing that its voters had failed to give Black artists proper recognition.

Some 13,000 singers, songwriters, producers, engineers and others make up the Recording Academy, and end up choosing the winners of its awards.

DW

US: Foreign policy legacy of Biden comes under scrutiny

Joe Biden's administration had reversed several of Trump-era policies on his first day

Washington, D.C., US - With Donald Trump's victory in the November 5 presidential election in the US, the foreign policy legacy of the Biden-Harris administration has come under scrutiny.

In the past four years, President Joe Biden, alongside Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, has prioritised key global issues, including robust support for Ukraine against Russian aggression, a competitive stance with China and steadfast backing for Israel, particularly during the current conflict in the Gaza Strip.

Biden's administration, sworn on January 20, 2021, began with a focus on 'reasserting the US role in global diplomacy' and restoring alliances that had been strained under Trump.

Biden reversed several Trump-era policies on his first day, signing 10 executive orders that included rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, cancelling the Keystone XL Pipeline Project, lifting visa restrictions on certain Muslim-majority countries and halting construction of a border wall. Soon after, Biden rejoined the World Health Organization (WHO) and signed 42 executive orders within his first 100 days.

His early actions focused on 'repairing the damage done by Trump' and re-establishing international relationships. The administration quickly found common ground with traditional allies and pursued a multilateral



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approach to global issues.

Strong support for Kyiv

A central pillar of the Biden administration's foreign policy was its strong support for Ukraine following Russia's invasion in February 2022. The administration provided US\$64.1bn in defence aid, including critical air defence systems like Patriot missiles and other munitions, marking one of the most significant US commitments to a foreign ally in recent

history.

The Biden administration encouraged European NATO allies to contribute military support, including F-16 fighter jets, while cautioning Ukraine against using US-made weapons on Russian territory to avoid direct escalation with Moscow.

Trump, however, repeatedly criticised Biden's extensive spending on Ukraine, asserting he would end the support and adopt a more isolationist approach if reelected.

Gaza conflict

One of the most contentious aspects of Biden's foreign policy legacy is his response to the conflict in Gaza following a Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

While the Biden administration had previously balanced its approach by supporting Israel's defence against Iran, and endorsing a two-state solution, its stance shifted to unwavering support for Tel Aviv after the attacks, despite growing national and international criticism.

During an October 18, 2023, visit to Israel, Biden expressed unwavering support for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, affirming the US' solid backing.

Biden sought an additional US\$17.9bn in military aid for Israel upon his return, supplementing the annual US\$3.5bn it

already receives.

Blinken told Congress in May that Israel was not intentionally preventing humanitarian aid, despite reports from USAID suggesting that Israel was hindering the delivery of food assistance to Gaza.

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration also recommended freezing funds to Israel because of humanitarian concerns, though the calls were ultimately unheeded.

Additionally, Biden's administration vetoed three UN Security Council resolutions calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, which heightened international criticism.

Global competition with China

The Biden-Harris administration adopted a competitive stance with China, focusing on countering Beijing's influence in technology and security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

Biden lifted some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports but imposed sanctions on 59 Chinese firms with close ties to the Chinese government and military, aiming to curb China's advancements in sectors like semiconductor manufacturing, artificial intelligence and military technologies.

The administration also emphasised alliances in the Indo-Pacific through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), which saw increased engagement with India, Japan and Australia.

The Biden-Harris administration's foreign policy legacy reflects a vision centred on reinforcing alliances and addressing global threats.

The policy direction under Trump remains uncertain, with questions surrounding how the US will balance its strategic interests and international commitments in the years ahead.

Anadolu Agency



Bolivian Vice President David Choquehuanca

Tomatoes thrown at Bolivia's VP during speech

Bogota, Colombia - Supporters of former Bolivian President Evo Morales attempted to disrupt a speech by Vice President David Choquehuanca in the National Assembly by throwing tomatoes at him.

A group of lawmakers from the Movement for Socialism (MAS), a party aligned with Morales, threw tomatoes at Choquehuanca as he took the podium.

Choquehuanca was forced to leave the assembly without delivering his speech. The incident led to fighting between Morales' supporters and members of the ruling party.

President Luis Arce condemned the incident, calling it 'vandalism' carried out by Morales' supporters.

"Evoism has once again shown that it has no will for dialogue with these actions. What happened today does not represent the sentiments of the Bolivian people," he said.

Morales took to social media in response to accuse Arce of treason.

"He promised to fix the economy, but he made it worse. He pledged to respect institutions, but led them to destruction. He promised transparency, but he has been involved in corruption," he

said.

Morales also announced that he was ending a hunger strike he started six days ago to pressure the government to engage in dialogue with his supporters.

Protesters had been blocking highways for 19 days beginning on October 11 to protest a warrant for the arrest of Morales for 'rape, human trafficking, and smuggling'.

Demonstrators demanded the resignation of Arce and the revocation of the arrest order.

Morales was the target of an armed attack on October 28 as he travelled from the town of Villa Tunari to Lauca, where he was headed to meet coca farmers.

He reported that his vehicle was shot at least 14 times, and his driver was injured in the attack.

Morales blamed Arce for the attack.

"Arce will go down in history as the worst president. Attacking a former president is crossing the line," he said.

Morales' supporters then blocked roads in central Bolivia, leading to clashes with hundreds of police officers who intervened against the protesters.

Anadolu Agency

S Korea claims North jamming its GPS system, affecting ships, aircraft

Seoul, South Korea - South Korea on Saturday claimed that North Korea is jamming its GPS system, affecting several ships and aircraft, according to local media.

South Korean military said that Pyongyang staged jamming attacks in the North's Haeju and Kaesong areas, Yonhap News agency reported.

The joint chiefs of staff warned vessels and civilian aircraft operating in the Yellow Sea to beware of the attacks.

"North Korea should immediately halt the GPS provocation," the JCS said, warning it will be held accountable for its actions.

However, the South Korean military said military operations and equipment were not affected due to North Korean action.

The latest move came three days after the South's military detected a similar movement on Tuesday, according to the agency.

In June, South Korea raised the North's repeated GPS jamming with three relevant international agencies - the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) - requesting due measures against the provocations. North Korea is a member of the ITU, ICAO and IMO.

Tension on Korean Peninsula has further grown after recent missile launches by North Korea and South Korea and Seoul-Washington joint military drills.



Search for missing crew

Meanwhile, search for 12 missing crew members of a South Korean fishing boat that sank in waters off Jeju Island continued on the second day, local media reported on Saturday.

The incident happened in waters some 24km (14.9 miles) off the shores of South Korea's southern island of Jeju on Friday, in which two people died and 12 others went missing.

According to the Jeju branch of the Korea Coast Guard, a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) is set to be submerged once in the morning and again in the afternoon for search of the seabed, local broadcaster KBS World reported. Government has also de-

cided to send 53 military vessels and fishing boats, as well as nine planes, to take part in the search operation.

A search inside the boat is unlikely to happen on Saturday, as a team of 12 deep sea divers and a crane barge are set to arrive on Sunday night, according to broadcaster.

The boat was carrying 27 crew members including 16 South Koreans and 11 Indonesians. 15 crew members were rescued on Friday while two of them died at a health facility.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian government also urged South Korea to strengthen their search efforts for the Indonesians who disappeared in the incident.

Anadolu Agency

Israeli jets continue bombing Beirut's southern suburb amid rising tensions

Beirut, Lebanon - Beirut's southern suburb endured 14 Israeli airstrikes from late Friday night into early Saturday, targeting residential areas.

Lebanon's National News Agency reported that three fresh Israeli airstrikes targeted residential zones, including Hay al-American and surrounding areas, causing plumes of smoke to rise over the region. There was no report of casualties.

On Friday night, Israel launched 11 airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburb, hitting areas such as Burj al-Barajneh, Haret Hreik, and the vicinity of the Lebanese University in Hadath.

The strikes followed an evacuation order from the Israeli army, demanding that residents leave due to alleged Hezbollah presence nearby.

A massive Israeli air campaign in Lebanon has been ongoing since late September against what it claims are Hezbollah targets, an escalation in year-long cross-border warfare since the start of the Gaza war.

