

Arab-Islamic summit today in Riyadh to focus on regional crisis

Riyadh - Oman participated in the preparatory foreign ministers' meeting on Sunday ahead of the Second Joint Arab-Islamic Summit scheduled to be held in Riyadh on Monday.

Organised by Saudi Arabia, the summit aims to address escalating Israeli actions in Palestinian territories and Lebanon, alongside other pressing regional challenges. The gathering will build on the achievements of the inaugural Joint Arab-Islamic Summit held in November 2023, which focused on the Gaza crisis and regional stability.

Since then, member states have made considerable efforts to bolster regional peace, support humanitarian aid and promote diplomatic resolutions. The previous summit led to critical emergency relief for Gaza, calls to end the occupation, and commitments from Arab and Islamic nations to support the Palestinian cause.

H E Abdullah bin Nasser al Rahbi, Oman's Ambassador to Egypt and its Permanent Representative at Arab League who will lead the delegation, said Oman is dedicated to peace and stability in the Middle East.

H E Rahbi reiterated Oman's call for stronger international efforts to end the violence and foster sustainable peace, highlighting the importance of dialogue and adherence to United Nations resolutions as foundations for achieving a two-state solution.

New standards set for elderly day care centres

Facilities must be in healthy locations and run by qualified Omani managers with degrees in social sciences or related fields

Our Correspondent
Muscat

H E Dr Laila bint Ahmed al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, has issued Ministerial Decision No 344/2024 to establish a governance framework for elderly day care centres. The new framework is designed to ensure quality care and safety for elderly citizens by standardising the operations and licensing of these facilities across the sultanate.

The decision outlines comprehensive guidelines for setting up and operating day care centres that provide essential social, psychological, cultural and rehabilitative services for the elderly. The framework covers licensing requirements, management standards, staffing qualifications and safety protocols to ensure high standards of care and service delivery.

To be admitted to these centres, elderly individuals must be at least 60 years old, free from infectious diseases and without severe psychological disorders.

All day care centres must obtain a licence from the Ministry of Social Development to operate. The licence applicant must be at least 25 years old, and licences are issued for a three-year period, with the possibility of renewal.

Centres must offer a safe and



All day care centres must obtain a licence from Ministry of Social Development. Non-compliance may result in penalties, including fines, temporary suspension or licence revocation

accessible environment, encourage community involvement and volunteerism, and support elderly individuals in managing health and psychological changes. Sites must be in healthy locations, away from industrial or flood-

prone areas, and equipped with accessibility features. Each centre is required to appoint a qualified manager who is an Omani national with a degree in social sciences or a related field.

The ministry will conduct reg-

ular inspections to ensure compliance, and access records, camera footage and relevant information. Non-compliance may result in penalties, including fines, temporary suspension or licence revocation. Unauthorised operation of a care centre without a licence may result in a fine of RO2,000, while other violations may incur fines between RO500 to RO1,000.

The decision, issued on November 6, 2024 comes into effect on Monday.

His Majesty issues Royal Decree promulgating Media Law

Muscat - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued Royal Decree No 58/2024 promulgating the Media Law on Sunday after presenting the same before the Council of Oman.

Article 1 states that the provisions of the Media Law attached to this decree will be enforced.

Article 2 states that the Minister of Information will issue the regulations of the attached law, as well as necessary decisions to implement its provisions. Till such time, the existing regulations and decisions will continue to be implemented without prejudice to the provisions of the attached law.

Article 3 cancels Royal Decree No 49/84 on the Publications and Publishing Law, Royal Decree No 65/97 on the Law on Censorship of Artistic Works and Royal Decree No 95/2004 on the Law of Private Radio and Television Establishments. It also cancels all that contradicts the law attached to this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article 4 states that this decree will be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publication.

ONA

NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAY ON NOV 20-21

Muscat - As per the Royal Orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, it has been decided that Wednesday, November 20 and Thursday, November 21 will be an official holiday on the occasion of the 54th National Day for employees in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, other

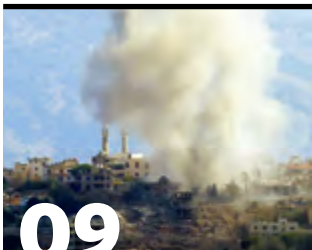
legal entities and private sector establishments.

In a statement, the Ministry of Labour said employers may agree with their employees to engage them in work during the above-mentioned two days, if deemed necessary, provided the workers are compensated for it.



05

Bitcoin surges to \$80,000 for first time ever



09

At least 27 killed in Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon



Automotive Batteries



15 YEARS OF TRUST IN OMAN

 EXPANDED METAL TECHNOLOGY

 EXTENDED VALUE

 LEAK RESISTANT

 ECO FRIENDLY

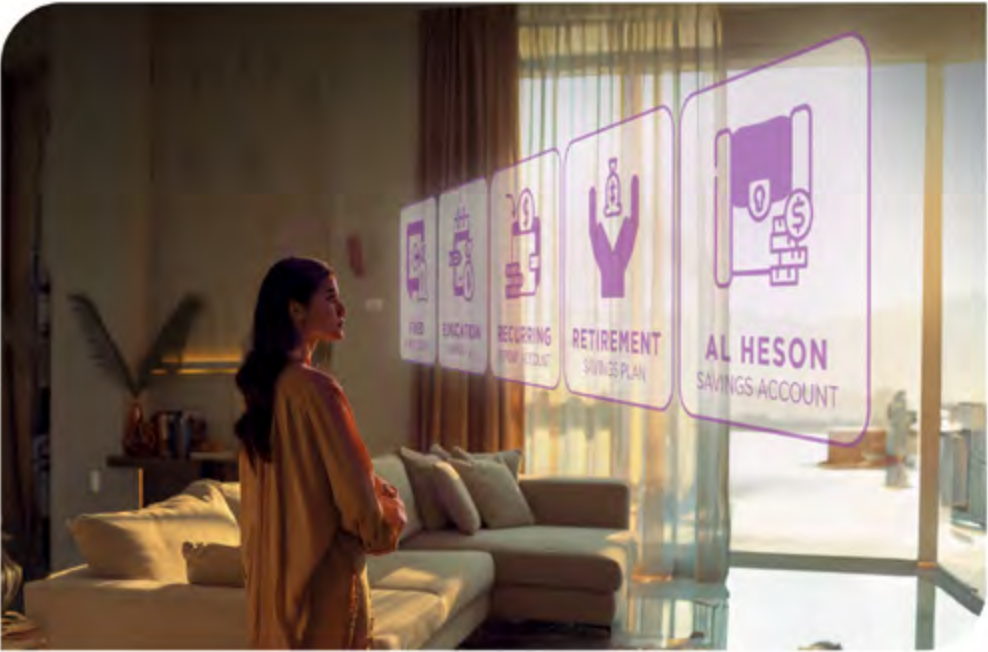


POWERING ADVENTURES THE WORLD OVER!

 Maintenance Free - No Water Required

 Extra Long Life

Terms and conitions apply



Empower your future today

With BankDhofar Ladies Account

Start Saving with BankDhofar Ladies account!
To know more, visit www.bankdhofar.com

bankdhofar

 2479 1111  www.bankdhofar.com



بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

WINTER IS TRAVEL SEASON

The mercury has finally come down and Oman is now enjoying pleasant weather. More and more events – cultural, sports and business – are planned, while cruise liners are bringing in large numbers of tourists. How can Oman leverage its natural beauty and outdoor offerings to attract more tourists? Here’s what *Muscat Daily* readers said –

Laura Samith
Homemaker

This season is perfect for family-friendly outdoor activities like nature trails, hiking and beach picnics. Creating budget friendly packages that combine outdoor fun with cultural visits could appeal to families and groups looking for winter sunshine.

Afraz A Hussain
Financial analyst

SME and government partnerships can create synergy in tourism. Dedicated spots must be established especially at natural sites with facilities to attract tourists. These include providing local delicacies and holding expos and sports activities. Controls must also be placed by agencies to ensure there is no damage to natural sites, including the flora and fauna. Further, influencers and social media campaigns conducted by government agencies can enhance tourism.

Ahmed Balushi
Salesman

Oman’s mountains, beaches and deserts offer unique landscapes perfect for hiking, camping and photography. The government and private agencies need to promote eco-tourism and guided adventures so that the country can attract nature-loving tourists who seek authentic Omani and outdoor experiences.

Fahad al Lawati
HR manager

Water and beach activities are the best. Oman’s coastline is beautiful in winter, and we can attract tourists by offering water sports, dolphin watching and coastal cruises. Promoting



these through travel agencies and social media would attract those seeking both adventure and relaxation.

Mariam Khalfan
Homemaker

With cooler weather, we can host more cultural festivals and events, highlighting our heritage. Food and film festivals and hosting beach games are the best to this end. Winter is a great time to invite tourists to explore our souqs, try traditional Omani food, and witness camel races and other authentic experiences.

Adil Khan
Businessman

Oman has fantastic trekking and cycling trails that are still relatively unknown. Promoting these trails locally and internationally, especially to adventure tourists, would give Oman a strong, unique winter appeal.

YOUR SAY

What are your thoughts on personal income tax? Do you think it is the right time to implement personal income tax in Oman?

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

SEND YOUR COMMENTS

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

SEND US ON OUR NEW WHATSAPP NO 91953774

4TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



2024 WRANGLER RANGE
STARTING FROM OMR 16,495

Jeep

Vehicle image shown is for illustration purposes only and accessories shown might not be part of the standard model. ©2024 FCA US LLC. All Rights Reserved. Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.



MOHSIN HAIDER DARWISH
AUTOMOBILES L.L.C.



[mhjdjeepoman](https://www.facebook.com/mhjdjeepoman)

Starting price mentioned is for the
Wrangler Sport 2-door 2024MY.
Limited stock available.

Toll Free – 800 22 008
www.jeep-oman.com

Cell No. 1629946

شايفان اوتو
CHANGAN AUTO
Driving Forward With You

ALL NEW
UNI-S

INTRODUCING ALL NEW UNI-S
REDEFINING THE RIDE OF TOMORROW



SUPER WARRANTY
6 YEARS / UNLIMITED MILEAGE

7 Speed Dual Clutch Transmission

1.5L Turbo Engine, 185 HP

BLUECORE
استهلاك أقل للوقود، محرك



Remote Engine Starter



Panoramic Sunroof



Faux Leather Seats



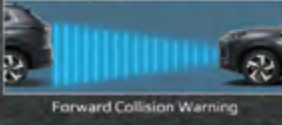
12.3" iVi Display



10" Full LCD Instrument Cluster



Electric Trunk Open



Forward Collision Warning



360" Panoramic Reverse Imaging



Adaptive Cruise Control

Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN AUTO Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms : Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibr1 96628930
Sales Centers : Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800
9662 8909
www.changanoman.com

SEND YOUR REQUEST FOR

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

MoE amends academic calendar for 2024-2025

Our Correspondent
Muscat

H E Dr Madiha bint Ahmed al Shaibaniya, Minister of Education, issued Ministerial Decision No 253/2024 on Sunday amending aspects of Ministerial Decision 152/2024 regarding the annual calendar for government and private schools.

According to the revised Ministry of Education (MoE) decision, the dates for first-semester examinations for students in Grades 5 to 11, General Education Diploma and equivalent programmes in both public and private schools, special education programmes and adult education have been rescheduled to begin on January 15 and end on February 6, 2025. The decision also adjusts the schedule for second-semester examinations from June 11 to July 10, 2025.

REGIONAL WEATHER		
	Max	Min
Muscat	30	23
Abu Dhabi	33	21
Doha	31	20
Kuwait City	28	19
Manama	30	22
Riyadh	31	17

Al Wusta advances development with 140 projects worth RO25mn

Our Correspondent
Duqm

Al Wusta is pushing forward with more than 140 development projects across its wilayats targeting infrastructure improvement, environmental initiatives and economic growth.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Muslim al Kathiri, Governor of Al Wusta, has stated that these projects are part of the 10th Five-Year plan and have investments exceeding RO25mn. These include completed initiatives, ongoing developments and future projects.

Of the total, 59 projects have been completed at a cost of around RO4mn, while 37 projects of estimated value RO9.9mn are underway. An additional 44 projects, projected to cost RO11.6mn, are scheduled in the near future.

Key infrastructure developments include six service sites along critical roadways - four on the Al Zamaim-Al Ghaftain route and two connecting the wilayats of Mahout and Duqm. Haima is also seeing major projects, including the Knowledge Park featuring interactive heritage displays, an exhibition square and green spaces.

To enhance transport infrastructure, a new bus station has been designed with a range of amenities, including office spaces, cafes, restaurants, a three-star hotel, a business centre, prayer rooms, children's play areas and a landscaped walkway. Parks and recreational spaces are also being developed in Al Ajaz and Abu Mudhabi, including a hexagonal



Of the total, 59 projects have been completed at a cost of around RO4mn, while 37 projects of estimated value RO9.9mn are underway. An additional 44 projects, projected to cost RO11.6mn, are scheduled in the near future

SHEIKH AHMED BIN MUSLIM AL KATHIRI

playground with facilities for public use.

Further, Sheikh Kathiri has highlighted specific projects in Mahout, including the Mahout Public Park, the Shanna waterfront and a health walkway. Plans are also underway for a commercial area in Al Juba. In

Duqm, projects include the Dhahr waterfront development, residential area improvements and a community garden with a playground. Ras Madrasah is set to benefit from a waterfront project, commercial upgrades and new beach facilities.