More than 3,100 people have been killed and over 13,800 injured in Israeli attacks since October 2023, according to Lebanese health authorities.

Israel launched a ground assault into southern Lebanon on October 1.



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Meanwhile, a large fire broke out Saturday in Beirut's central Hamra district, causing extensive damage to several buildings and cars, according to Lebanon's official news agency.

The fire completely destroyed one building, while nearby structures sustained considerable damage. Firefighters managed to extinguish the flames, and cooling operations are ongoing, it

added. Footage shared by Lebanon news outlets on X showed dozens of parked cars engulfed in flames at a parking lot in Hamra. The fire reportedly began when a power generator

blaze quickly spread to nearby vehicles.

Death toll in Tyre rises to 9

The death toll from Israeli

airstrikes on the southern Lebanese city of Tyre has risen to nine on Saturday, with dozens more reported injured, according to Lebanon's official news agency.

The agency reported that Is-

raeli warplanes conducted multiple strikes overnight targeting Tyre, hitting several locations, including a building on Safi Al-Din Street and another on Al-Madrasa Al-Deeniyah Street.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Emirati counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed increasing efforts to establish a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon in a phone call on Saturday.

Al Nahyan and Blinken exchanged views on the recent developments in the Middle East, particularly the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the UAE Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The phone call focused on 'intensifying efforts to reach an immediate ceasefire and end the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza', and the recent developments in Lebanon, it added.

Additionally, the officials addressed the situation in Sudan and the humanitarian implications of the conflict.

Anadolu Agency



Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqayi

Iran dismisses claims of plot to kill Trump

Tehran, Iran - Iran has categorically dismissed allegations of involvement in a plot to assassinate former and current US officials, including President-elect Donald Trump, calling the claims 'completely unfounded'.

In a statement on Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei rejected accusations made by the US Department of Justice after the arrest of a suspect.

Baghaei referenced previous 'similar accusations' denied by Iran, which he described as a 'repulsive conspiracy' orchestrated by Israel and anti-Iranian factions 'to further complicate matters between the US and Iran'.

The US Department of Justice has filed criminal charges against a man, claiming he was tasked by Iran with 'surveilling and plotting to assassinate former and current US government officials, including Trump'.

According to the indictment, the man, a 51-year-old Afghan national named Farhad Shaker, allegedly sought to assassinate Trump before the US presidential election on orders from Iran's

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Baghaei denied the allegations, affirming that Iran would use 'all legitimate and legal means, both domestically and internationally, to defend the rights of the Iranian nation'.

The statement follows Trump's recent election as US president, sparking concerns that his close ties with Israel may further strain relations between Tehran and Washington.

Trump, who served as president from 2017 to 2021, was known for a confrontational stance toward Iran, particularly after his administration withdrew unilaterally from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018.

The assassination of Iran's top military commander, Gen. Qassem Soleimani, in January 2020 nearly brought the two nations to the brink of direct military conflict.

Earlier this week, Iran's government spokeswoman downplayed the significance of the US election outcome, stating that it 'does not matter' who becomes president.

Anadolu Agency

Famine imminent in Northern Gaza: WHO

Istanbul/Gaza - The WHO chief warned on Saturday about the escalating crisis in northern Gaza, noting that a famine is imminent there.

"Deeply alarming," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X, referring to new findings from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

The data, he noted, indicates that 'there is a strong likelihood that famine is imminent in areas within the northern Gaza Strip'.

"We call for an immediate scale-up and safe access for humanitarian aid - primarily food and medicines for severe malnutrition - within days not weeks."

44 more Palestinians killed

At least 44 more Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, bringing the overall death toll since last year to



Palestinians in Gaza wait in line for hot meals

43,552, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Saturday.

A ministry statement added that some 102,765 others were injured in the ongoing assault.

"Israeli forces killed 44 people

and injured 81 others in four 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, a Palestinian was killed on Saturday as the Israeli army bombed the northern West Bank city of Tubas with an anti-tank Energa shell.

Adham Zaid Izzat al-Masri was killed by Israeli soldiers after they besieged his home early Saturday, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The Israeli army stormed the town of Aqaba early in the morning, surrounded a house, and attacked it with an Energa shell, eyewitnesses told Anadolu.

Additionally, two Palestinians were injured in the town due to the Israeli army's incursion, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

At least 781 Palestinians have since been killed and over 6,300 injured by Israeli army fire in the occupied territory, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

The escalation follows a landmark opinion in July by the International Court of Justice that declared Israel's decades-long occupation of Palestinian land 'illegal'.

Anadolu Agency

Where does Venice's bronze lion come from?

Rome, Italy - Towering atop a column in St Mark Square, Venice, Italy, the massive bronze lion has long symbolised the city's power and heritage for centuries. Yet its actual origin has remained a mystery.

A recent study led by a team of Italian scientists, including archaeologists, geoscientists, and sinologists, suggests the iconic bronze lion may actually trace its roots back to China's Tang Dynasty (618-907).

"I have been fascinated by the lion since my youth because of its unique appearance," said Massimo Vidale, a professor from the Department of Cultural Heritage of the University of Padua.

"It is so different from any other statue that we have in Italy or other parts of the Western world," he said.

The origin of the Lion of Venice, which is approximately four-metre in length and weighs around 3000kg, has puzzled ar-



The Lion of Venice on St Mark Square, Venice, Italy (Xinhua)

chaeologists for years. However, recent advancements in geo-science analysis, alongside a comprehensive extensive database of ore sources, are shedding light on its past.

"Lead isotope analysis, combined with chemical analysis, is

currently the most reliable method to trace the source of metals," said Gilberto Artioli, a professor from the Department of Geosciences of the University of Padua.

Artioli and his team conducted lead isotope analysis on

the lion, using three new samples from the statue. "To confirm the origin, the integrity of the database is crucial," he emphasised, noting that their research incorporated data from ore deposits across Eurasia, including a 2019 study on the chemical composition of Chinese ores.

"Based on the samples and existing data, we can say with certainty that the copper used for the original part of the lion came from mines in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River in China," Artioli said.

Vidale added that these isotope findings align with stylistic analyses, which support a Chinese origin. Italian scholar Bianca Maria Scarfi first suggested in 1990 that the Lion of Venice displayed stylistic similarities with specific Chinese cultural figures.

Further analysis revealed that distinctive features of the lion, such as its large nose, flared nostrils, bared fangs, and ferocious expression, closely resemble

Tang-era 'tomb guardians', some of which are on display in the Luoyang Museum in central China's Henan Province.

"The overall shape of the Venice bronze lion has characteristics of the Tang Dynasty 'tomb guardian,'" confirmed Li Kewei, a researcher at the Luoyang Institute of Archaeology, in an interview with Xinhua.

While the exact route the lion may have travelled remains unknown, scholars suggest it could have arrived in Venice via the ancient Silk Road, probably the Maritime Silk Road.

According to Li, bustling international trade along the Yangtze River would have facilitated the transport of such a large bronze figure.

Some Italian academics further suggest that Venetian explorers - possibly Marco Polo's father Niccolo and uncle Maffeo might have brought the lion to Venice in the 13th century.

Xinhua

INDIA

No religion-based reservation: Amit Shah

Amit Shah warned that ‘till the time BJP is present in this country, minorities won’t get reservations’

Palamu, Jharkhand - Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday attacked Congress over the issue of ‘Muslim reservation’ and said that till the time Bharatiya Janata Party is present in this country, the minority won’t get a reservation.

Shah said that Congress wants to give reservation to Muslims by decreasing the reservation limit of OBCs, Dalits and tribal.

Addressing a public rally in Palamu, Jharkhand, Amit Shah said: “Congress talks about reservation, but in our constitution, there is no such provision to give reservation on the basis of religion. In Maharashtra, a group of some ‘Ulema’ submitted a memorandum to them about 10 per cent reservation to Muslims, and Congress state chief said that they will help them in it... Congress wants to give 10 per cent reservation to Muslims by decreasing the reservation limit of OBCs, Dalits and tribal. I would like to warn Rahul Gandhi that till the time BJP is present in this country, minorities won’t get reservations. Reservation to OBCs, Dal-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah was addressing a public rally in Palamu, Jharkhand (ANI)

its and tribal is given by Baba Saheb Ambedkar and you can’t disrespect it.”

Calling Congress an ‘anti-OBC’ party, Shah said that

whenever they came to power they did injustice to the OBCs community, whether it was about implementing the Kaka Kalelkar Committee report or

the Mandal Commission report. Shah further praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that when he came to power, he gave 27 per cent

reservation to the OBCs and constituted a National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

“Congress is an anti-OBC

party. Whenever they came to power, they did injustice to them. The Kaka Kalelkar committee was made in 1950 but its report went missing. When the Mandal Commission came to give reservations to OBCs, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi opposed its implementation. They took years to give 27 per cent reservation to OBCs in cen-

Amit Shah said: “We came here to appeal to bring the BJP government in the state because the current state government is tangled in the corruption. The government of JMM, Congress and RJD is the most corrupt government in the country. Has anyone ever seen Rs 300 crores altogether? More than Rs 300 crore were seized

Congress talks about reservation, but in our constitution, there is no such provision to give reservation on the basis of religion

AMIT SHAH

tral institutions. In 2014, when the public chose the Modi government, he implemented reservation of 27 per cent to OBCs. He constituted National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and gave it a constitutional place,” he said.

Launching a scathing attack on the INDIA alliance, Shah said that the government of JMM, Congress and RJD in Jharkhand is the most corrupt government in the country.

from the house of a Congress MP. Around 27 machines were brought count the money but those machines got tired after counting such huge amount of money. Alamgir Alam was minister in the state government. Even Rs 30 crore were seized from his PA’s house, but neither Hemant Soren nor Congress did anything to him. This money is yours, it belongs to the youth and poor of Jharkhand.”

ANI

Rahul Gandhi says BJP, RSS want to destroy Constitution

Jamshedpur, Jharkhand - Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that there is a battle of ideologies in the country with the INDIA bloc standing for love, unity and protecting the Constitution and the BJP-RSS seeking to divide people.

Addressing a public gathering here today, Rahul Gandhi urged people to bring back JMM-led alliance to power. He said Congress and its allies will continue to work for protecting the Constitution.

“There is a battle of ideologies in the country. On one side is the INDIA bloc, and on the other is the BJP and RSS. On one side, there is love, unity, and brotherhood, on the other side, hatred, violence, anger, and arrogance. The INDIA Bloc stands for protecting the Constitution, while the BJP-RSS wants to destroy it,” he said.

Listing the promises by the alliance, Gandhi, who is Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, said that the INDIA bloc government will transfer Rs 2,500 to every woman’s bank account every month.

“The INDIA Bloc in Jhark-



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting for the Jharkhand Assembly elections, at Gandhi Maidan in Simdega (ANI)

The INDIA Bloc stands for protecting the Constitution, while the BJP-RSS wants to destroy it

RAHUL GANDHI

hand has decided that the money currently given to billionaires by the BJP will instead be deposited into your bank accounts. Inflation affects women

the most, they are the backbone of this nation. That’s why we have created the biggest scheme in Jharkhand for women. Right after winning the election, the INDIA Bloc will transfer Rs 2,500 to every woman’s account each month. You will receive this money in your bank account on the first of every month,” he said.

“Every person will receive seven kg of ration each month, and gas cylinders will be priced at Rs 450. This is our first guarantee. In Jharkhand, if anyone falls ill, we will introduce a new

health insurance scheme. Any operation you need will be covered, with the Jharkhand government providing up to Rs 15 lakh for treatment right after taking office. This is our second promise. Farmers will receive Rs 3,200 per quintal for paddy,” he added.

Rahul Gandhi said that if people have money to spend, it helps the economic cycle.

“If you have money, you’ll buy something, which will start factories and provide employment for your children. This is our idea. Narendra Modi has made the youth unemployed, but we will establish a degree college in every block for your education and a professional college in every district. A 500-acre industrial park will open in every district for youth employment. We are going to provide jobs to 10 lakh youth in Jharkhand in both the private and public sectors,” the Congress leader said.

He said the Congress will take steps to remove 50 per cent cap on reservations if it comes to power at the Centre.

ANI

DELHI: AIR QUALITY REMAINS ‘VERY POOR’



A thick layer of smog engulfs the national capital on Saturday (ANI)

3rd India-Australia joint military exercise begins in Maharashtra

Pune, Maharashtra - The third edition of India and Australia’s joint military exercise commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Pune on Friday.

The exercise is scheduled to be conducted till November 21. The exercise AUSTRAHIND was started in 2022 in Rajasthan and has since then become an annual event which is conducted alterna-

tively in India and Australia.

The aim of the exercise is to foster a collaborative partnership between the two nations and share best practices between the two sides

The last edition of the same exercise was conducted in Perth, Australia in December 2023.

For the 2024 exercise, the Indian contingent comprising

140 personnel will be represented mainly by a battalion of the DOGRA Regiment and 14 personnel from the Indian Air Force.

The Australian Army contingent comprising 120 personnel will be represented by the 13th Light Horse Regiment of the 10th Brigade of 2nd Division.

ANI

Ireland announces general elections on November 29

London, UK - Ireland will hold parliamentary elections in the last week of this month, the nation’s prime minister, or taoiseach, announced on Friday. Simon Harris confirmed in an address that he is seeking the dissolution of the Dail, the country’s parliament, and said the elections will be conducted on November 29, Friday.

He said that the coalition government, Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and The Green Party, had made ‘real progress’, although, he added that they ‘did not agree on every issue but we did always work hard and together for the good of the Irish people’. The prime minister also noted that he plans to visit

Aras an Uachtarain soon to ask President Michael Higgins to dissolve parliament.

Later, public broadcaster RTE reported that Harris and Higgins moved to the state-rooms where the official dissolution of the 33rd Dail will take place. Harris, who was in the Hungarian capital Budapest for the European Political Community (EPC) summit, arrived in the Government Buildings in Dublin on Friday afternoon to announce the election date.

The 38-year-old primer became Fine Gael leader and the nation’s taoiseach in April, following the resignation of his predecessor Leo Varadkar.

Anadolu Agency

Pakistan: Deadly blast at railway station in Balochistan

Islamabad, Pakistan - A blast at a railway station in southwestern Pakistan has claimed the lives of at least 24 people, according to reports, in what is believed to be a bomb attack.

The Reuters news agency cited the inspector general of police for Balochistan, Mouzzam Jah Ansari, as saying that the explosion took place at a railway station in Quetta in Balochistan province.

“The target was army personnel from the Infantry School,” Ansari said.

“So far 44 injured people have been brought to civil hospital,” Dr Wasim Baig, a hospital spokesman, told Reuters.

Police said the blast took place when passengers were waiting for a train traveling to



the garrison city of Rawalpindi, from Quetta in Pakistan’s restive Balochistan province. The explosion took place at around 8.45am (0345 GMT).

Rescue teams, firefighters and rescue teams searched through the abandoned luggage in the presence of security forces.

Militants claim responsibility

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) - a militant group of ethnic Baloch guerillas that is fighting

for independence from Pakistan - claimed responsibility for the attack.

The BLA said a suicide bomber targeted troops present at the railway station.