Environmental initiatives in-

clude a blue carbon project aimed at establishing artificial lakes for mangrove cultivation. It will involve reclaiming 20,000 hectares to plant over 100mn mangrove trees. This initiative with an investment of RO38.5mn is expected to create new wetlands and contribute to regional

environmental sustainability.

Al Wusta is also focusing on the fisheries sector, which contributes 37% to the governorate's GDP. Fisheries projects have attracted a total investment of RO611.5mn, including a shrimp farm in Al Jazar valued at RO462mn, which is expected to produce up to 220,000 tonnes annually.

Additional investments include RO105mn for fish and food industry developments, RO102mn for fishing ports in Duqm, Mahout and Al Jazar, and RO4mn for fish markets and fishing village improvements in Duqm and Al Jazar.



International boxing championship inspires local fighters

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The FitBox Fight Championships at Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex Bausher on Friday marked Oman's first-ever mega boxing event held in collaboration with World Boxing Council (WBC) and FitBox Fight Club (FFC).

Featuring ten intense fights and 20 fighters - including international competitors and four Omani boxers - the event showcased both professional and amateur matches. The pro matches were 4 three-minute rounds without headgear, while amateur matches consisted of 3 three-minute rounds with head protection.

FitBox Fight Club was founded in Oman seven years ago with the goal of developing the local boxing scene. Its founder Ali Kerdi said, "When we first opened, Omanis were not allowed to participate in boxing events locally, despite being excellent fighters. Boxing itself was not officially al-

lowed here. Now we have hosted the first international event in Oman alongside WBC to motivate and encourage Omani athletes."

After a six-month selection process involving the nation's top gyms - including UFC Gym, FFC, and Muscat MMA - Oman's best fighters were chosen to represent local talent. The event aimed to establish a strong boxing community in the sultanate, inspiring young Omanis to pursue the sport professionally and set the stage for future international events.

Participants hailed from Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Russia, Algeria, Tunisia and Iran, besides Oman.

Kerdi said, "We received permission from WBC after it confirmed that our club meets all international standards and safety requirements. We aimed not only to host a successful championship but to put Oman on the world boxing map."



Expanding fisheries sector boosts Oman's food security

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has reported marked progress in advancing Oman's fisheries sector as part of efforts to strengthen the country's food security and expand value-added exports, including improvements in infrastructure, streamlined marketing systems, and enhanced quality control in fish markets across the nation.

The fisheries sector has grown rapidly, now operating 119 fish processing factories. By the end of 2023, the country recorded 62 fish markets and 1,009 fish shops. To support smooth operations in the central wholesale fish market, the ministry issued 489 permits for tanker entry. Meanwhile, the number of licences for trading live aquatic

products rose to 915, and fish vendor licences increased from 753 to 905.

The country's fish processing capacity continues to grow, catering to both local and international demand. Oman now has

The number of licences for trading live aquatic products rose to 915, and fish vendor licences increased from 753 to 905

94 fish processing and freezing factories and an additional eight facilities located on ships as of October 2024. To diversify offerings, three fish canning factories have been opened, besides specialised facilities to produce

ready-to-cook fish products and refined fish oil.

Infrastructure upgrades are also underway with construction of 16 new or upgraded fish markets across several governorates, enhancing local sales channels and meeting growing consumer needs. The ministry has conducted several field visits to fish markets, landing centres and marketing outlets to ensure quality standards are maintained, reinforcing both food security and consumer protection.

For further support to the sector, the ministry organised a series of exhibitions and marketing initiatives in 2024, including an annual fish marketing programme. This initiative, conducted in collaboration with fish marketing companies, ensures a steady supply of fish during summer months when climatic factors affect availability.

Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Description	Tender Fee (Nonrefundable) OMR	Tender Purchase deadline	Clarification deadline	Tender Submission Date
TENDER/2024/11/ENG/017	Design & Construction of Pile Foundation for Al Maha Project at Al Ghubra North	100	14.11.2024	19.11.2024	26.11.2024

Bank Name & Account NumberBank Muscat (0423005687760617)

The Conditions:

- Collection of Tenders:** Interested, specialized companies and establishments registered under grade 3 and above (in C.R) with minimum of 3 years' experience in the same field. Bidders can collect the tender documents from the procurement department by sending a copy of the payment slip to procurement@almaha.com.om The tender may be collected on any working day between 08:00 AM – 03:00 PM.
- Bank Guarantee:** The bidder should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for an amount equivalent to (1%) of the tender value, with a validity of (90) Days from the last date of submission and addressed to Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company SAOG.
- Offer Submission:** Tender bid should be submitted a sealed envelope and addressed to the **Chairman of Tender Committee**, Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing SAOG marked with tender number and subject. Other marks or any reference must not be printed outside the envelope. The exterior of the envelope containing the tender document must not reveal the identity of the bidder.
- Submission Location:** The bid should be deposited in the tender box at Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing SAOG head office located in Ghala before 01:00 PM on the submission date.
- Any bid received after the specified date or if it does not meet the conditions will not be considered.
- Each bid shall be signed and stamped with the signature of the authorized person.
- Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co SAOG reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel the tender without giving any reasons.
- Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co SAOG reserves the right to add or cancel some of the works mentioned in the tender if necessary.
- Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co SAOG is not bound to accept the lowest bid or any other bid without giving any reasons.
- For any enquiry email us at (procurement@almaha.com.om) or by calling **24610289/24610287/24610355**

Oman's largest copper project breaks ground

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Minerals Development Oman (MDO), through its subsidiary Mazoon Mining Company, celebrated on Sunday the official groundbreaking of the Mazoon Copper Project, the largest integrated copper concentrate production venture in Oman.

The Mazoon Copper Project is located in the Wilayat of Yanqul,

Dhahirah Governorate. Covering an area of 20 sqkm, the project consists of five open-pit mines with an estimated 22.9mn tonnes of copper ore reserves. It also includes the construction of a state-of-the-art processing plant spanning 56,000 sqm, with the capacity to process 2.5mn tonnes of copper ore annually. The project is expected to produce 115,000 tonnes of copper concentrate per year, with a copper



grade of 21.5%.

The Mazoon Copper Project is expected to play a key role in meeting the growing global demand for copper, while positioning Oman as a strategic hub for high-quality copper concentrate production.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held under the patronage of H E Abdul Salam Mohammed al Murshidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority (OIA).

The journey of the project began with extensive exploration activities, culminating in the signing of a concession agreement in 2022 for Concession Area 12-A1. To ensure the successful delivery of the project, the Canadian firm Lycopodium was appointed to provide engineering, procurement, and construction management services. With the project now in its initial development stages, site preparations are well

underway, and tenders are being issued, marking the next steps for the project.

Construction of the processing plant is planned to begin in the first quarter of 2025, with copper concentrate production set to commence in the first quarter of 2027. This strategic timeline will be crucial in ramping up copper production to meet both local and international market demands.

Continued on [Page 05](#)



الأنوار للاستثمارات ش.م.ع

Al Anwar Investments SAOG

Post Box: 468, Postal Code: 131, Al Hamriya, Sultanate of Oman, Tel : +968 24692503/24692504, Fax: +968 24692507, E-mail: info@alanwar.om, Website: www.alanwar.om

Directors' Report

Dear Shareholder,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the un-audited consolidated results of Al Anwar Investments SAOG (AAI) for the six -month period ended on 30 September 2024.

Financial Overview of Al Anwar Investments Group ("AAI")

The Company reported a net profit of OMR 588,000 for the six-month period ended on 30 September 2024 as against a net profit of OMR 898,000 for the period ended on 30 September 2023.

The total comprehensive income for the six-month period ended on 30 September 2024 was OMR 770,000 as against OMR 2,753,000 for the period ended on 30 September 2023. The drop is primarily due to the extraordinary gains in 2023, driven by the notable increase in the share prices of Bank Dhofar and Dhofar International Development & Investment Holding SAOG (DIDIC).

Net asset per share of the Group as of 30 September 2024 is 149 Baisas per share as against 160 Baisas per share on 30th September 2023.

Investment update

1. Al Maha Ceramics SAOG

The Company has reported revenue of OMR 2,400,187 for the six-month period ended on 30 June 2024 as compared with OMR 3,537,431 during the previous period, a decline of 32.1. Net Loss after tax for the period was OMR 1,365,596 as compared to a loss of OMR 148,611 in the previous period. This is primarily attributed to several factors, including fierce competition from imported tiles and increased logistics costs due to geopolitical tensions in the region.

Additionally, the company recorded a share of loss of OMR 863,919 from associate, Al Hael Ceramics LLC, primarily due to delays in the commencement of production of porcelain tiles. However, since Al Maha is only obligated to book the share of loss to the extent of the investment, the impact in the following quarters will be negligible.

2. Voltamp Energy SAOG

The Company has reported revenue of OMR 16,174,277 for the six-month period ended on 30 June 2024, as compared with OMR 12,922,272 during the previous period, an increase of 25.2% mainly on account of strategic initiatives taken on control of cost and better order book. Net profit after tax (attributable to shareholders of Parent Company) for the period was OMR 1,826,478 compared to net profit of OMR 39,497 in the previous period as a result of controlled total cost of sales combined with improved design process and productivity.

AAI has sold 4.68% stake in the company during the first quarter and recorded a realised gain of OMR 434,497. At the existing shareholding of 20%, AAI Board considers that AAI still has significant influence on the company hence the investment continues to be classified as an Associate.

3. Arabia Falcon Insurance Company SAOG

The Company has reported Insurance Revenue of OMR 10,830,673 during the six -month period ended on 30 June 2024 as compared to OMR 9,986,889 for the previous period, an increase of 8.4%. The Net profit after tax for the period was OMR 814,272, compared with of OMR 363,393 in the previous period, a growth of 124%, as a result to the improvement in the technical results and lower claims recorded in H1 2024 compared with same quarter last year.

4. AI Ruwad International for Education Services SAOG

The Company has reported lower revenue for the six months period ended on 31 July 2024, primarily due to lower number of students enrolled in the school during academic year. The school signed a Governance agreement with Ellesmere College, UK on 4th November 2022. This should improve the

school's competitive position and support it in attracting higher number of students in future years.

5. National Biscuits Industries Ltd. SAOG

The company recorded a Net Revenue of OMR 8,748,000 for the six months period ended on 30 June 2024 as compared to OMR 7,494,000 for the previous period, an increase of 16.7%. The net profit after tax for the period was 385,000 as compared to OMR 174,000 in the previous period, an increase of 21.3%.

6. The National Detergent Co. SAOG

The Company has reported revenue of OMR 12,468,951 for the six-month period ended on 30 June 2024, as compared with OMR 10,665,529 for the previous period, a growth of 17%. Net profit for the period was OMR 757,685 compared to profit of OMR 279,643 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 171%. The company exercised effective control over costs, including materials and packing materials, which contributed to improved profitability compared to the same period last year. The company's flagship brand, BAHAR, has successfully maintained its strong market position in Oman. Additionally, sales have grown in both the domestic market (Oman) and export markets during the period, reflecting the brand's solid market presence and strategic efforts to expand its reach.

7. Oman Chlorine SAOG

The Oman Chlorine Group (Consolidated) has reported revenue of OMR 16,343,000 for the six-month period ended on 30 June 2024 as compared with OMR 16,140,000 in the previous period, a growth of 1.3%. Net Profit (attributable to Parent Company Shareholders) for the period was OMR 726,000 as compared to profit of OMR 1,426,000 in the previous period, a decline of 49.1%, due to decline in caustic flakes prices globally, and increase in finance cost as a result of increase interest rates globally.

Future Outlook

Oman's economy is expected to continue to improve. S&P Global Ratings has revised Oman's rating outlook to BBB- from BB+. These developments have been driven by government measures such as VAT introduction, subsidy reforms, and restructuring efforts in key sectors like energy and gas.

AAI has maintained a prudent and active approach towards managing its investment portfolio. Our objective this year is to:

- continue to support and pro-actively manage our investment companies and,
- take advantage of investment opportunities available in the market

We are confident that AAI and its Group companies will continue to play a pivotal role in Oman's economic growth, create job opportunities for Omani nationals.

Thanks and Appreciation

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to express our greetings and good wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and pray to Allah to grant him and his government success to lead the country and the people to greater prosperity and progress .

The Board records its sincere appreciation to Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Investment Promotion, FSA, Muscat Stock Exchange, Bankers, Auditors for their continued support to AAI and the group companies.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors of all Al Anwar associate companies for direction given to the managements of the respective companies. I place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the management team and all employees

of the group companies. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to the Shareholders of AAI for the confidence they have reposed in the company and its Board.