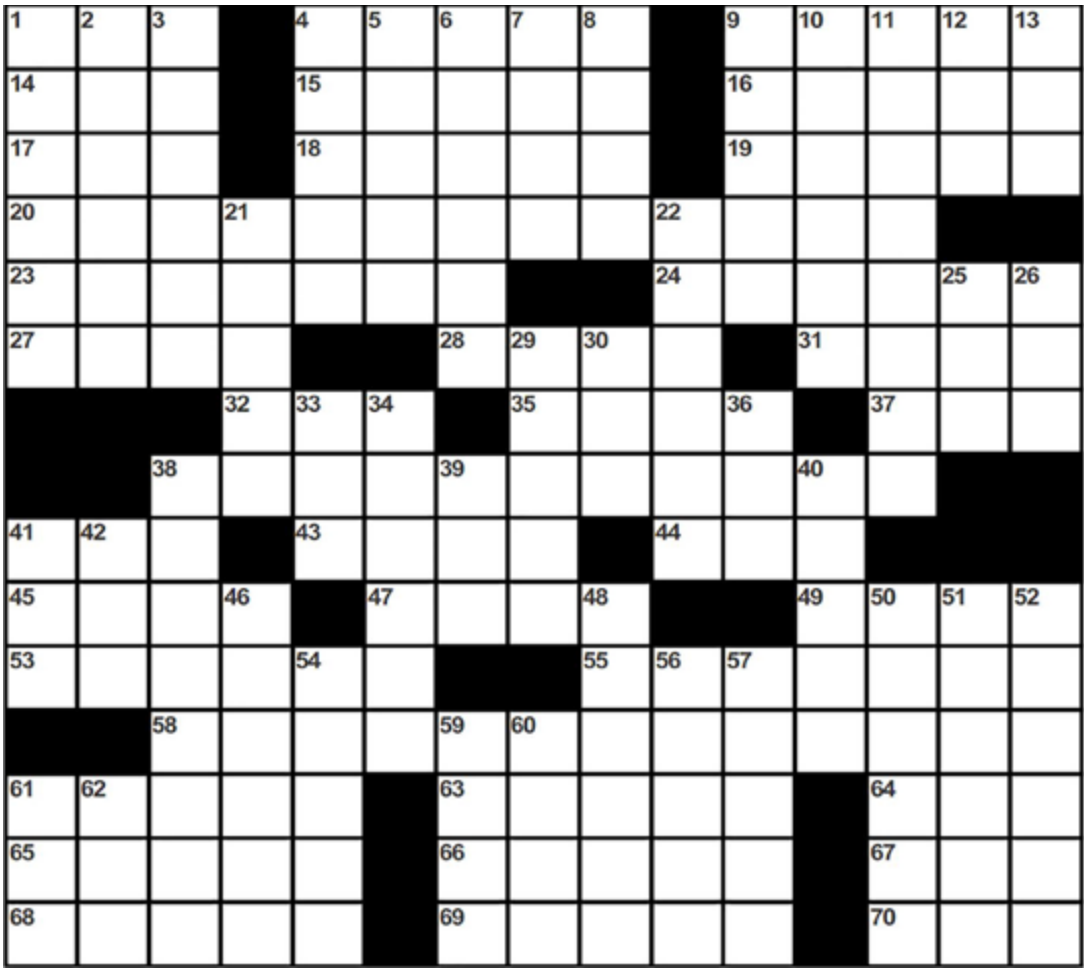
Police said they are investigating the circumstances of the blast.

“When we reached here, initially it appeared that some explosive had perhaps been hidden or left in the luggage. But now we think it may be a suicide bomber,” Muhammad Baloch, a senior local police official, told journalists.

Pakistan has for a long time grappled with insurgency from separatist militants in Balochistan who seek independence from Islamabad.

DW

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1) And so forth
4) Blue-ribbon position
9) Flat-topped flower cluster
14) "Bingo!"
15) Chilling
16) Ankle bones
17) Drilling apparatus
18) Open to bribery
19) About to explode
20) Novel delays?
23) Stress, in a way
24) Took five
27) Greek sandwich
28) Discontinue
31) Unit of loudness
32) Kind of meeting, briefly
35) Archer on Olympus
37) Santa
38) Classroom favorite
41) "Hold _ second ... "
43) Decorated, as a cake
44) Ring bearer, maybe
45) Auto parts giant
47) About
49) Warning in the jungle
53) Certain Greek letters
55) Give less than one's all

58) "Get plenty of bed rest," e.g.
61) Sealskin wearer, maybe
63) Petrol unit
64) Auction offering
65) Odd-numbered page
66) Foe
67) "Dear" one
68) "_ Care of Business" (BTO hit)
69) Gumbo vegetables
70) In-flight info, for short
DOWN
1) Strawberry-patch bane
2) "End of story," to a journalist
3) More crafty
4) Best vision spot
5) Dead to the world
6) Washed soap off
7) Coagulated wound
8) Be a snitch
9) Carthage neighbor
10) What's added to cost
11) High-ranking military officer, slangily
12) "To the max" indicator
13) Deception
21) Figure of speech
22) Counter
25) Forever and a day
26) Some forensic evidence
29) Marsh growths
30) "Ni m's Island" author Wendy
33) _ chi chu'an
34) Approach angrily
36) Mudbath locale
38) Eight-track player
39) Self starter?
40) Blew it
41) Lennon's bride
42) '60s war spot, briefly
46) Rabbitlike rodent
48) The heave-ho
50) End of a threat
51) Canny
52) Platforms
54) Respond to, as an opportunity
56) Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard"
57) Squirrels' nests
59) Blue Bonnet, e.g.
60) Rollerskating area
61) Gallery display
62) Grassland

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19
Be prepared to be amazed by someone's total selflessness today. You wouldn't expect it from this person. For now, sit tight. Wait and see what's in store. If it happens to come from an authority figure, you'll be able to repay them in short order. And if not, repayment may not be necessary. This person just wants to see you live a happy, productive life.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Secrets of all kinds are definitely in the air. Do your due diligence and try to uncover the furtiveness before you commit to anything. If you've known this shady person for a long time and you tend to trust them, don't get carried away, especially if you don't have all the facts. If you're not quite sure about them based on past history, you still shouldn't make rash judgments. Go with your gut. Ask around if you still don't feel comfortable.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
You're in the mood for secrets, mysteries, and the kind of people who can pick a lock one minute and dress up in formal attire the next. If you're looking for your partner in crime, make the call. You're ready to pull a disappearing act, but you don't want to do it alone. And you don't have to. This person is more than willing to come along on whatever adventure (or leisure activity) you have planned.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20
At the moment, you have an awful lot to share. Even if you don't, the look on your face says it all, so why hold back? Let everyone know what's on your mind. You're not good at holding your tongue anyway, especially when you feel a good air-clearing session is the best solution. Just don't intentionally try to hurt anyone's feelings. Be generous with the kindness and skimp on the sarcasm.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
When it comes to romance, don't rush into anything (with anyone) you're uncomfortable with. After all, you've always been attracted to intense, not to say exciting, people. Someone who answers that description could be along shortly. They'll set off all your alarms, but in an urgent way. You want to like this person, but something is just off. Take your time. You'll eventually see what your gut is trying to tell you.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19
If anyone can sweet-talk their way into an extended conversation, it's you, and you're an expert at putting others at ease. This skill will come in handy today when you meet a stranger who maybe isn't such a stranger at all. You're so intrigued, you can't believe you never made an effort to get to know this person before. If this is someone you want to know even better, don't let the evening come to an end. Exchange life stories.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21
Whenever there's a problem, whether at work, home, or just about anywhere, people come to you for solutions. And you normally don't mind. You enjoy being the Switzerland of disagreements. After all, you're good at it. But helping is one thing and enabling is quite another. You're not thrilled about the current position you've been put in. Do what you can, then excuse yourself. You can only do so much.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
You're smart enough to know that a change of scenery can work wonders, and you've never been afraid to create distance between you and a persistent issue, interpersonal or otherwise. So now that you've decided you're just about done putting all your energy into a potentially no-win situation, isn't it time for a trip? Just a quick one? You may come back with a fresh perspective, just what you need to solve this conundrum.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18
You won't stand for anyone who wants to play games or gives you anything less than 100 percent. It's all about depth, intensity, and focus for you now, and that goes for even the most casual encounters. Anyone who knows you will understand you're not in a lighthearted mood as soon as they set eyes on you, but don't go all nuts on complete strangers. They won't be prepared for your wrath. At the very least give them warning before you let loose.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22
The future is a mystery, so why are you waiting for an official road map? There are no guarantees to be had, so you need to give up on them. Instead of being intimidated by the unknown aspects of where you're going, you should be inspired by the blank slate ahead. There is no telling where you could be in a year, so start fantasizing. Figure out your big plan, and you'll be able to inch your way closer to your goals each day.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
You're not in the mood to mingle much right now, but like it or not here comes your crowd of fans. It's no use trying to hide any longer. Just buck up and do your best to be pleasant. After all, they've invested a lot of time and energy into being there for you in the past. And you can do the same for them now. Once you get out there, you'll warm up to the social scene. Just be patient and take it slowly.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20
You need to figure out what's important to you and what isn't. It's time to take stock of what is going on in your life. The good news is that your significant other, trusted friend, or mentor is more than willing to talk about it, and they'll have just the perspective you need. All you have to do is call that all-important meeting. Don't be afraid to put your heart and soul on the line.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 01. Which of these is an alloy?**
A. Tungsten
B. Copper
C. Zinc
D. Steel
- 02. What was the first name of Madame Tussaud, who founded a wax museum in London?**
A. Marie
B. Fantine
C. Yvette
D. Brigitte
- 03. In the 1996 Winter Olympics what ancient tradition was revived and, for the first time in the modern Games, formally put in place?**
A. The Olympic Hymn
B. The Olympic Truce
C. The Olympic Oath
D. Separation of men's and women's events into different stadia and courses