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Al Anwar Investments SAOG
Masoud Humaid Malik Al Harthy

Chairman
November 6, 2024

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 September 2024	30 September 2023	Audited 31 March 2024
	OMR'000	OMR'000	OMR'000
Assets			
Investment in associates	30,763	31,750	30,915
Investments at fair value	18,216	14,327	13,241
Property and other assets	2,283	2,308	2,274
Receivables and prepayments	78	178	1,263
Cash and bank balances	150	504	85
TOTAL ASSETS	51,490	49,067	47,778
Equity			
Share capital	21,218	20,600	20,600
Legal reserve	4,674	4,603	4,674
Fair value reserve	2,370	3,007	2,188
Retained earnings	3,352	4,849	4,412
Equity attributable to shareholders of Parent Company	31,614	33,059	31,874
Liabilities			
Bank borrowings	19,738	15,625	15,725
Payables	138	383	179
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,876	16,008	15,904
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	51,490	49,067	47,778
Net assets per share attributable to shareholders of the Parent Company (in Baisas)	149	160	155

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX MONTH PERIOD ENDED

	30 September 2024	30 September 2023
	OMR'000	OMR'000
Share of results of associates	595	268
Interest income	-	58
Realised Profit / (loss) on sale of investment	449	342
Net increase / (decrease) in value of investment	361	1,003
Other income	17	16
Net income	1,422	1,687
Administrative expenses	(201)	(175)
Financing charges	(514)	(507)
Director fees and remuneration	(119)	(107)
Total expenses	(834)	(789)
Profit / (loss) for the period before tax	588	898
Income tax	-	-
Net profit / (loss) after tax for the period	588	898
Other comprehensive income (expense):		
<i>Item that will not be reclassified to profit or loss</i>		
Share of other comprehensive profit / (loss) of associates	144	507
Net change in fair value of investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	38	1,348
Other comprehensive profit for the period	182	1,855
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the period attributable to Equity holders of Parent Company	770	2,753
Earnings profit (loss) per share attributable to shareholders of Parent Company (in Baisas)	3	4

Note:1) The complete accounts will be send by mail to any shareholders who requests them in arabic or english as requested, within 7 days of receipt of the request.
2) Financial statements are available on MSX website.



KBR wins design contract for Oman LNG expansion

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Houston-based engineering and technology solutions provider KBR announced that it has been awarded a front-end engineering design (FEED) contract for the expansion of the Qalhat LNG complex in Sur, Oman.

This expansion project marks a significant step in Oman's efforts to meet rising global energy demand while prioritising sustainable and efficient operations.

Under the FEED contract, KBR will provide engineering services for the Qalhat LNG complex's fourth LNG train in Sur, which will have a capacity of 3.8mn tonnes per annum, the company said in a press statement. The project will involve the addition or expansion of utilities, an LNG

storage tank, the jetty, and associated infrastructure.

"LNG will play an increasingly vital role in the global energy mix, and we are honored to continue our collaboration with Oman on this critical project," said Jay Ibrahim, KBR President for Sustainable Technology Solutions.

"By addressing the energy trilemma of security, sustainability, and affordability, this project is expected to make a significant contribution to Oman's energy security and sustainability goals."

With this expansion of Oman's natural gas liquefaction capacity, KBR continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring a reliable and sustainable energy supply to meet the world's growing demands, the company noted in its statement.

Energy-efficient tech investments grew to \$660bn in 2024: IEA



Paris, France - Investment in energy efficient technologies grew by 4% in 2024 and is on course to reach a record \$660bn, according to a new analysis from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Energy Efficiency 2024, the IEA's annual report on energy efficiency developments around the world, finds that global primary energy intensity - a measure of efficiency - is set to improve by around 1% in 2024. This is the same rate as in 2023, and around half of the average rate between 2010 and 2019. At the COP28 climate change conference in Dubai last year, nearly 200 countries agreed to the goal of doubling the rate of progress, which would mean increasing it from 2% in 2022 to 4% by 2030.

The new report shows that

governments worldwide are making policy progress, with those representing more than 70% of global energy demand implementing new or updated efficiency policies in 2024.

"Energy efficiency is a key pillar of secure, affordable and inclusive energy transitions. The IEA is working closer than ever with governments around the world to ensure that it remains a top policy priority," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

"Fortunately, the policies and technologies to accelerate efficiency progress are readily available today, and many governments are taking important steps forward. What we hope to see now is faster and stronger policy responses across the globe."

WAM

Bitcoin surges to \$80,000 for first time ever

Since November 4, when the price was below \$67,000, Bitcoin’s value in US dollars has risen by almost 20%

Muscat – Bitcoin, the world’s most popular cryptocurrency, surged past \$80,000 for the first time on Sunday, driven by optimism following Donald Trump’s victory in the US presidential election. The cryptocurrency’s rally has continued since Trump’s electoral win, with the possibility of Bitcoin reaching \$100,000 by Inauguration Day now looking more likely.

The price jump marked a nearly 4% gain in just 24 hours, bringing Bitcoin’s total market capitalisation closer to \$1.6tn. Since November 4, when the price was below \$67,000, Bitcoin’s value in US dollars has risen by almost 20%.

As the price continues to

climb, questions are being raised about whether this is the beginning of a larger rally. Experts and analysts suggest that Bitcoin could hit \$100,000 before the end of 2024.

Trump ran on a platform that promised to position the United States as a leader in the digital asset sector, which included plans to establish a strategic Bitcoin reserve and appoint regulators who are more supportive of cryptocurrencies. Following Tuesday’s election, Trump emerged in a stronger position than expected – his Republican Party now controls the Senate and is likely to retain a narrow majority in the House of Representatives.



“As the aftermath of Trump’s win unfolds, it was only a matter of time before we saw this rally,” said Li Shi, managing director of Hong Kong-based market maker Aurus, as reported by Ammon News. “The belief that Trump is a supporter of cryptocurrency is clearly driving market sentiment.”

In 2024, Bitcoin has surged by approximately 90%, fueled by strong demand for exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in US markets and interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. The rally in Bitcoin, which has reached new all-time highs following the election, has outpaced the returns of traditional assets like stocks and gold.

According to Bloomberg data,

the Bitcoin ETF supported by BlackRock’s \$35bn iShares Bitcoin Trust saw a historic net inflow of nearly \$1.4bn on Thursday. The day before, the ETF’s trading volume surged to an all-time high – further evidence of how Trump’s win is influencing the cryptocurrency market.

Trump’s stance on digital assets contrasts sharply with the more stringent approach taken by President Joe Biden’s administration. US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Gary Gensler has repeatedly warned that the cryptocurrency industry is rife with fraud and misconduct. Under his leadership, the SEC has intensi-

fied its oversight of digital assets, particularly following the market downturn in 2022 and the high-profile collapse of Sam Bankman-Fried’s FTX exchange.

During the election campaign, digital asset firms and their leaders made significant investments to support candidates they believed would be more favorable to the crypto industry.

“Noelle Acheson, author of the Crypto Is Macro Now newsletter, noted that Trump has pledged to enact pro-crypto regulations, and with his party’s victories in both the House and Senate, the chances of passing cryptocurrency-friendly legislation have increased significantly,” she said.

Agencies

US inflation expectations decline to lowest level since December 2020

Josh Schafer

Americans are feeling increasingly better about the short-term path for inflation. The latest consumer sentiment survey from the University of Michigan revealed that consumers expect inflation to sit at 2.6% in a year, a decrease from last month’s expectation of 2.7%.

November’s reading is the lowest since December 2020 and within the 2.3% to 3% range seen in the two years before the pandemic. Expectations for long-run inflation did tick higher, though, rising to 3.1% from 3% the month prior.

The overall consumer sentiment index popped to a reading of 73, up from 71 in October. Interviews for the survey concluded on Monday and therefore don’t capture any reactions to election results.

The responses come as inflation has continued to trend lower throughout 2024. In September the Consumer Price Index (CPI),



a popularly cited inflation reading, increased 2.4% over the prior year. This marked its lowest annual increase in prices since February 2021.

While price increases are still sitting above the Federal Reserve’s 2% goal, Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted on Thursday that the central bank has made significant “progress” in fighting inflation. He also added that inflation expectations “remain well anchored.”

Inflation expectations are considered a key part of the Fed’s calculus due to the fact that consumers’ willingness to pay higher prices could feed inflation.

Since the Fed began cutting interest rates in September, the 10-year Treasury yield (‘TNX) has risen roughly 80 basis points to hit a recent high of about 4.47%. Part of the rise is due to a market repricing after Donald Trump’s presidential election win.

Yahoo Finance



Oman’s largest copper project breaks ground

Continued from Page 04

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, H E Murshidi said, “This project represents a transformative step in positioning Oman as a strategic copper hub, contributing to the diversification of our national economy and creating sustainable job opportunities for Omanis. We are confident that this project will have a significant positive impact on the local community, supporting SMEs and driving economic development.”

Dr Badar Saud al Kharusi, Chairman of Minerals Development Oman, said, “We are proud to witness the Mazoon Copper Project come to fruition after an extensive series of exploration

activities. This project marks a significant milestone for MDO, adding invaluable assets to our portfolio. The company began copper ore extraction from Block 4 in the Wilayat of Sohar in 2024 and has continued its exploration efforts across its 23,644 sqKM concession area. We are excited to see our resource base grow.”

“With the necessary financing secured, the project reflects both our financial stability and the trust we have garnered locally and globally. We are committed to ensuring that each phase of the project meets the highest environmental and social standards,” he added.

Sustainability is a core pillar of the Mazoon Copper Project. The project has adopted a zero-water

discharge system, ensuring that treated water is recycled to minimise water consumption. Additionally, waste management systems have been put in place to preserve the surrounding environment, safeguard air quality, and protect groundwater.

In addition to the Mazoon Copper Project, MDO continues to advance its exploration campaigns across a diverse range of strategic minerals, including copper, chrome, gypsum, limestone, dolomite, and silica. The company has also initiated the redevelopment of copper mines in Sohar and Liwa, aiming to produce 800,000 tonnes of copper ore annually, with confirmed reserves of 2.78mn tonnes of copper ore.



NATIONAL ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS COMPANY S.A.O.G

P.O. Box: 15, Rusayl, P.Code: 124, C.R. No. 1/22025/0, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 24446450, Fax: +968 24446453/24446449
E-mail: info@napco.co.om, Website: www.napcooman.com

Board Of Directors’ Report For The Third Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of National Aluminium Products Company SAOG (NAPCO), I present the unaudited financial statements for the quarter ended 30 September 2024 and an overview of the performance of the Company.

Economic environment

In the past year, the global aluminum industry has faced significant challenges due to rising energy costs, supply chain disruptions, and fluctuating demand. Despite these headwinds, NAPCO has leveraged Oman’s strategic location and the government’s economic diversification initiatives to maintain a stable position in both domestic and international markets.

The ongoing focus on sustainability and green manufacturing offers opportunities for NAPCO, aligning with its commitment to environmentally friendly production. However, rising raw material costs and global economic uncertainties continue to pressure margins. NAPCO remains focused on operational efficiency and market diversification to navigate these challenges and capture future growth opportunities.

Performance Review

The financial performance of the National Aluminium Company Products Company SAOG (parent company) and Novel Aluminium Products Company LLC (subsidiary company) collectively represent as a “group” during the 30 September 2024, as compared to 2023, is summarized in the table below:

Particulars	Group		Parent	
	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Revenue	15,486	20,615	15,411	20,427
Net loss before taxation	(1,342)	(2,133)	(1,313)	(2,194)
Net loss after tax	(1,342)	(1,860)	(1,313)	(1,923)

The financial synopsis for the period ending 30 September 2024, the financial summary shows a 25% decline in revenue, equating to a reduction of RO 5.130 million compared to the previous year. Despite this decrease, the Group successfully reduced the net loss after tax to RO1.342 million, a significant improvement from the previous year’s loss of RO 1.923 million. This positive outcome is mainly due to strategic cost optimization measures

The financial health of the company has been strained by working capital limitations and the high cost of borrowings. These are areas of concern that we are actively addressing through various strategic initiatives.

Future outlook

NAPCO is optimistic about future growth, driven by rising demand for sustainable aluminum products in key industries such as construction, transportation, and renewable energy. Domestically, Oman’s Vision 2040 and infrastructure projects offer further opportunities.

While challenges such as fluctuating raw material costs and global uncertainties remain, NAPCO will focus on expanding its product range, improving supply chain efficiency, and strengthening its market position to achieve long-term growth and value for shareholders

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The Board extends its sincere gratitude to our esteemed shareholders for their trust and support, and to our clients, vendors, banks, regulatory authorities, MSX, and FSA. We also thank the management and staff for their dedication and contribution to our success.

We further express our deep appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his government for their continued support and leadership in advancing Oman’s progress and prosperity.

Dr. Zakia Hassan Al-Naseeb
Chairperson

Condensed interim statement of financial position As of 30th September 2024

	Group Unaudited period ended 30 September 2024 RO	Audited year ended 31 December 2023 RO	Parent Unaudited period ended 30 September 31 December 2023 RO	Audited year ended 31 December 2023 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	10,038,933	10,331,218	10,036,305	10,327,720
Intangible assets	28,643	46,922	24,435	41,384
Right-of-use asset	936,689	945,234	912,639	945,234
Investment property	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Investment in subsidiary	-	-	31,500	31,500
Deferred tax asset	189,700	215,834	188,660	214,794
Total non-current assets	11,593,965	11,939,208	11,593,539	11,960,632
Current assets				
Inventories	2,282,886	2,951,717	2,282,886	2,951,717
Trade and other receivables	6,163,892	6,713,910	3,072,125	3,489,813
Amounts due from related parties	-	-	3,235,388	3,233,898
Cash and cash equivalents	241,274	187,232	92,703	35,351
Total current assets	8,688,052	9,852,859	8,683,102	9,710,779
Total assets	20,282,017	21,792,067	20,276,641	21,671,411
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	857,145	857,145	857,145	857,145
Legal reserve	-	-	-	-
Revaluation reserve	1,355,516	1,356,219	1,355,516	1,356,219
(Accumulated losses)/retained earnings	(6,154,730)	(4,961,121)	(6,143,956)	(4,980,091)
Total equity	(3,942,069)	(2,747,757)	(3,931,295)	(2,766,727)
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Term Loan	8,417,644	2,620,000	8,417,644	2,620,000
Lease liability	1,115,015	1,091,107	1,093,293	1,091,107
Employees’ end of service benefits	306,838	329,931	306,838	329,931
Total non-current liabilities	9,839,497	4,041,038	9,817,775	4,041,038
Current liabilities				
Lease liability	66,781	66,781	66,781	66,781
Borrowings	7,876,832	13,448,653	7,876,832	13,448,653
Trade and other payables	6,440,976	6,983,352	6,446,548	6,881,666
Total current liabilities	14,384,589	20,498,786	14,390,161	20,397,100
Total liabilities	24,224,086	24,539,824	24,207,936	24,438,138
Total equity and liabilities	20,282,017	21,792,067	20,276,641	21,671,411
Net assets per share	(0.460)	(0.321)	(0.459)	(0.323)

Condensed interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the period ended 30th September 2024

	Group Consolidated Unaudited 01.01.2024 to 30.09.2024 RO	Group Consolidated Unaudited 01.01.2023 to 30.09.2023 RO	Parent Unaudited 01.01.2024 to 30.09.2024 RO	Parent Unaudited 01.01.2023 to 30.09.2023 RO
Revenue	13,561,331	18,062,186	13,486,795	17,873,607
Scrap sales	1,924,359	2,553,515	1,924,359	2,553,515
Cost of sales	(14,885,119)	(20,232,695)	(14,876,052)	(20,223,813)
Gross Profit	600,571	383,006	535,102	203,309
Other income	124,787	63,955	122,063	60,247
Expenses:				
General and administrative expenses	(600,704)	(831,301)	(577,715)	(808,084)
Selling and distribution expenses	(420,597)	(681,655)	(341,873)	(593,973)
Allowance for expected credit losses	-	(87,432)	-	(87,432)
Net finance costs	(1,046,450)	(979,312)	(1,050,226)	(968,320)
Loss before tax	(1,342,393)	(2,132,739)	(1,312,649)	(2,194,253)
Income tax	-	272,688	-	271,648
Loss for the period	(1,342,393)	(1,860,051)	(1,312,649)	(1,922,605)
Surplus on revaluation of Buildings-net of Deferred Tax	148,081	-	148,081	-
Total Comprehensive loss for the period	(1,194,312)	(1,860,051)	(1,164,568)	(1,922,605)
Basic loss per share	(0.209)	(0.289)	(0.204)	(0.299)

NOTE

The Company does not have items under other comprehensive income.

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to confirm to presentation adopted in these financial statements.

The complete accounts will be sent to any shareholder who requests them either in Arabic or English as required within 7 days of receipt of the request.

The Sustainable City-Yiti to showcase sustainable living at Cityscape Global

The Sustainable City – Yiti is set to showcase its leadership in sustainable living at Cityscape Global 2024, taking place in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

This participation marks the latest in a series of appearances at international and regional real estate events, reinforcing its position as a global model for net zero living, a press release said.

The Sustainable City – Yiti will showcase the project’s commitment to sustainable living through comprehensive social, environmental, and economic sustainability strategies. The community’s design minimises environmental impact and maximises quality of life, providing residents with significant cost savings, including up to 100% savings on electricity and up to 50% on water bills, all while maintaining zero maintenance fees. As an industry-leading community model, The Sustainable City offers top-tier amenities such as a school, mall, sports facilities, equestrian club, and an autism centre, along with green spaces, car-free clusters, and farms that enhance the overall quality of life.

Having already participated in prominent real estate events across Germany, France, Greece, Russia, and India, The Sustainable City – Yiti has received a positive response from markets



seeking sustainable living solutions. The rapid sell-out of Phase 1 highlights the strong demand for this innovative, environmentally responsible community model, which reflects a global shift towards sustainable developments that prioritise energy efficiency and quality of life.

“Our participation at Cityscape Global 2024 is an ex-

citing opportunity to showcase The Sustainable City – Yiti’s innovative approach to sustainable living,” said Mahmoud Shehada, chief sales and marketing officer at The Sustainable City – Yiti.

“The overwhelming demand and rapid sell-out of Phase 1 reflect a clear shift in buyer priorities towards communities that provide not only financial savings

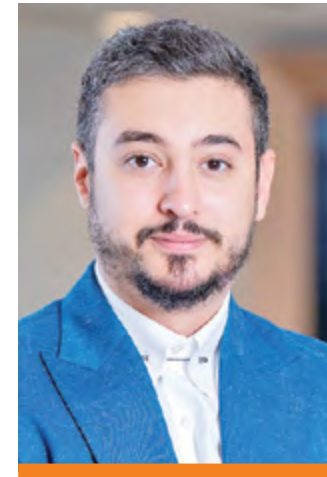
but also a meaningful commitment to environmental responsibility and quality of life. We’re thrilled to see such enthusiastic interest and look forward to expanding this model of sustainable urban living in new markets globally.”

Developed by Diamond Developers – a division of SEE Holding – in partnership with the

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN), The Sustainable City – Yiti is setting a benchmark for eco-friendly community developments in the region and beyond. Located along the Omani coastline near Muscat, The Sustainable City – Yiti is poised to become the largest operational sustainable community in the region, with a vision to be

the world’s first net-zero-emission city by 2040.

The development is designed around six pillars of environmental sustainability—food, energy, water, products, mobility, and waste—and will operate on 100% renewable energy, complete water recycling, full waste diversion from landfills, and 80% self-sufficiency in food



Our participation at Cityscape Global 2024 is an exciting opportunity to showcase The Sustainable City – Yiti’s innovative approach to sustainable living

MAHMOUD SHEHADA

production. Construction of The Sustainable City – Yiti is progressing well, with completion targeted for 2026. Phase One of the development was fully sold out, and Phase Two is already seeing strong demand. Essential community features, including a sustainable school, remain on track for timely completion.

Teenagers from Oman visit England to experience life and learning

A group of 15 teenagers from Oman, belonging to Ellesmere Muscat International, in Seeb, travelled to England to experience what it is like to live and learn in Shropshire. The group, aged 13 to 16, travelled to Ellesmere College to be part of the football academy and join in lessons. The teenagers described the trip as ‘great’ and 16-year-old Yousif Mahmoud al Jufaili, originally born in Montreal, Canada, said it was everything he hoped it would be, a press release said.

“I have enjoyed getting to know different friends from Ellesmere College and experiencing their culture, how they live and also getting to know how they study and work. One of my favourite parts was watching a professional Premier League match. This was my first time



ever going to one and it was one of the best things that I experienced.”

Fifteen-year-old’s Abdulrahman al Mahrezi and Alu al Zadjali, both from Oman, described

the trip as extremely fun, entertaining and enjoyable, and said they were made to feel very welcome.

Their week included a trip to watch an exciting match be-

tween Chester City FC and Scunthorpe United, a tour around Manchester City’s Etihad stadium and academy, and tickets to watch Manchester City score an injury time winning goal

against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux on Sunday (OCT 20).

The visitors stayed at the boarding houses in the prestigious Shropshire college, said prayers at Shrewsbury Mosque, trained with the football academy, played a friendly match against the Ellesmere team and followed the academic curriculum in lessons too.

Their football programme included skills and drills and a high intensity fitness camp as well as a scouting programme in front of professional football scouts.

Meanwhile, the Muscat staff worked alongside Chris Horrocks, director of sport at Ellesmere, supported in college activities and took part in a five-a-side game with other staff and pupils.



Explorers enjoy Oman Science Festival for sixth day

The activities of the Oman Science Festival continued for the sixth consecutive day, in an atmosphere full of vitality and creativity, where scientific arts and modern technologies are manifested in the form of interactive shows and exhibitions rich in information and knowledge.

The festival this year witnessed a great success and a remarkable presence of visitors and participants of different ages and interests who are attracted to the world of science and technology and the curiosity of discovery, a press release said.

Since the launch of the festival, the activities have formed a scientific and cultural platform that allows the community to explore the latest human innovations in various fields, from physics and engineering to medicine and space science, making the festival one of the most prominent scientific events in the region.

A group of activities were presented on the Ibn Omaira Theatre stage, where the Directorate-General of Medical Supplies at the Ministry of Health addressed in its inter-

The activities have formed a scientific and cultural platform that allows the community to explore the latest human innovations

active presentation the topic of medications in the Month of Ramadan. The presentation received wide attention from the audience and explained the correct ways to take medications during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Central Public Health Laboratories at the Ministry of Health presented a lecture titled ‘Together to Combat Antibiotic Resistance’, which addressed antibiotic resistance as one of the global health challenges that threaten the effectiveness of medical treatments, and focused on how the excessive use of antibiotics affects the development of resistant bacteria. The lecture provided a detailed explanation of the causes of antibiotic resistance.

Funkar Group holds eighth Karaoke evening



The eighth edition of Funkar Group’s annual musical extravaganza was held at the Sur Ballroom of hotel Holiday Muscat recently, entertaining a select audience with Karaoke singing of old Bollywood hits.

Titled ‘Pyar Hua Ikrar Hua’ the musical evening was an occasion to relax and enjoy songs of varying genres, from old Hindi classics to contemporary songs, a press release said.

The event began with the traditional lighting of the lamp fol-

lowed by ‘Ganesh Vandana’ - a kathak recital by Vaibhavi Gandhi. Then the singers took over, unleashing a melodious journey that was also live streamed on YouTube.

Scripted by Sanika Sawant and presented by Shital Sawant, interspersed with a Bollywood quiz, the event was managed by Funkar Musical Group members Urjit Tipnis and Shital Sawant.

Funkar Group has been providing a platform for budding artists in Muscat since 2016.

OQ8 and Oman Sail conclude ‘Al Nokhedha’ programme

Duqm Refinery and Petrochemicals Industries Company (OQ8), in collaboration with Oman Sail, successfully concluded the 2024 edition of Al Nokhedha programme.

Aimed at empowering women and youth across Oman, the programme attracted students from public schools throughout Al Wusta Governorate, targeting tenth and eleventh-grade male and female students, along with 20 teachers who engaged in specialised workshops to enhance communication and leadership skills.

The programme seeks to support both students and educators in Al Wusta, equipping them with essential skills in communication and leadership through an extensive series of workshops tailored to build personal and



professional competencies. A special programme track was dedicated to female students, reflecting a commitment to strengthening women’s roles in Oman’s future.

From October 17-19, Duqm Refinery hosted workshops for tenth and eleventh-grade students, with a focus on leadership, decision-making, and environ-

mental awareness, contributing to the development of a generation of young leaders. In addition, a dedicated series was held for female students from October 24-26, designed to enhance their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills, and foster a deeper connection to Oman’s heritage, contributing to empowerment of Oman’s future.



JAC offers unbeatable prices in new campaign

As Oman's automotive market continues to expand, JAC Motors presents a remarkable opportunity for drivers to experience high-quality vehicles at unbeatable prices with its latest campaign, 'Drive Away a JAC with an Unbeatable Price'.

This limited-time offer allows Omani motorists to own a stylish, reliable, and feature-packed vehicle at prices that are hard to ignore. Whether you're in the market for a family-friendly SUV, a sleek sedan, or a rugged pickup truck, JAC Motors offers a wide range of models tailored to meet the diverse driving needs and preferences of Oman's motorists, a press release said.

The compact JAC S3, starting from just RO4,299, offers a seamless blend of economy, practicality, and style. With its efficient fuel consumption and advanced safety features, the S3 is the ideal choice for families looking for a versatile, city-friendly SUV. Its spacious interiors and contemporary design make every journey a comfort-

able and enjoyable experience.

For those seeking a sportier crossover, the JAC JS4, starting at RO5,744, provides a winning combination of power and innovation. The JS4 is equipped with a turbocharged engine that delivers a dynamic driving experience while maintaining comfort. Its sleek design and advanced driver-assist technologies offer both performance and peace of mind, whether you're navigating city streets or exploring off-road paths.

The JAC JS6, starting from RO6,466, stands out as the biggest SUV from JAC in Oman, that provides a premium driving experience at a competitive price. With its luxurious interiors, cutting-edge infotainment system, and robust engine performance, the JS6 is perfect for larger families or drivers who demand space and refinement without sacrificing power.

The JAC J7, the fully loaded sedan is now at RO5,277 - a sleek sedan that emphasises both style and substance.

LuLu Exchange Oman expands its network

LuLu Exchange, the leading provider of cross border payments in the Sultanate of Oman, inaugurated three new customer engagement centers on November 7, further strengthening its network in the nation.

With these additions, LuLu Exchange now has 46 centers in Oman. The new centers, located in Al Ansab, Barka Souq, and Barka Sanaiyah, will enhance customer access to essential financial services with a focus on community engagement and customer-centric service, a press release said.

The three new branches were inaugurated by Haitham Salim al Salmi, the CEO of the Muscat Stock Exchange, in the presence of Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings, and Sheikh Mohammed Hamed Ali al Ghazali, director of LuLu Exchange Oman, as well as other senior company officials and dignitaries.

Congratulations to LuLu Exchange on expanding its presence in Oman. This growth marks a significant step in enhancing financial accessibility for communities across the region," said Haitham Salim al Salmi, CEO of the Muscat Stock Exchange.