Answers: 1. D 2. A 3. B

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

M	S	R	L
P	P	S	O
P	E	L	R
I	A	A	R

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

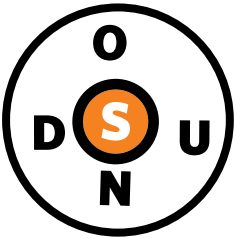
SOLUTION
20-25 words: Excellent,
15-20 words: Very good,
10-15 words: Good,
5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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

RUUD AWAKENING

Interim boss Van Nistelrooy hopes to go out on a high after steadying Man Utd following the sacking of Ten Hag

Manchester, England - Interim boss Ruud van Nistelrooy will take charge of Manchester United for the final time when they play Leicester City before Portuguese Ruben Amorim takes charge but the Dutchman said on Friday that he hopes to stay on as an assistant at Old Trafford.

Amorim will leave Sporting and join United during the international break next week, with Van Nistelrooy given four games to steady the ship following the sacking of his compatriot Erik ten Hag last month.

Ahead of Amorim's arrival, Van Nistelrooy has managed to get the fans on board again with two wins and a draw in all competitions, including a 5-2 win over Leicester in the League Cup in his first match in charge.

"It was a special period, it is still. I call it an important period because it was important to get through the four games as well as we could. I think we've done very well so far," Van Nistelrooy told reporters.

"The players reacted really well in the games. The focus now is to show that on Sunday.

"I don't know if it will be very



Ruud van Nistelrooy

emotional. I'm pragmatic as well, although I'm very proud to be able to fulfil this."

While Van Nistelrooy's future at Old Trafford is up in the air, United goalkeeper Andre Onana said the players are keen for the former PSV Eindhoven boss to stay. "The appetite to build further within this club is stronger than that (being my own man),"

Van Nistelrooy added.

"I made a deliberate decision to step into this role for two seasons and take it from there. Four games haven't changed that sentiment.

"That's why I said from the beginning that's what my intentions were after my interim job."

United have scored only nine league goals this season -- one of

the lowest in the division -- and when asked if the club needed a proven goal scorer, the former Dutch striker said that was something they were building towards.

"I agree that when you want to be a successful side in the Premier League and in Europe, which is what the build is all about, you need a certain

I made a deliberate decision to step into this role for two seasons and take it from there. Four games haven't changed that sentiment.

RUUD VAN NISTELROOY

amount of goals. That is clear," said Van Nistelrooy, who scored

150 goals for United.

"That is why the best teams in the world have those players. At the moment we have players that can get a certain amount of goals and assists, but obviously they are in an age where they still have to be developed.

"There is that potential that there will be and the belief is there that they can."



Darren Fletcher

United coach Fletcher gets three-match ban for confronting referee

Manchester, England - Manchester United first-team coach Darren Fletcher has been given a three-match extended touchline ban for confronting the match officials during last month's 2-1 win at home against Brentford, the Football Association (FA) said on Friday.

The former United midfielder was also fined 7,500 pounds (\$9,705.75) for his protests when Brentford scored the opener at the stroke of halftime to go 1-0 up.

United protested when Ethan Pinnock scored when the home team were reduced to 10 men after referee Sam Barrott instructed Matthijs de Ligt to go to the

The former United midfielder was also fined 7,500 pounds (\$9,705.75) for his protests

Chelsea's Maresca hopes Palmer will be fit for Arsenal clash

London, England - Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca hopes to have Cole Palmer fit and raring to go when they face Arsenal in a Premier League London derby on Sunday after the playmaker injured his knee in the draw with Manchester United last weekend.

Palmer has started this season with seven goals and five assists in 10 Premier League games, helping to lift Chelsea up to fourth in the standings.

Palmer was not registered in Chelsea's Conference League squad for the group stages, which meant he did not play in Thursday's 8-0 win over Noah, but the 22-year-old has not trained this week.

"Cole is getting better, but because he can walk and have dinner doesn't mean he is completely fit," Maresca said.

"He is getting better and we still have two days to prepare for the game. Hopefully, we can have him for a session - at least on Saturday - and then we take a decision."

Arsenal are level with Chelsea on 18 points as the north London side look to get out of a slump and gain a foothold in the title race with Liverpool and Manchester City surging ahead.

"I like to get pressure from these kinds of games. The pressure is also for us. For sure, they are the closest one with City. Both I consider better than the



Cole Palmer

rest," Maresca said.

"The reason why is because one club is working with the same manager for nine years and the other one is working with the same manager for five years. This is a big advantage compared to the rest.

"But we're going to try to make life difficult for them on Sunday." Arsenal beat Chelsea 5-0 in their last meeting before Maresca took charge and the Italian said he is wary of their set-piece threat.

"Mentally it will be very tough. Set pieces, they are very good. I watched the Champions League game against Inter Milan and every corner was smelling of a goal," Maresca said.

Arteta uncertain about Rice for Arsenal's trip to Chelsea

Londo, England - Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta is uncertain whether defensive midfielder Declan Rice will feature in Sunday's Premier League London derby against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

While Arteta did not disclose any details on the 25-year-old England international's injury, British media reported that Rice has a broken toe but is expected to play against Chelsea.

Having picked up the injury during Arsenal's 1-0 Premier League defeat at Newcastle United last weekend, Rice missed their trip to Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday which they lost by the same scoreline.

"I have to be very vague on that one because there is no clarity, if he is going to be fit or not for the weekend. He hasn't trained yet and it is not clear yet whether



Declan Rice

he is going to be available," Arteta told reporters on Friday.

The Spaniard remained tight-lipped if captain Martin Odegaard would return to the starting lineup. The Norwegian midfielder, 25, came off the bench against Inter at the San Siro after two months on the sidelines due to an ankle injury.

"Everybody that is in the squad will be fit and available to start the game. Then it is a decision to

see if it is too early," Arteta said, before discussing the availability of forward Kai Havertz and midfielder Mikel Merino.

"(We have to) wait to see how they react. Kai's was quite a nasty cut. Mikel wasn't feeling great and we decided to substitute him at halftime (against Inter)."

Arsenal's loss to Newcastle left them fifth in the Premier League standings with 18 points from 10 matches, seven points behind leaders Liverpool and five fewer than second-placed Manchester City.

Chelsea sit fourth with the same number of points as Arsenal but a better goal-difference.

But while Arsenal have hit a slump heading into the weekend, Arteta believes they don't need a reset. "I don't think about that,"

Arteta said when asked if another loss would mean the end of their title bid.

Inter match an important test for Napoli, says Antonio Conte

Naples, Italy - Napoli boss Antonio Conte has fond memories of his time at Inter Milan but the Italian said on Friday that his side will give no quarter when his league leaders face the reigning champions in a top-of-the-table clash in Serie A.

Conte revived Inter and helped them break Juventus's nine-year stranglehold on the Scudetto, stopping their run in the 2020-21 season to win the title for the first time since their treble-winning campaign in 2009-10.

Now at Napoli, a club that is looking to return to the heights of their 2022-23 title win, Conte's side are top of Serie A with 25 points after 11 games - a point above Inter ahead of Sunday's clash at the San Siro.

"It's definitely nice to return to where I worked and won. Yes, two happy years," Conte said.

Injured Calafiori and Gabbia out of Italy's Nations League squad



Riccardo Calafiori

Rome, Italy - Italy centre-backs Riccardo Calafiori and Matteo Gabbia have been left out of Luciano Spalletti's squad for this month's Nations League matches with Belgium and France through injury.

Arsenal's Calafiori suffered a knee problem in the Champions League against Shakhtar Donetsk last month, while AC Milan's Gabbia has a calf injury.

Spalletti on Friday also did not include AS Roma captain Lorenzo Pellegrini, who was sent off in the 2-2 draw with Belgium last month, nor Juventus midfielder Nicolo Fagioli.

Fiorentina centre-back Pietro Comuzzo, Juve right back Nicolo Savona and Lazio midfielder Nicolo Rovella, who has made a strong start to the season, have been called up for the first time.

Inter Milan midfielder Nicolo Barella is back in the squad after missing out in October.



Leonardo Jardim

Al Ain appoint Jardim as manager after sacking Crespo

Al Ain, UAE - Defending Asian soccer champions Al Ain have appointed former AS Monaco manager Leonardo Jardim to replace Argentine coach Hernan Crespo, the UAE Pro League side said on Friday.

Jardim, who has signed a contract until the end of the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup in July next year, led Monaco to the Ligue 1 title and a remarkable run to the Champions League semi-finals in 2017 but was relieved of his duties in 2018.

The Portuguese coach was appointed manager of Shabab Al-Ahli in 2022, helping them

win their eighth UAE Pro League title last year, then managed Al Rayyan in Qatar for a season.

Crespo was sacked on Wednesday after a run of poor results.

The decision came a day after the team's 5-1 defeat to Saudi Pro League club Al Nassr in the Asian Champions League Elite and a 3-0 defeat to Al Ahly of Egypt in the FIFA Intercontinental Cup at the end of last month.

Al Ain have just one point from four games in the Asian Champions League Elite and are eighth in the UAE Pro League standings.

BACK IN BUSINESS

Vinicius hits hattrick as Real Madrid return to winning ways

Madrid, Spain - Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior scored a hat-trick to help the LaLiga champions snap a two-game winless run in all competitions with a commanding 4-0 victory over Osasuna on Saturday.

Following shock defeats by Barcelona and AC Milan, their first back-to-back home losses in over three years, Real suffered two major early blows against Osasuna as forward Rodrygo and defender Eder Militao were both forced off injured.

Manager Carlo Ancelotti brought Morocco forward Brahim Diaz and 21-year-old academy defender Raul Asencio off the bench and his side kept calm led by a brilliant performance from Vinicius.

The Brazilian forward opened the scoring in the 34th minute after taking a Jude Bellingham pass in his stride to beat the off-side trap and firing an unstoppable strike past goalkeeper Sergio Herrera.

Bellingham recovered his scoring instinct by netting his first goal of the season with a brilliant finish eight minutes later, lobbing the ball over the goalkeeper to extend Real's lead.

Real's stand-in right back Lucas Vazquez was also forced off but Vinicius extended the



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior celebrates after scoring against Osasuna on Saturday

We won convincingly. We played a complete game, with hard work and effort. The victory was needed. Now we have to continue at this high level, because we have talent.

BRAHIM DIAZ

lead with a great goal in the 61st minute, running on to a long pass from his goalkeeper Andriy Lunin before rounding Herrera and tapping into the empty net.

Eight minutes later, Diaz stole the ball from a distracted defender on the edge of the box

and put it on a plate for Vinicius to fire home and wrap up a comprehensive win with his second hat-trick in four games.

Vinicius is now second in LaLiga's top-scorer race with eight goals in 12 games, six behind Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski.

Second-placed Real climbed to 27 points, six behind leaders Barcelona. Osasuna are fifth on 21 points.

"I don't want to touch this subject (the injuries), because it hurts me to see colleagues crying... It breaks my heart..." Diaz, who missed over six weeks this season with a thigh injury, told Real Madrid TV.

"We won convincingly," Diaz added. "We played a complete game, with hard work and effort. The victory was needed. Now we have to continue at this high level, because we have talent."

Al Hilal's Neves out until January after undergoing knee surgery

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - Portugal midfielder Ruben Neves has been ruled out until January after undergoing surgery on a knee injury, his Saudi Pro League club Al-Hilal announced on Friday.

The 27-year-old travelled to Finland for an operation on his patellar tendon and will miss Portugal's Nations League matches against Poland and Croatia on Nov. 15 and 18 respectively.

Neves will not be available for Al Hilal's upcoming Asian Champions League matches against Al Sadd and Al Gharafa.

Coach De Zerbi threatens to quit as Marseille lose to Auxerre

Marseille, France - Olympique de Marseille coach Roberto De Zerbi has threatened to quit the Ligue 1 side after their dreadful run at home continued on Friday with a 3-1 loss to AJ Auxerre in a league match at the Stade Velodrome.

Marseille are second in the Ligue 1 standings but have won just one of five home games this season. They have lost their last two matches, conceding three goals in each.

"If I'm the problem, I'm ready to leave. I'll leave the money and hand back my contract," De



Roberto De Zerbi

Zerbi, who was appointed coach in June, told reporters after the most recent defeat.

"I came to Marseille for the Velodrome. And I can't get the players to give here what I see in training and in away games. It's my fault, it's my responsibility.

"Playing at the Velodrome is a privilege. I want to be able to pass on to the people who work with me what I think about football. And I can't do that."

Marseille next travel to face eighth-placed RC Lens on November 23.

Gauff to meet Zheng in WTA Finals title clash

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - American Coco Gauff defeated world number one Aryna Sabalenka 7-6(4) 6-3 in the semi-finals of the WTA Finals on Friday and will take on China's Zheng Qinwen in the showpiece match.

Sabalenka will end the year at the top of the world rankings but her bid for a maiden WTA Finals title was ended by Gauff who reached her first final at the end-of-season event.

Earlier, seventh seed Zheng overcame battling Czech Barbora Krejickova 6-3 7-5 to reach Saturday's showpiece on her debut.

It had promised to be a close affair between Sabalenka and world number three Gauff, with the head-to-head record standing at 4-4, and the opening set lived up to expectations. After trading early breaks, Sabalenka broke again to take a 6-5 lead to serve for the set but Gauff responded, forcing a tiebreak.

The American cruised to a 6-1 lead, breaking Sabalenka four times, before the Belarusian

I'm not really nervous to be honest and the year-end I see it as just a plus and being here is a reward for the season I've had

COCO GAUFF

broke twice to save the first two set points but Gauff held her nerve to win the first set.

Sabalenka cut a frustrated figure throughout the match and Gauff raced into a 4-1 lead in the second set before the sixth game turned into a marathon affair.

Gauff saved seven break points and at one stage Sabalenka threw her racket into the air but eventually won the game to keep the contest alive. However, the American then broke to love to serve for the match.

Sabalenka rallied and broke again but Gauff kept her cool and,



Coco Gauff

just when it seemed Sabalenka would claw her way back into the tie, the American broke for a fourth time in the second set.

"I'm happy with the way I played, she's world number one for a reason," said Gauff. "I'm not really nervous to be honest and the year-end I see it as just a plus and being here is a reward for the season I've had," the third seed added.

China's Olympic gold medalist Zheng, making her WTA Finals debut, got off to a great start against eighth seed Krejickova, with an early break to take a 3-0 lead.

The Czech saved three set points at 5-2 down but Zheng won the next game to love and took the first set with ease.

The second set looked to be going the same way as Zheng again raced into a 3-0 lead, this time with two breaks of serve, but Krejickova finally got into her groove, winning the next four games with two breaks of her own.