Sheikh Mohammed Hamed Ali al Ghazali added, "By expanding our network, we aimed to



meet the diverse needs of Oman's communities, bringing them closer to seamless financial solutions suited to today's fast-paced world."

Ahamed reaffirmed LuLu Exchange's commitment to deliver-

ing accessible, secure financial services across Oman. "Our focus has always been on expanding our network while innovating on the digital front," said Ahamed. "Oman is rapidly transforming into a hub for innovation

in financial services, and LuLu Exchange is dedicated to staying at the forefront of this change, bringing innovative and seamless financial solutions to communities across the nation," he stated.

Each new centre of LuLu Ex-

change now provides a range of financial services, including money transfers, foreign exchange, and bill payments, supported by LuLu Exchange's digital platforms for added ease and efficiency.

Al Mouj Muscat signs new pact with Oman Broadband

Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's premier hospitality, commercial, and residential waterfront development, has signed an agreement with Oman Broadband to enhance the internet cabling infrastructure at the destination.

This partnership aims to boost the competitive edge among local internet operators, ensuring that residents have a variety of high-quality internet service options, a press release said.

The agreement marks a significant milestone for Al Mouj Muscat as it transitions to a more competitive market framework. Oman Broadband, responsible for providing and maintaining broadband infrastructure for some of the nation's leading service providers, will facilitate this shift by promoting fair competition among internet service providers.

Nasser al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said, "This partnership with Oman Broadband will provide our community and customers with resilient and high-speed broadband internet



infrastructure. Our customers will have the ability to choose from various services providers and enjoy the best experience based on their unique needs."

Eng Sultan bin Ahmed Al Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Broadband

Company, emphasised, "Our partnership with Al Mouj Muscat is a key step in realising our commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible, and competitive fibre optic network to provide ultra high-speed internet

This partnership with Oman Broadband will provide customers with resilient and high-speed broadband internet infrastructure

services and multiple smart cities solution to every resident across Oman. We are thrilled to play an integral role in advancing the digital landscape of Al Mouj Muscat, setting a new standard for connectivity and digital growth."

This move is expected to benefit Al Mouj Muscat's 19,000+ residents by offering more choices and improved service options, reinforcing AMM's status as a premier living destination. By fostering a competitive environment, Al Mouj Muscat continues to lead in delivering top-tier amenities and services, ensuring a superior living experience for its diverse community.

BankDhofar opens three new branches in Muscat

BankDhofar has announced the opening of three new branches in key locations in Muscat Governorate - the Village branch in Al Hail North, Al Ansab branch in Lulu Hypermarket and Al Bahja Complex branch.

These strategic expansions mark a significant step in the bank's mission to provide accessible and convenient banking services to more communities across the Sultanate of Oman, a press release said.

The opening ceremonies were held in the presence of a number of prominent members of the community and BankDhofar's executive management team. The official opening of the Village branch was held under the patronage of Al Sayyed Khalid Mahfouz al Busaidi, head of the Office of the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning. The opening of Al Ansab branch was inaugurated under the patronage of H E Ali Khalfan al Hassani, member of Al Shura Council. The official opening of Al Bahja Complex was under the



patronage of Mohsin Talal al Bahrani, director at Mohsin Haider Darwish - Infrastructure, Technology, Industrial and Consumer Solutions.

The branches will serve as a financial hubs for residents and businesses in each area. They offer a wide range of banking services, including personal and business accounts and investment solutions. They are designed to meet the banking needs of the region's growing community. Customers can expect a welcoming environment and expert assistance with their

financial goals.

The bank is committed to expanding its footprint to better serve its customers in all regions in opening these three branches in key locations. These new branches feature modern and customer-friendly design elements, ensuring that customers enjoy a comfortable and efficient banking experience. Additionally, BankDhofar continues to prioritise digital banking solutions, complementing the physical branch network to provide a seamless banking journey for customers.

NBO hosts dinner for Sadara Priority Banking customers in Batinah

National Bank of Oman (NBO) recently hosted an exclusive dinner for Sadara customers from the Al Batinah region at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sohar.

The event was a gesture of appreciation and an opportunity for NBO to strengthen its connections with top-tier customers, showcasing its commitment to providing personalised and exceptional service, a press release said.

The evening featured an elegant dinner, creating a welcoming environment where customers could interact directly with NBO representatives,

exchange insights, and discuss the bank's latest initiatives and service enhancements. This gathering is part of NBO's broader strategy to engage more deeply with customers across Oman.

Ali Mustafa al Lawati, assistant general manager and head of Private Banking and Segments at NBO commented, "Our Sadara customers are central to NBO's commitment to exceptional service. This evening's gathering reflects our dedication to building strong relationships and recognising our customers' trust in us. We aim to offer fi-



nancial solutions specifically designed to meet their needs, and events like these allow us to connect more meaningfully with our customers."

Through its exclusive Sadara Priority Banking services, NBO provides customers with a range of personalised services, including wealth management advice, bespoke financial solutions, and access to a network of global privileges.

NBO remains committed to elevating the banking experience for its Sadara clients, continually expanding offerings to reflect the evolving financial landscape.

Donald Trump secures Arizona, completes sweep of swing states

Trump also won the swing states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Nevada

Washington, D.C., US - US President-elect Donald Trump won Arizona on Saturday, according to the Associated Press, completing a clean sweep of all seven swing states.

The Republican, who had secured the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House by early on Wednesday, now has what is expected to be a final total of 312 votes to Vice President Kamala Harris' 226.

In addition to Arizona, Trump also won the swing states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Nevada. Republicans have also regained control of the US Senate and look close to clinching control of the US House of Representatives.

Trump rules out Haley, Pompeo
Meanwhile, Trump on Saturday



The Republican, who had secured the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House by early on Wednesday, now has what is expected to be a final total of 312 votes to the Democrat and Vice President Kamala Harris' 226

said that former Republican presidential contender Nikki Haley and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will not be rejoining his administration.

"I will not be inviting former Ambassador Nikki Haley, or former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to join the Trump Administration, which is currently in

formation," Trump wrote on his Truth Social network. "I very much enjoyed and appreciated working with them previously, and would like to thank them for their service to our country."

Pompeo and Haley were key members of Trump's administration during his first term, from 2017 to 2021.

Trump to meet with Biden at Oval Office

Washington, D.C., US - US President-elect Donald Trump will meet with outgoing president Joe Biden at the White House on Wednesday.

"At President Biden's invitation, President Biden and President-elect Trump will meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Saturday.

Such meetings are typically part of the transition process.

However, Trump did not host Biden at the White House back in 2020, after the Democrat prevailed in an election that Trump claimed to have won.

Biden said in a speech on Thursday that he 'would direct my entire administration to work with his team to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition. That's what the American people deserve'.

DW

Initially, Pompeo was considered for the post of Secretary of Defence. However, in July, he shared plans for Ukraine that involved sending more ammunition and targeting Russia's energy sector. Observers noted on Saturday that these plans contradicted Trump's campaign statements.

Meanwhile, Haley, who later supported Trump's presidency, initially criticised him heavily during the party primaries.

"I was proud to work with President Trump defending America at the United Nations," Haley said on social media. "I wish him, and all who serve, great success in moving us forward to

a stronger, safer America over the next four years."

Who will join Trump's cabinet?

Trump is conducting meetings with potential members of his cabinet before he takes office on January 20. So far, Trump has made only one cabinet appointment naming his campaign manager Susie Wiles - who he calls 'ice baby' due to her supposedly unflappable temperament - as his White House chief of staff.

Her appointment as White House Chief of Staff would make her the first woman to hold this crucial position.

DW



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer

What keeps African nations in the Commonwealth?

London, UK - Today, 19 African countries remain part of the Commonwealth of Nations, which has a total of 56 member states across the world. Nearly all of them were once colonised by the British Empire in some shape or form.

Recently, there have been calls from some of Britain's former colonies for a reckoning over its role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Leaders from member states have asked for a 'meaningful, respectful and truthful' discussion of reparatory justice at the recent 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Britain has so far rejected the idea of paying monetary compensation as reparations. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, a former human rights lawyer, argued that he would rather 'look forward' than have 'endless discussions about reparations', involving the past.

But how do Africans weigh in on the issue?

'Reparation is not about money'

From the 15th to the 19th century, at least 12.5mn Africans are estimated to have been taken from their homes, kidnapped,

and forced to board American and European ships. They were taken across the Atlantic against their will and sold into slavery across the Americas.

Some tallies state that the number could be as high as 28mn victims of slavery.

According to the UK parliament's website, Britain's involvement in the slave trade began in 1562: by the 1730s, the UK had become the biggest slave trading nation in the world.

During his trip to Nigeria, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy said that addressing dark chapter of the country's history 'is not about the transfer of cash, particularly at a time of a cost-of-living crisis around much of the globe'.

He urged Commonwealth leaders to find the 'right language' and an understanding of history 'to guide us towards making the right choices in future, where inequality exists'.

The UK government meanwhile has never formally apologised for its role in slavery but has only acknowledged its involvement with 'great regret' - that's at least how former Prime Minister Tony Blair expressed his sentiments on the matter back in 2007 already.

DW

Taliban to attend COP meet

Kabul, Afghanistan - Taliban officials from Afghanistan will attend the UN climate conference that starts next week in Baku in Azerbaijan, the country's Foreign Ministry told news agencies AFP and Reuters on Sunday.

It will be the first time Afghanistan attends the annual global climate summit since the Taliban reclaimed power in 2021 amid the rapid US withdrawal from the country, two decades after ousting the previous Taliban regime. The Taliban government is not internationally recognised and the UN has not allowed the Taliban to take up Afghanistan's seat at the General Assembly.

DW

Climate change conference set to kick off in Azerbaijan's Baku

Baku, Azerbaijan - The 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) will kick off in the Azerbaijani capital Baku on Monday, aiming to address escalating climate challenges.

Leaders from around the world are set to gather in Baku for the event, running until November 22.

"With global temperatures hitting record highs, and extreme weather events affecting people around the globe, COP29 will bring together leaders from governments, business and civil society to advance concrete solutions to the defining issue of our time," according to the UN.

"A key focus of COP29 will be on finance, as trillions of dollars are required for countries to drastically reduce greenhouse



gas emissions and protect lives and livelihoods from the worsening impacts of climate change."

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a multilateral treaty established in 1992, following the first assessment report by the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Its main aim is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system.

Since entering into force in 1994, the UNFCCC has served as the foundation for global climate

negotiations, leading to significant agreements like the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Today, 198 Parties participate in annual meetings to assess progress and forge responses to the climate crisis.

Anadolu Agency

Escaped South Carolina monkeys still on the loose

South Carolina, US - One of the 43 monkeys that escaped from a research facility in the US state of South Carolina has been found unharmed, authorities said on Saturday.

The rhesus monkeys escaped on Wednesday after an employee at the Alpha Genesis facility in the small town of Yemassee, where the primates are bred for medical testing and research, failed to fully lock a door while feeding and checking on them, officials said.

Many of the escaped monkeys have remained in the vicinity of the property, jumping over the fence and cooing at those inside, according to the Yemassee police department.

The primates' continued interaction with humans was a



positive sign, the police added.

Monkeys pose no public health risk

Greg Westergaard, CEO of Alpha Genesis, said his team

would keep working to recover all the animals and will continue until the job is done.

The escaped rhesus monkeys are all female and weigh about 7 pounds (3kg). Alpha Genesis,

federal health officials and police all said the monkeys pose no threat to public health.

However, police urged the public to stay away from the area surrounding the facility 'to prevent startling the primates'.

"If you spot any of the remaining primates, please report your sighting by calling 911 and avoid approaching or interacting with them," the statement read.

Why are rhesus monkeys bred?

Alpha Genesis breeds the monkeys to sell to medical and other researchers around the world. The species shares about 93% of its DNA with humans, even though macaques diverged from the ape family about 25mn years ago.

Rhesus macaques are among the most studied animals on the planet. The first study of the species was published in 1893. By 1925, the Carnegie Science Institute had established a breeding population of the monkeys to study embryology and fertility in a species similar to humans.

Animal rights groups point out that the species has been used to study vaccines, organ transplants, and the effects of separating infants from their mothers.

One reason for the animal's popularity was its abundance. These monkeys have the largest natural range of any non-human primate, stretching from Afghanistan and India to Vietnam and China.

DW

Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon: At least 27 people, including 3 children killed

Beirut, Lebanon - At least 27 people were killed in Israeli airstrikes in eastern and southern Lebanon on Sunday, the Health Ministry said.

A ministry statement said an Israeli strike in the eastern town of Aalamat in Jbeil district killed 20 people, including three children. It added that six more were injured in the attack, while rescue efforts were still ongoing to search for survivors.

According to the ministry, three people were also killed and two others injured when Israeli warplanes conducted an airstrike in Mashghara town in eastern Lebanon.

One more person was killed and four people were injured in another strike in Sohmor in western Bekaa region in eastern Lebanon, the ministry said.

Three paramedics also lost their lives in an Israeli airstrike on a healthcare centre in the town of Aadloun in southern Lebanon, it added.

Meanwhile, more than 18,000 Lebanese citizens have entered Iraq since the start of Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon in late September, Iraqi authorities said on Sunday.

"Efforts are underway to receive Iraq's guests from Lebanese citizens in batches," Alaa al-Din al-Qaisi, a spokesman for Iraq's Border Ports Authority, said in statements carried by the official news agency INA.