Jose Mourinho

Fenerbahce coach Mourinho fined and banned for comments on Turkish referees

Istanbul, Turkey - Fenerbahce coach Jose Mourinho has been suspended for one match and fined by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) for criticising the performance of the Video Assistant Referee after a 3-2 Super Lig win at Trabzonspor.

Trabzonspor were awarded two penalties in the second half following VAR interventions and with the scores level at 2-2 Mourinho was incensed when a challenge on Bright Osayi-Samuel went unpunished.

The Portuguese coach suggested VAR official Atilla Karaoglan had missed the incident, adding that the Turkish league "smells bad" and that international fans had no reason to watch the league.

The TFF said in a statement that Mourinho's comments were "contrary to sportsmanship, sports ethics or fair-play understanding".

The governing body added Mourinho's remarks were "intended to damage the reputation of the TFF, to lower the value of Turkish football, to overshadow or discredit the impartiality of referees and other competition officials".

Mourinho was fined 600,000 Turkish lira (\$18,000) for unsportsmanlike behaviour and 58,500 for his conduct towards the opposing team's fans.

Fenerbahce Vice President Acun Ilicali was also fined for criticising the refereeing in a statement on the club's website.

SAMSON FLEXES MUSCLES AGAIN

Opener's century propels India to easy victory over South Africa

Kingsmead, Durban - India opener Sanju Samson scored a sparkling century as the tourists beat South Africa by 61 runs in the first match of a four-game Twenty20 series in Durban on Friday.

South Africa asked India to bat and the visitors posted 202 for eight in their 20 overs, before restricting their hosts to 141 all out in 17.5 overs for a comprehensive victory.

India's total was boosted by a brilliant 107 from 50 balls by Samson but the innings did stall towards the end.

Samson smashed 10 sixes and seven fours as he tore into the bowling at the small Kingsmead ground. He rattled along at a strike rate of 214, providing more than half his team's total.

"The amount of hard work he (Samson) has put in over the last few years, doing those boring things again and again, he is reaping the fruits (now)," India captain Suryakumar Yadav said.

"He is putting the team first, even when he was in the 90s he



India's Sanju Samson plays a shot en route to his century against South Africa

was looking to hit fours and sixes. That's what separates him."

At 167-2 in the 15th over, India looked on course for a score well in excess of 200, but managed only another 35 runs in 32 balls for the loss of six wickets after

Tilak Varma was dismissed for 33.

Seamers Marco Jansen (1-24 in four overs) and Gerald Coetzee (3-37) were the pick of the home attack.

India's legbreak bowlers stifled the South African reply as

their innings never managed to gain momentum.

Varun Chakravarthy took 3-25 as he picked up the key wickets of Heinrich Klaassen (25) and David Miller (18), while Ravi Bishnoi recorded figures of 3-28.

"We wanted to get off to a

better start (with the bat) and that's where we lost the game," South Africa captain Aiden Markram said.

"Sanju played incredibly well, put our bowlers under pressure. When a guy is striking like that, it is pretty hard to stop him and

Netherlands defeat UAE in Cricket World Cup League 2

Muscat - The Netherlands secured their first victory in the Oman tri-series, part of the Cricket World Cup League 2, with a commanding 67-run win over UAE at the Oman Cricket Academy ground on Saturday.

After a string of defeats to UAE and Oman, the Dutch finally found their form with an impressive batting performance.

Opting to bat first, the Netherlands posted a competitive total of 241/8, thanks to solid partnerships at the top of the order.

Openers Max O'Dowd (66) and Vikramjit Singh (69) provided a strong foundation, adding 140 runs in the first 30 overs. Colin Ackermann (21), Bas de Leede (18), and Noah Croes (24) contributed valuable runs to the total.

Junaid Siddiqui was the standout bowler for UAE, taking 3/31, while Ali Naseer (2/49) and Dhruv Parashar (1/36) also made key breakthroughs.

In response, UAE struggled to build momentum and were bowled out for just 174 in 45.2 overs.

The chase got off to a disastrous start with opener Muhammad Waseem dismissed for a duck. Tanish Suri (26) followed soon after, and by the 20th over, UAE found themselves at a precarious 61/4. Despite modest contributions from Viritya Araving (16) and Vishnu Sikumaran

(13), the middle order could not recover. Skipper Rahul Chopra fought back with 43 runs, but the damage had been done as UAE were left reeling at 136/8.

Ali Naseer's late cameo of 45 off 39 balls, including four sixes, offered brief hope, but the Netherlands' bowlers sealed the win with a clinical performance.

Kyle Klien, Aryan Dutt, and Roelof van der Merwe each claimed three wickets, with Klien's dismissal of Naseer

The Netherlands' total of 241/8 is the highest score in the tri-series so far, surpassing UAE's 240/8 against them in their earlier match.

marking the final blow for UAE.

The Netherlands' total of 241/8 is the highest score in the tri-series so far, surpassing UAE's 240/8 against the Netherlands in their November 3 match.

All other matches at Al Amerat have seen lower scores, including Thursday's encounter where UAE were bowled out for a paltry 78, and Oman chased down 79/6 for their third successive win.

Hybrid model Champions Trophy not acceptable to Pakistan

Islamabad, Pakistan - The Pakistan cricket board (PCB) will not stage matches of the 2025 Champions Trophy outside the country if India do not travel for the tournament, chairman Mohsin Naqvi said.

Pakistan, winners of the last Champions Trophy in 2017, will host the Feb. 19-March 9 tournament. It will be the first ICC event hosted by Pakistan since it shared the 1996 World Cup with India and Sri Lanka.

Due to soured political relations, India have not visited Pakistan since 2008 and the rivals play each other only at multi-team events.

Pakistan also hosted the Asia Cup last year but winners India played all their matches in Sri Lanka under a "hybrid model".

At the time, India said they had not received permission from their government to tour Pakistan.

On Friday, Indian media re-



Mohsin Naqvi

ported that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had informed the PCB of their unwillingness to travel to Pakistan and suggested playing India's matches at a neutral venue.

"In the last two months, the Indian media has been reporting that India isn't travelling. I discussed this with them and my team, and our stance is clear: they need to give us in

writing any objections they may have," Naqvi told reporters on Friday.

"Until now, no discussion of the hybrid model has happened, nor are we prepared to accept one. The Indian media are reporting it, but no formal communication has reached the PCB... Almost every country wants the Champions Trophy to be played here."

India's Harmanpreet wins FIH Player of the Year award, Sreejesh Goalkeeper of the Year

Muscat - Harmanpreet Singh of India and Yibbi Jansen of the Netherlands were awarded the FIH Players of the Year 2024 during the gala night of the 49th FIH Statutory Congress in Oman.

PR Sreejesh of India and Ye Jiao of China won the FIH Goalkeepers of the Year awards, while the awards for FIH Rising Stars went to Zoe Díaz of Argentina and Sufyan Khan of Pakistan.

For the second year in a row China women's head coach Alyson Annan (Australia) has been awarded the FIH Coach of the Year award in the women's category, while Jeroen Delmee (Netherlands) wins the FIH Coach of the Year award in the men's category.

Sarah Wilson of Scotland and Steve Rogers of Australia won the FIH Umpire of the Year award in the women's and men's category respectively.

Harmanpreet was the standout player amongst the men's



Harmanpreet Singh

nominees, receiving the most votes across all categories of voters. Much like Jansen in the women's competition, Indian captain Harmanpreet led the scoring charts at the Paris 2024 Olympics with 10 goals including goals in the quarterfinal, semifinal and both goals in the bronze medal match against Spain, which India won 2-1 to secure their second consecutive podium

finish at the Olympics!

Harmanpreet was also a crucial cog in the Indian team that had broken their 41 year podium drought at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He has previously won the FIH Player of the Year award on two occasions in 2020-21 and in 2021-22.

The third one might just be the most precious one however, given it's been won while leading

his country for the first time, after taking over captaincy in 2023, and leading his team to an Olympic medal in his first attempt.

His teammate Sreejesh brought an end to his stellar career in Paris, by adding a second Olympic medal to his trophy cabinet and now he gets to add a third FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award as well, having previously won the award in 2020-21 and 2021-22. Sreejesh bid adieu to hockey at the highest level, putting together an incredible Olympic campaign, that included a mammoth performance in the quarterfinal win for India over Great Britain, where they played most of the match with 10 players.