He said the influx follows orders from Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani to allow visa-free entry for Lebanese citizens. The spokesman said



over 18,000 Lebanese nationals have arrived in Iraq since September 27.

Fresh strike in Bekaa Valley
The Israeli army launched fresh

airstrikes in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon on Sunday amid a massive air campaign on the country.

Fighter jets conducted two airstrikes in the town of Sohmor in western Bekaa and a third in

Machghara, the Lebanese state news agency NNA reported.

Two more airstrikes targeted Libbaya town in western Bekaa, the broadcaster said.

No information was yet available about injuries or damage.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said warplanes targeted the town of Deir Qanoun Ras Al-Ain in the Tyre district, killing six members of the Islamic Scouts - volunteers in emergency medical and civil defence operations - and a paramedic from the Islamic Health Association - a charity organisation.

Strikes on Deir Qanoun Ras Al-Ain also killed a civilian and wounded 12 others.

The ministry also reported that an airstrike on the town of Ain Baal in Tyre injured three

3 airlines cancel flights to Israel

Three major European airlines have cancelled their flights to and from Israel due to rising regional tension, Israeli media said on Sunday.

Italian airline ITA Airways said all flights to and from Israel will be halted until January 12, Israel Hayom newspaper said.

ITA Airways is the only Italian airline operating regularly in Israel.

French carrier Air France also extended its suspension of all

A ministry statement said an Israeli strike in the eastern town of Aalamat in Jbeil district killed 20 people, including three children. It added that six more were injured in the attack, while rescue efforts were still ongoing to search for survivors

members of the Islamic Scouts.

Five members of the Islamic Scouts were killed in an airstrike on the town of Hanouiyeh in Tyre, according to Lebanon's National News Agency.

The ministry condemned the continued Israeli targeting of paramedics as 'an ongoing war crime that has not been deterred by the international community, which is responsible for upholding international humanitarian laws to prevent violence and genocide'.

The Health Ministry also reported that an Israeli airstrike on the Al-Midan neighbourhood in Nabatieh injured 12 people.

flights to Israel until December 26. Air France had previously cancelled its flights on a weekly basis but now it has issued a suspension lasting nearly 45 days.

The airline had initially cancelled its flights for the period up to November 12 but has now extended it further.

Greek airline Aegean Airlines also announced that it would not resume flights to Israel until December 3, according to the daily.

In recent days, several other European carriers have either cancelled flights to Israel or extended their suspensions due to escalating regional tension.

Anadolu Agency

15 children among 42 killed in fresh strikes in northern Gaza

Gaza City, Palestine - At least 42 Palestinians, including 15 children, were killed in fresh Israeli airstrikes in the northern Gaza Strip on Sunday, according to medical sources.

Israeli warplanes bombed an inhabited home in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's refugee camps, killing at least 36 people, including 15 children, one of the sources said.

"Dozens of people were also injured, while several people were still missing," the source added.

A medical source had earlier put the death toll at 32 people, including 13 children.

Witnesses said the multi-story building, which housed both its residents and displaced families, was destroyed in the attack, with many still trapped under the rubble.

Five more people were killed in another Israeli strike on a house in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City, another source said.

One Palestinian also lost his life in another Israeli attack in the Jabalia refugee camp, the same source said.

Death toll surges to 43,603

At least 51 more Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, bringing the overall death toll since last year to 43,603, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Sunday.

A ministry statement added that some 102,929 others were injured in the ongoing assault.

"Israeli forces killed 51 people and injured 164 others in three massacres of families in the last 24 hours," the ministry said.



Israeli warplanes bombed an inhabited home in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's refugee camps, killing at least 36 people

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

Kuwait, UAE call for ceasefire

The leaders of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) called Sunday for mobilising international efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in Kuwait on Sunday for talks with Emir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The talks between the leaders

explored ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of economy, trade, and investment, the Emirati state news agency WAM reported.

They also reviewed 'the latest regional and international developments, particularly the situation in the Middle East, with a focus on recent events in Gaza and Lebanon', WAM said.

The two leaders underscored the importance of intensified international efforts 'to halt hostilities in Gaza, with a priority on ensuring full protection for civilians in line with international humanitarian law', it added.

They called for 'urgent international action to cease hostilities in Lebanon and provide protection for civilians there', WAM said.

Meanwhile, the US has frozen the delivery of 130 bulldozers to Israel amid home demolitions in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli media said on Sunday.

According to Israeli daily *Yedioth Ahronoth*, the Israeli Defence Ministry signed a major contract to purchase around 130 D9 bulldozers from US machinery maker Caterpillar.

The newspaper, citing Israeli security sources, said the US recently froze the deal due to the use of these bulldozers to demolish homes in Gaza, which has sparked widespread criticism in the US.

The sources claimed that Israel had already paid for the bulldozers and was awaiting export approval from the US State Department.

The Israeli daily said that the freeze came at a time when Israel was in desperate need of the bulldozers, especially after the equipment had undergone maintenance.

Anadolu Agency

In a first, snow leopards spotted in southwest China

Beijing, China - In a first, images of snow leopards have been captured through infrared cameras in two different locations in southwest China's Yunnan province, Beijing-based Xinhua News reported on Sunday.

The recordings that confirmed the presence of this endangered species in the province, were made on February 17 and 19 this year, the provincial Forestry and Grassland Bureau said.

At least two snow leopards were spotted at altitudes of 4,500 metres (14,763 feet) in the limits of Shangri-La city and 4,800m (15,748 ft) in a township in Deqen County, respectively.

According to Jiang Xuelong,



a researcher at the Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the species had not been photographed in the wild in Yunnan for many years due to the high-altitude distribution of snow leopards and the lack of systematic surveys, leading to uncertainty about their presence

in the province.

"The recent sightings in the northwestern part of Yunnan not only confirm the species' presence in the province but also represent one of the southernmost distribution records within China," Xinhua quoted the researcher as saying.

Anadolu Agency

Russia shoots down 70 drones

Moscow, Russia - Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said Russia's air defence destroyed dozens of Ukrainian drones heading for the capital region.

It was the largest attack on the capital since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The Russian Defence Ministry said it had downed 70 drones across six regions overnight.

The ministry said on Telegram that the attack had occurred between 7am and 10am local time on Sunday (0400 and 0700 GMT/UTC). The other regions targeted were Tula, Bryansk, Kaluga, Oryol and Kursk regions, the ministry said.

The drone strikes forced the temporary closure of three Moscow airports, injured a 52-



year-old woman and set two homes on fire in a village in the Moscow region, officials said.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom's chief of defence Admiral Tony Radakin said Russia was paying an 'extraordinary price' for President Vladimir Putin's war in

Ukraine. Radakin said Moscow's forces suffered an average of around 1,500 dead and injured per day in Ukraine during October, telling the BBC that it was the worst month for losses since the conflict began.

DW

INDIA

Canada govt ends student programme, to impact 14 nations including India

Ottawa, Canada - The Canadian government has ended the Student Direct Stream (SDS) programme for international students which helped to streamline the process for study application, a move that is likely to impact lakhs of prospective students who were planning to come to the country.

The Student Direct Stream (SDS) was a popular international student programme which applied to students from India, China, Pakistan, Brazil, Senegal and several others. The programme, however, was abruptly ended at 2pm on November 8 (local time).

Additionally, the Nigeria Student Express (NSE) for Nigerian students has also been ended. The applications received before the deadline will be processed under SDS and NSE.

"The Student Direct Stream (SDS) was launched in 2018 to provide faster processing for eligible post-secondary students. The SDS was eventually opened to legal residents of Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, China,

Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vietnam," said a statement by the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

The government has said that it is 'committed to giving all international students equal and fair access to the application process for study permits'.

"Canada's goal is to strengthen programme integrity, address student vulnerability, and give all students equal and fair access to the application process, as well as a positive academic experience," the statement by IRCC added.

Notably, this move comes amid the rising diplomatic tensions between Canada and India.

Canada has alleged India's role behind the killing of India-designated Khalistani terrorist, Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, a charge New Delhi has strongly denied, terming it 'absurd' and 'motivated'.

ANI

Maharashtra: Promises galore ahead of election

Mumbai, Maharashtra - The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) released their manifestoes on Sunday in the run-up to the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

MVA leaders led by Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge unveiled the manifesto which highlighted 'five guarantees' for Maharashtra including conducting a caste census in the state.

Maha Vikas Aghadi comprises Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), and Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (SCP).

Nationalist Congress Party (SCP) leader Supriya Sule, Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal, Congress election-in charge for Maharashtra Ramesh Chennithala, state Congress chief Nana Patole, Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Sanjay Raut and Arvind Sawant among others participated in the launch event held in Mumbai.

MVA has promised to conduct a caste-based census and remove the 50 per cent cap on reservations.

Under the Mahalaxmi scheme, the MVA has vowed to provide Rs 3000 financial aid to women every month as well as free bus rides to women in the state. The opposition alliance



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge addresses the launch of manifesto of the MVA for the Maharashtra Assembly Elections, in Mumbai on Sunday (ANI)

has also promised to waive off farm loans and vowed to provide a Rs 25 lakh health cover to the farmers.

Speaking on occasion, Kharge said: "Our 5 guarantees will be helpful in the welfare of all in Maharashtra. Every family will receive an annual aid of about Rs 3 lakh. Our Mahalaxmi scheme will give financial aid to all women, who will be given Rs 3000 each, every

month. We will launch a free bus service for the women of Maharashtra."

"We will give an amount of Rs 50,000 each to farmers who repay their loans on time," the Congress chief said during the launch event.

BJP promises \$1tn economy plan

The BJP, meanwhile, has promised a total of 25 assur-

ances to the people of the state if elected to power for another term.

The BJP's manifesto released by Amit Shah and other leaders in Mumbai, promises Rs 2,100 to women every month, a loan waiver of up to 15,000 for farmers including 20 per cent subsidy on MSP, stability on prices of essential commodities, and reduction in electricity bills among other assurances.

For food security, the party has said they will provide free food grains to low-income families through the Akshya Anna Yojana

The party has also promised investment in various sectors, with the aim of making Maharashtra a US\$1tn economy by the year 2028, including making cities like Nagpur, Pune, Nashik as aerospace hubs.

ANI

J&K: Encounter breaks out between forces, terrorists

Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir - An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Sunday, police said.

According to Jammu and Kashmir police, the gunfight erupted in the Keshwan area of Kishtwar.

Three-four terrorists are believed to be trapped in the area, the police said.

"Encounter begins at Keshwan Kishtwar between terrorists and Security forces. 3/4 terrorists believed to be trapped. This is same group which killed the 2 innocent villagers," J-K police said. More details awaited on the encounter.

This is the third incident of exchange of fire between the forces and terrorists in the last



Security is seen tightened in the Zabarwan forest area, in Kishtwar on Sunday (ANI)

24 hours.

Security was stepped up in the region after the terrorists killed two village Defence Guards in Kishtwar earlier on Thursday this week.

Earlier in the day, an exchange of fire between the forces and

terrorists was reported in Srinagar district.

According to Kashmir police, a joint operation was launched by the police and security forces in the Zabarwan forest area of Srinagar on Sunday morning.

"A joint Police and security

forces operation was launched in Zabarwan forest area of #Srinagar based on specific intelligence about the presence of #terrorists. An exchange of fire ensued during the operation," Kashmir police said in a post on X.

ANI

TOXIC FOAM ON YAMUNA'S SURFACE



A dense layer of toxic foam drifting on the Yamuna River's surface, at Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi on Sunday

World leaders condemn deadly terror attack in Balochistan

Karachi, Pakistan - World leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim condemned a terror attack in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan that killed at least 26 people.

At least 26 people were killed and many others injured in a bomb explosion at Quetta city railway station in southwestern Pakistan early on Saturday, police said. In a letter, Putin expressed 'deep' sorrow over the tragedy, describing it as a 'barbaric crime'.

He strongly condemned the terrorist attack and called for justice for those responsible.

Underscoring Moscow's solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, he reaffirmed

his country's commitment to close cooperation with Pakistani authorities in combatting extremism and protecting citizens from violent acts.

"We are determined to continue close cooperation with our Pakistani partners against all forms and manifestations of terrorism," Putin added.

The UN secretary-general also strongly condemned the 'heinous' attack and called for the perpetrators to be held accountable. In a message to Pakistani President Asif Zardari, Guterres sent his condolences to the families of those killed, as well as to the people and government of Pakistan.

Wishing a speedy recovery to all those injured, he hoped that those responsible for this



At least 26 people were killed in a bomb explosion at Quetta city railway station in southwestern Pakistan on Saturday

'heinous attack would be held accountable'.

The Malaysian prime minister

conveyed his 'heartfelt' condolences due to the attack.

"On behalf of Malaysia, I ex-

tend our deepest condolences to the people of Pakistan, who mourn this senseless and devas-

tating loss," Anwar said on X.

Malaysia stands firmly in solidarity with the government of Pakistan in its steadfast fight against terrorism, he added.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei 'strongly' slammed the terrorist explosion, expressing 'deep' sympathy with the families of the victims and survivors of the tragic incident.

In a post on X, Baghaei conveyed the condolences of the Iranian government and people to the friendly and neighbouring nation and government of Pakistan.

He emphasised that such terrorist acts violate all legal and human rights principles as well as humanitarian standards, and are completely unjustifiable.