Thanking those who helped him along his wonderful career, Sreejesh said: "I am so happy today. Thank you for this last playing honour of my playing career."

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WHO IS PAIGE BEEBER?

Paige Beeber is best known for kaleidoscopic abstract paintings that could be mistaken for textiles. Beeber incorporates a wide range of materials - oil, spray, and acrylic paints; inks; dyes; and found objects - into her large-scale, intensely detailed works. Beeber received a BFA from Alfred University in 2015. She has since been noted for her distinctive approach to markmaking, incorporating abstract and geometric patterns that give her paintings the appearance of needlework, forging a link to past generations of artisans in her family's history. Beeber's prominent use of zesty colours and dynamic mix of techniques create moments of harmony and discord that reflect the rhythm of contemporary life.

mélange of textile designs, with sequences of more translucent marks (often spray-painted) that add sensations of variable depths, while reiterated dabs of opaque colour suggest patterns of embroidery atop these murky surfaces.

The complexity of the interplay among these compositional layers can be dizzying. Collocations may be discordant. The eye becomes entangled. Yet the feeling that the painting's flickering hues and overlapping parts never quite mesh is what makes the works so exhilarating.

Take, as a good example, a painting from Beeber's most recent solo show, 'Phantom Threads' at New York's Freight+Volume last

Dizzying layers

ABSTRACTION WHAT ABSTRACTION DOES BEST IS TAKE PAINTING APART AND THEN PUT IT BACK TOGETHER DIFFERENTLY. PAIGE BEEBER UNDERSTANDS THAT PRINCIPLE BETTER THAN MOST ARTISTS, AND SHE PUTS IT INTO PRACTICE AT BOTH MATERIAL AND PERCEPTUAL LEVELS, MELDING PHYSICALITY AND ILLUSION

My first contact with Beeber's paintings came via the computer screen, says art critic Barry Schwabsky. My impression then was that the paintings would be very dimensional, like montaged reliefs, so I was surprised when I finally saw the works in person.

This was around three years ago when Schwabsky realised that the layered patchwork of colours in Beeber's paintings 'was mostly just painted rather than assembled. But let me accentuate that word - mostly,' he says.

Beeber does use collage in her painting, but it is her conceptual or perceptual cutting and pasting that predominates. The literal collaging in her work complements and sometimes contradicts her purely painterly juxtapositions. At a certain distance, or in reproduction, the effect is almost *trompe l'œil*, but just a slightly closer or longer look is enough to dispel the momentary illusion - This is a painting that always wants to keep the

materiality of painting visible.

The work I saw in a spring visit to Beeber's studio in the Gowanus section of Brooklyn seemed to be germinating. It was fascinating to see the bins full of scraps of painted canvases that she cuts up then saves for possible use in future paintings. My guess is that she stockpiles a lot more of these than she uses, but any of them might come in handy eventually.

Multiple temporalities

The artist, preparing to leave town for a residency at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico, explained to me that she didn't want to finish her latest paintings - which to my eye already seemed quite developed - until her return in a few months' time.

"It's better to keep things unfinished until I come back with a fresh eye," she told me.

Perhaps Beeber's abstractions evoke not only multiple spaces, but multiple temporalities. They evoke the colouristic



year - Trick Mirror II, 2022, is dominated by a jagged many-pointed starburst outlined in white and containing a throng of short vertical white marks, through which deeper layers remain obscurely visible.

This crazy star seems to communicate with a smaller, five-pointed star to its upper right that is mainly light blue, though its loose weave of horizontal and vertical marks also contains other colours. The blue star, a separate bit of canvas collaged on, presents a paradox - although materially it sits atop the painting's surface, its recessive hues and their transparency create an opening into deeper space.

Meanwhile, the middle ground is occupied by a dense congeries of concise rectilinear marks that divide the plane into rough triangular zones. Everything vibrates, clear boundaries become permeable, and it all seems caught in the process of making sense of itself in collaboration with the eye - not quite formed, but rather piecing a form together, or perhaps undoing a form so it can be formed differently later.

(Courtesy: artnews.com)



Humaid al Aufi
Abstract Artist

Matti Sirvio
Proprietor, Matti Sirvio Art Galleria

JOINT
EXHIBITION

Art Galleria on Saturday evening, unveiling a new chapter of intrigue and imploration to conserve the oceans and its resources for the larger welfare of humankind



Hubert Vaz

The mundane walls of Matti Sirvio Art Galleria, in Jawharat al Shatti, which often come alive with the vibrant works of budding as well as established international artists, are now adorned with what may be called 'little innocent dreams' to make the world a better place to live in - with a focus on the oceans.

On Saturday evening, a unique exhibition titled 'The Emotions of the Oceans', created by young school children, was inaugurated under the auspices of Sumaira Chowdhury, UNICEF representative in Oman, in the presence of Ibtisam Al Salmi, Oman national sailor, who was invited as a special guest.



The exhibition hosted by Matti Sirvio Art Galleria, in partnership with The Green Life Art Center, sought to foster artistic and emotional growth by encouraging children to interpret and express personal feelings inspired by marine life. Through themes of calmness, fear, joy, and mystery, young artists have used marine elements - such as diverse sea creatures, underwater habitats, and the dynamic ocean - to reflect on the ways that nature parallels human emotion.

'Seas are under pressure'

Responding to Muscat Daily, to a query on the importance of ocean conservation. Sumaira Chowdhury said, "We in the Sultanate of Oman are fortunate to be surrounded by the ocean - yet we know the seas are under pressure like never before. Helping children understand the importance of preserving our oceans and reducing human-generated waste is not only crucial for their future but also vital for our planet's survival. Oceans are essential to life on Earth, influencing everything, from our climate to the air we breathe.

"This exhibition is a meaningful step toward building environmental awareness, bridging knowledge with art and action to inspire young minds as future champions of sustainability. As we approach the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan, it's more evident than ever that we must prioritise children's needs, rights, and perspectives in climate action. With climate shocks impacting nearly half of the world's children, it's urgent that leaders, and the next generation, work together to protect our shared future."

Feelings of serenity and awe

Niasa Mobtada, founder of The Green Life Art Center, disclosed that the exhibition comprises 19 artworks (minimum size 50x50 cm), representing a unique emotional perspective inspired by marine life, depicting feelings such as serenity, awe, curiosity, and wonder. The artworks have been carefully selected by a jury from Green Life Art Center and Matti Sirvio Gallery, ensuring that only the most expressive pieces are showcased.

This exhibition provides a platform for young artists to showcase their creativity, connect with the community, and gain an understanding of art's role in promoting marine conservation, she said, adding that the participant young artists are from the age group of 8 to 15 years drawn from various schools, besides a few of independent backgrounds, showcasing a pool of diverse young talent.

The young artists have used various media, such as water colours, acrylics, and mixed media, each piece creatively capturing the theme. The exhibits take the viewer to the depths of the seabed as well as afloat on the waves; face to face with delicate yet interesting marine life, and through robust interpretations of creative solutions to refine and rejuvenate the waters.

"The children were encouraged to interpret 'emotions of the oceans', representing feelings like calmness, fear, joy, and mystery through marine imagery. They embraced this challenge wonderfully, bringing unique perspectives that both, adhere to and expand, upon the theme," she said, adding, "The jury is thoroughly impressed and feels that the submissions have not

only met but, in many cases, surpassed our expectations in creativity, skill, and depth of expression."

The artworks at this exhibition, which runs until November 29, will be available for sale during the exhibition while unsold works will be returned.

She further disclosed, "This theme was chosen to foster an emotional connection between young artists and marine life. At Green Life Art Center, we focus on environmental awareness, aiming to inspire both, creativity and a sense of stewardship, for the oceans."

The top three artworks will be awarded. While the first and second place winners will be selected by the jury team, the third place will be determined by public voting. All participants will, however, receive a gift and a certificate as a token of appreciation for their involvement.





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