Baghaei highlighted Tehran's

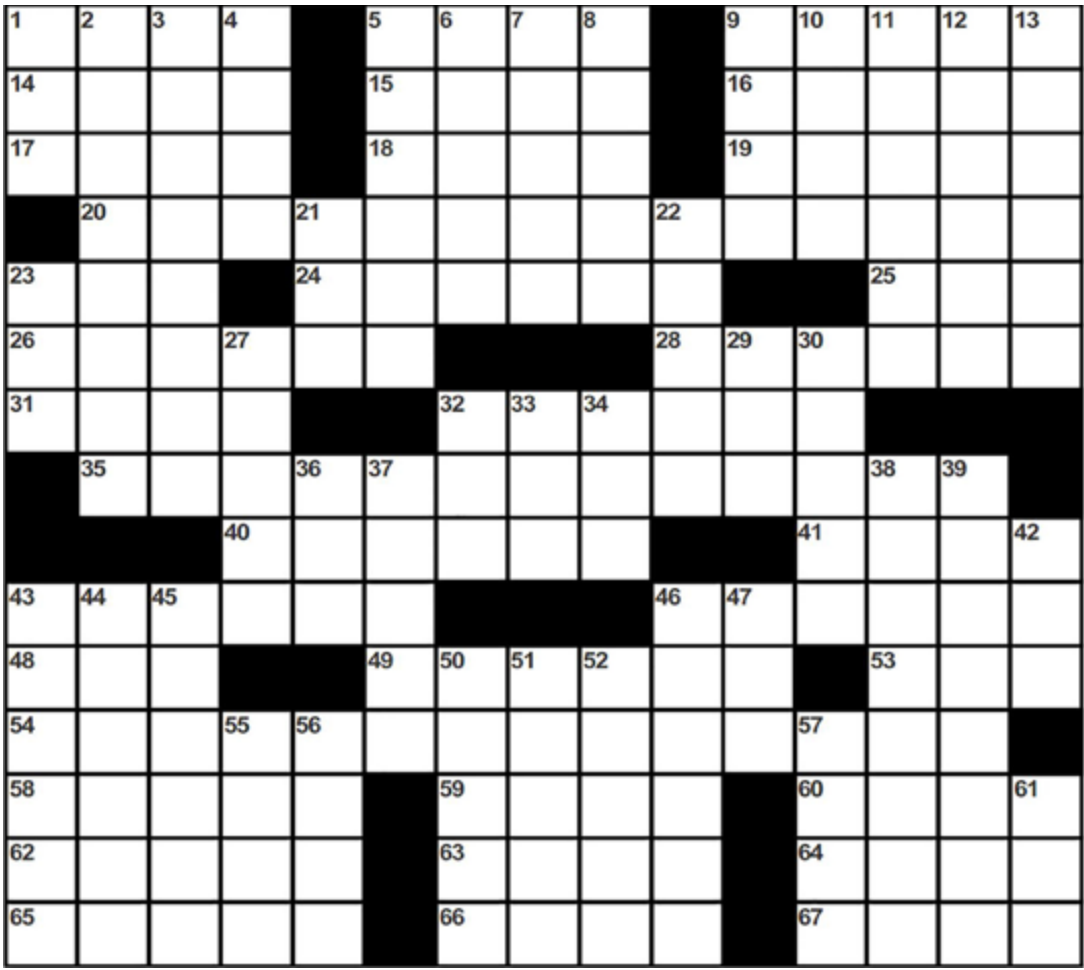
'principled' stance on the strong condemnation of all forms of terrorism and violent extremism.

Sri Lanka also 'strongly' condemned the 'dastardly' terrorist attack, and conveyed its 'deepest' condolences to the families of the victims and wish for the speedy recovery of those injured by the attack. "As a country that has suffered from brutal separatist terrorism for decades, Sri Lanka stands in support and solidarity with the Government and the people of Pakistan in their steadfast commitment to eradicate terrorism," the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said on X.

On Saturday, Turkey, the US, the UK, and other countries also extended their condolences to Pakistan.

Anadolu Agency

DAILY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

 - 1) Ceremonial elegance
 - 5) Sign away
 - 9) Mirrors' partner
 - 14) White House office
 - 15) Angle between branch and trunk
 - 16) By-and-by
 - 17) Legendary singer Horne
 - 18) Source of misery
 - 19) Minor actor
 - 20) Noted New Year's orchestra
 - 23) Not scheduled for duty
 - 24) Word with "weapon" or "injection"
 - 25) Very small
 - 26) Fuse again
 - 28) Things to uphold
 - 31) Jim at the bar
 - 32) Disney head, once
 - 35) New Year's event in Times Square
 - 40) Be stealthy
 - 41) Trouble's partner
 - 43) Computer key
 - 46) Kitchen item
 - 48) One for the off-road
 - 49) Library visitor
- 53) B-movie lead pumper

54) New Year's party occurrence

58) Cancel

59) Sublease

60) Stylishly elegant

62) Deed

63) Freedom from hard-ship

64) Basketball necessity

65) Bawl out

66) Something shady?

67) European volcano

DOWN

 - 1) D.C. insider
 - 2) Stuff to the gills
 - 3) Combat ship
 - 4) Work's antithesis
 - 5) Sent a wire
 - 6) Word-for-word
 - 7) Entertainer Shore
 - 8) " _ and Her Men" (Ingrid Bergman film)
 - 9) Snow conveyance
 - 10) Singer Priest
 - 11) Capital of Canada
 - 12) Corny bit
 - 13) Cleans the slate
 - 21) " _ in the Family"
 - 22) Dress type
 - 23) Crystal ball, for exam-ple
 - 27) Behave theatrically
 - 29) Socially emerging young woman, briefly
 - 30) Muse of lyric poetry
 - 32) Immature newt
 - 33) Japanese statesman
 - 34) Seller of sea shells
 - 36) "The _ and the Pendulum"
 - 37) "Carmen" or "Norma"
 - 38) It has a big payoff
 - 39) Something that binds
 - 42) Word before up, out or down
 - 43) Tickets, slangily
 - 44) Pertaining to a certain culture
 - 45) Primitive camp structure
 - 46) Small sofa
 - 47) Paid athlete, in short
 - 50) Heron
 - 51) Nigh, in poesy
 - 52) Like a blockhead
 - 55) Think (over)
 - 56) Argued
 - 57) Feel pain
 - 61) Financial auditor's designation

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

A completed project is always more satisfying than something started and left unfinished. Besides, if you take the time to look down, you'll realize you already have too much on your plate as it is. The change you want to see is certainly possible today, but the price may be steep. There's no law saying you have to do everything yourself. Delegate the lesser chores whenever possible to meet the deadline. If it's important, you'd better do it on your own.

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Self-confidence is the name of the game, and you're the star player. Keep in mind, confident people are unflappable. If you don't want to share something, just take it off the table. What you disclose (or choose not to) is entirely up to you. If others don't respect your privacy, you may have to resort to hiding things. You love a good challenge, especially when there are no hard feelings.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

As much as you may want to spend the day on your own, others expect you to volunteer. If you can change your mood around, you just might go the extra mile for someone who really needs your help. As long as you're a civil servant, keep a smile on your face. If you can't find the time to do something you enjoy, the day might lose some of its luster. Reserve the evening hours for your own personal pleasures no matter what.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

01. In which country is the city of Kandahar?

A. Iran
B. Turkey
C. Afghanistan
D. India

02. What is the main material out of which a pool cue is usually made?

A. Bone
B. Ivory
C. Gutta-percha
D. Wood

03. Which of these is an award-winning film about a literary critic, author and Oxford professor, the celebrated author to whom he was married, and their last years together as her dementia takes her?

A. Iris (2001)
B. The Notebook (2004)
C. A Song For Martin (2001)
D. Away From Her (2007)

Answers: 1. C 2. D 3. A

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

If you couldn't drag yourself out of bed this morning, at least try to finish up those outstanding tasks early enough to enjoy the rest of the day. As afternoon draws near, you are more than ready to be a spectator. Getting into the thick of it allows you a unique vantage point. If you don't like what you see, do something about it. Tonight, idle chatter is an attractive option, but it will only postpone the inevitable.

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Why does everyone always want what they can't have? Envy comes easily to you today, especially where material possessions are involved. You can't help but take it personally when someone else has a stroke of luck at your expense. Don't worry. There is enough to go around. You will get your chance, but in the meantime you have to be patient. Try to focus on something else until you've cleared your mind of negative feelings. An action movie or mystery novel could do the trick tonight.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

You can hardly believe you raised your hand and got the answer wrong! You have to accept the idea that you don't know everything. It wouldn't hurt you to do some more studying next time. No one expects you to have all the answers all the time, so don't feel bad. Hear and act on an outside suggestion. Collaboration may be the ultimate answer. Tonight, spend time with a loved one.

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

Don't keep the good news all to yourself! If you have had something wonderful happen to you recently, let the whole world enjoy it with you. You are able to watch in amazement as your shining mood reflects the light of others. At some point during the day, mutual excitement increases the likelihood of romance. Don't waste time thinking about the details of the situation. There's no reason to worry when everything has been taken care of for you.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Opt for a subtler approach to your issues today. Going overboard could get you into all kinds of hot water. Today's momentum is making it seem all the more urgent to get the show on the road. This could mean you're preparing to storm into your boss's office in the morning and make some demands, but think twice about that. You know how authority figures react to ultimatums, right? And it's not usually all that well, is it?

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

This is definitely a time for intellectual stimulation. You just can't get enough information into your system today. You are the perfect student, eager to examine the alternatives and weigh every aspect of a question. Join a discussion group, visit a chat room or enroll in classes. Don't be afraid to ask a question, even at the risk of appearing somewhat silly. The motto for the day is "knowledge reigns supreme!"

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Everyone deserves equal rights, but a certain someone is looking to tip the scales in their favor. As much as you'd like to spotlight the common ground, others seem more focused on the differences. Remember that hotheaded thinking can lead to irrational acts. Events may already be spinning beyond your control, but they haven't reached a panic state quite yet. If you aren't able to control others, at least control yourself. You owe it to everyone around you to set an example.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Friendships and alliances may be on shaky ground. It might be best to walk around on tiptoes until you can be sure of who is on your side. Whatever happens, know that the consequences of all actions are not immediately apparent. Throughout the day, be wary of a false sense of security. Are you sure you're in the right? If not, keep your mouth closed and your ears open to other possibilities.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Quit being a victim and stand up for yourself if the situation warrants it. You may be confusing your problems with an unrelated external situation. Try not to put too much of a personal face on random events. Remember, you don't have to take the blame for something that isn't your fault. When trying to come up with a viable solution, your judgment should be as clear as possible. Misplaced anger has no place in this debate.

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

N	E	S	U
C	S	K	D
A	F	O	H
N	E	B	D

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 a 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

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

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

Man City need to 'clear our heads' to come back stronger, says Guardiola

Brighton, England - Manchester City need to clear their heads during the upcoming international break and then return fit to play, manager Pep Guardiola said after his team's 2-1 loss at Brighton & Hove Albion that stretched their losing run to four games.

Saturday's loss marked the first time City, second in the standings, have lost four in a row in all competitions since August 2006.

Guardiola has now lost four successive matches for the first time in his otherwise glittering managerial career.

City have been rocked by injuries with Nathan Ake, John Stones, Jack Grealish and Ruben Dias all sidelined on Saturday.

"Of course, it's November, we are not far away (from rival teams) in this position before the international break," Guardiola said. "(The key to) winning games is the people come back fit, the people come back and can play, can train and then improve our results.

"(We need to) clear our heads, go into the international break, and for players to come back fit."



Pep Guardiola

SITTING PRETTY AT THE TOP

Liverpool, England - Liverpool opened a five-point lead at the top of the Premier League as breakaway goals by Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah sealed a 2-0 win at home to Aston Villa on Saturday.

Manchester City's earlier defeat was the perfect pre-match tonic for Liverpool and Nunez's 20th minute strike following a lightning counter-attack set the tone at Anfield.

Liverpool goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher made some vital saves to preserve his side's lead but Salah raced clear in the 84th minute to wrap up the points and maintain their sensational start to the season under new manager Arne Slot.

They have won 15 out of 17 games in all competitions since the Dutchman replaced Jurgen Klopp in the close season.

Liverpool will head into the international break with 28 points from 11 games with reigning champions City on 23.

Villa's third league defeat of the season leaves them down in eighth place with 18 points.

Slot saluted the ecstatic Anfield crowd at the fulltime whistle and they roared their approval as the post-Klopp era continues to defy even the most optimistic forecasts.

After a relatively comfortable run of fixtures at the start of the season, Liverpool have now drawn away at Arsenal, beaten a dangerous Brighton and Hove Albion and thrashed Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen.

"We have players who are so



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah celebrates after scoring against Aston Villa on Saturday

Liverpool will head into the international break with 28 points from 11 games with reigning champions City on 23

fast on the counter-attack so it was good to see we scored two from them," Slot said.

"We are really happy that after such a difficult period most of our players stayed fit. We've had some tough tests for sure, but after the break again they are tough.

"Margins are small, we have a bit of a margin but there are many challenges to come."

Liverpool were made to work hard by a patient Villa side but combined a measured approach in defence with lethal counter-attacking that could have delivered more than the two goals.

Nunez's opening goal stemmed from a Villa corner. As the ball was cleared, Virgil van Dijk's pass sent Salah steaming into the Villa half and although he was bundled over by Leon Bailey the ball ran to Nunez who rounded Emiliano Martinez and slammed home a right-footed shot from a narrow angle.

Uruguayan Nunez should have made it 2-0 from an almost carbon copy situation shortly afterwards.

Again Liverpool burst out of defence in scintillating fashion and Nunez raced clear but with the goal at his mercy he lifted his shot over the crossbar.

Brighton compound Man City's misery

Brighton, England - Manchester City's misery continued with a 2-1 loss to Brighton & Hove Albion in the Premier League on Saturday, thanks to late goals from substitutes Joao Pedro and Matt O'Riley that gave the champions their fourth consecutive loss in all competitions.

The defeat marks the first time City coach Pep Guardiola has lost four in a row in his managerial career and kept his side second in the league standings on 23 points from 11 matches. Brighton climbed to fourth on 19 points.

"It's a period that we're going through at the minute, and the international break is probably coming at the right time," City captain Kyle Walker told Sky Sports.

"It's tough, (but) this is the time you show character, when you stick your wellies on and you go through the mud," he added. "Now we're going to see the real characters, and who's going to push through and want to fight for something special at the end of the year."

City looked poised to end their ugly run after Erling Haaland scored in the 23rd minute when



Brighton & Hove Albion's Joao Pedro scores against Manchester City

Mateo Kovacic threaded a long pass between Brighton's two centre backs, and the Norwegian striker booted in his own rebound to extend his league scoring lead to 12 goals.

Brighton improved after the break and Pedro drew the hosts level in the 78th minute when City could not clear the ball and the Brazilian pounced to lash it past Ederson.

"Last season we dropped too

many points and the gaffer told us to believe in ourselves this season and we are doing well this season against the big teams," Pedro told Sky Sports.

O'Riley made his Premier League debut a memorable one when he secured the well-earned victory five minutes later, latching onto Pedro's through ball and slotting home from close range past Ederson's outstretched arm.

"The subs made a big impact

why it's important to be happy, be proud, to gain self-confidence out of these victories, but also to stay humble, to keep on working, because we are still in the process."

Guardiola, who wore a look of disbelief after the loss, will rue City's squandered first-half chances, including a couple from Haaland in the span of a few minutes that on a different night could have seen the Norwegian celebrating a hat-trick.

The first chance saw goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen dive to stop a blistering Haaland shot with his right ankle at the near post. Haaland then headed just over the bar.

While Brighton had only 39.5% possession, it felt like a goal was coming in the second half. The hosts had a terrific chance soon after the break when Jack Hinshelwood leapt high to head down a looping cross from Pervis Estupinan that an alert Ederson swatted away.

City have been hit by injuries with Nathan Ake, John Stones, Jack Grealish and Ruben Dias missing on Saturday, alongside longer-term absentees Rodri and Oscar Bobb.



Trent Alexander-Arnold's suffered a hamstring injury and had to go off the field in the first half of their match against Aston Villa

Not a good sign: Alexander-Arnold's injury a worry for Liverpool

Liverpool, England - Trent Alexander-Arnold's injury cast a shadow over Liverpool's 2-0 Premier League win at home to Aston Villa on Saturday, with the English defender being taken off in the first half with what manager Arne Slot said was a "serious" concern.

Alexander-Arnold left the pitch clutching his right hamstring in the 25th minute of the victory, which helped Liverpool open up a five-point lead at the top of the Premier League standings.

The 26-year-old has been named in the England squad for their Nations League games against Greece and Ireland, but Slot said he would be surprised if Alexander-Arnold was able to play in those matches.

"It's difficult to say how serious it is, but it's always serious if a player goes out in the first half. Not because I didn't like him, but because he asked for it himself," Slot told reporters.

"He didn't ask for it because he was tired, he asked for it because he felt something. That's first of all not a good sign, but it is always difficult so close after the game to tell you exactly what it is. Let's wait and see.

"I would be surprised if we will

It's difficult to say how serious it is, but it's always serious if a player goes out in the first half

ARNE SLOT

see him playing for the England national team this week, but hopefully he can."

Liverpool, who return to action at Southampton on Nov. 24, have a tough run of fixtures coming up as they take on Real Madrid in a Champions League clash before league meetings with Manchester City and Newcastle United.

Fernandes shines as Man United thrash Leicester in Van Nistelrooy's last game

Manchester, England - Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes bagged one goal and created two more in his team's spirited 3-0 Premier League victory over Leicester City on Sunday, a victorious send-off for Ruud van Nistelrooy in his finale as interim manager.

United, who have had three wins and a draw across all competitions since manager Erik ten Hag was fired on Oct. 28 and replaced temporarily with Van Nistelrooy, are 13th in the league

table on 15 points, four points adrift of the top three. Leicester are 15th on 10 points.

Fernandes, who went his last 17 games under Ten Hag without scoring, celebrated his 250th appearance for United with a goal in the 17th minute, latching on to a back-heel pass from Amad Diallo before unleashing a low hard shot into the far corner.

Newcastle beat Forest

Newcastle United striker Joelinton scored his first goal since Au-



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes celebrates his goal

gust as they came from behind to defeat Nottingham Forest 3-1 in their Premier League clash at the City Ground on Sunday, ending the fine run of their hosts in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, Ipswich Town secured their first Premier League victory of the season when they deservedly beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 away thanks to first-half goals by Sammie Szmodics and Liam Delap and climbed out of the relegation zone on Sunday.



AC Milan's Rafael Leao celebrates his goal against Cagliari

Leao hits double but Milan held to 3-3 draw at Cagliari

Cagliari, Italy - AC Milan had to settle for a 3-3 draw at Cagliari after Rafael Leao's first-half brace was matched by Gabriele Zappa's double for the hosts after the break in a Serie A thriller on Saturday.

The high-paced match saw numerous chances from both sides, with Milan registering 16 shots and Cagliari 13, as the two teams had clear opportunities to add even more goals.

The result leaves Milan in seventh place with 18 points, seven adrift of leaders Napoli. Cagliari are 16th with 10.

An unmarked Nadir Zortea sparked celebrations from the home fans after 65 seconds by volleying the ball into the net after a corner to give Cagliari the lead.

However Portuguese forward Leao evaded the off-side trap and calmly lobbed onrushing goalkeeper Alen Sherri to equalise after 15 minutes for the visitors.

Just before the half-hour mark, Roberto Piccoli netted for Cagliari after battling for the ball from a cross but the effort was ruled out for off-side.

Leao then put Milan ahead five minutes before the break with a composed finish into an empty net following a surge past Sherri to grab his second goal.

Nicolas Viola thought he had equalised for Cagliari in first-half stoppage time when he slid in to net a ball that was already heading over the line and was ruled offside.

MIAMI BLUES

Atlanta stun Messi and Co to reach MLS semifinals

Florida, US - Lionel Messi's first trip to the MLS postseason ended abruptly on Saturday, as midfielder Bartosz Slisz headed in the game-winner for Atlanta United in a staggering, 3-2 upset over Inter Miami in Round One.

Forward Jamal Thiare got Atlanta on the board in the 19th minute and struck again two minutes later, before Slisz put them over the top in the 76th minute to set up a meeting in the semi-final stage against Orlando City SC.

Miami were overwhelming favourites to win it all after producing a league record 74 points in the regular season but could not keep the momentum after Matias Rojas' close-range goal in the 17th minute and Messi's strike in the 65th minute.

A sea of pink-clad Miami fans held their breath as Thiare hit the woodwork in the 15th minute and Atlanta applied the pressure out of the gate.

Guzan made a diving leap to stop Messi's powerful shot from the centre of the box in the 17th minute but could not recover in time to stop Rojas' follow-up from close range, as Miami drew first blood. Thiare responded quickly, drilling one into the right top corner, and had another superb finish off a neat flick from



Inter Miami's Lionel Messi looks dejected as Atlanta United players celebrate a goal

Miami were overwhelming favourites to win it all after producing a league record 74 points in the regular season but could not keep the momentum after Matias Rojas' close-range goal in the 17th minute

midfielder Aleksey Miranchuk in the 21st minute.

Guzan kept up his guard in the second half, swatting aside a superb header from defender Jordi Alba in the 52nd minute, but Messi broke through the 40-year-old keeper's defences to level it with the header from close

range. With their backs against the wall, Atlanta refused to take their foot off the gas, and Slisz leapt into the air to head one in off a perfect cross from defender Pedro Amador.

Miami earned a free kick in stoppage time, but Messi kicked it into a wall of Atlanta players.

Lee, Barcola hit braces as PSG thrash Angers

Angers, France - Paris St Germain's Lee Kang-in and Bradley Barcola each scored twice in the first half as the leaders cruised to a 4-2 win at promoted Angers on Saturday to remain unbeaten in Ligue 1.

PSG bounced back after their midweek Champions League home loss to Atletico Madrid to reach 29 points and maintain a six-point lead over second-placed Monaco, who won 3-1 at Strasbourg.

Angers are 15th on 10 points and only above the relegation zone on goal difference.

The visitors opened the scoring in the 17th minute when Lee's



Paris St Germain's Bradley Barcola scores against Angers

We got off to a flying start. It looked easy, but it wasn't. When it looks easy, it means that what we're doing is very good

LUIS ENRIQUE

powerful shot at the far post was awarded by goal-line technology after initially appearing to be cleared by a defender.

Lee netted again three minutes later with a first-time finish

from Marco Asensio's low cross from the left. Barcola made it 3-0 in similar fashion from Asensio's second assist just past the half-hour mark.

Barcola bagged his brace in the dying seconds of the first half by heading home Lee's cross.

"We got off to a flying start. It looked easy, but it wasn't," PSG manager Luis Enrique told reporters.

"When it looks easy, it means that what we're doing is very good. We also gave other players some game time."

Play was halted soon after the break as fans threw tennis balls onto the pitch in protest against

the French Football League and broadcasters over changes to the fixture schedule.

After play restarted neither side could add to the score until Angers substitute Esteban Lepaul struck a superb volley in stoppage time and Emmanuel Biumla added another goal for the hosts in the final seconds of the match but it was all too late.

"We need to repeat that first half with the four goals," forward Barcola said. "It's a shame we let up in the second half and conceded the two goals."

PSG next host Toulouse on November 22 after the international break.

Weah, Yildiz on target to help Juventus blank Torino

Turin, Italy - Goals from Timothy Weah and Kenan Yildiz saw Juventus maintain their impressive run against neighbours Torino with a 2-0 home win on Saturday, extending their unbeaten streak in the Turin Derby and moving them up to third in the Serie A standings.

Juve are on 24 points, level with second-placed Inter Milan and one point behind leaders Napoli. Inter host Napoli on Sunday. Torino are 11th in the standings on 14 points.

Torino arrived at the Juventus Stadium with a dismal record against their city rivals, failing to win in their previous 18 meetings, and their current form offered little hope of that changing, with five defeats in their last six games.

Weah was quickest to react when Torino goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic spilled a shot in the 18th minute and a Yildiz header six minutes from time wrapped up all three points as Juve remain the only undefeated side in Serie A.



Timothy Weah of Juventus celebrates his goal against Torino

The opening half brought plenty of attacking promise from Juventus but apart from the goal and a Dusan Vlahovic shot easily saved by the keeper, Thiago Motta's side failed to convert their possession into real

chances.

Juve got off the mark when Andrea Cambiaso sprinted into the area and got a shot away which Milinkovic-Savic should have held and Weah could not believe his luck as he rolled the

ball into the net already starting his celebration.

Both sets of fans created plenty of noise to match the occasion but the players largely failed to respond on the pitch. Torino did at least manage to spend more time in the opposition half after the break but never looked like equalising.

Juventus forward Francisco Conceicao threatened to light up the game with a curling shot from distance only to see his effort fizz just wide of the post but minutes later it was his cross which brought the safety cushion of a second goal.

Conceicao raced down the right into the area and floated a cross to the back post where Yildiz's diving header hit the net.

In tribute to his hero and former Juve player Alessandro Del Piero, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Saturday, Yildiz celebrated just like his idol with his tongue out as he raced away, the brightest moment in a mostly dour derby.

Good win for us, says Kompany after Bayern edge St Pauli

Hamburg, Germany - Bayern Munich's 1-0 win at promoted St Pauli on Saturday may have been far from impressive but it shows there are no easy games in the Bundesliga, said the Bavarians' coach Vincent Kompany.

Bayern had scored 12 goals in their previous three league games going into the encounter in Hamburg but they struggled against the disciplined hosts who staunchly refused to capitulate.

It took a stunning long-range Jamal Musiala shot in the 22nd minute to decide the game.

"When you look at what Leverkusen did in Bochum and what Dortmund did in Mainz, there are no easy games and today was a tough game. It's a very good win for us," Kompany said.

While Bayern narrowly won their game, champions Bayer Leverkusen conceded an 89th-minute goal to draw 1-1 at bottom club VfL Bochum while fellow Champions League club



Bayern Munich's Jamal Musiala celebrates his goal against St Pauli

Borussia Dortmund slumped to a 3-1 loss at Mainz 05, their fourth straight loss on the road in the league.

"This game came at a tricky moment for us because we had a Champions League game on

Wednesday," said Kompany.

"We played against a very compact team, with high energy and a very good game management. Even when we scored the first goal, they didn't panic and stayed patient."



Pakistan's Haris Rauf (C) celebrates with teammates after taking an Australian wicket. Rauf took two wickets while Shaheen Afridi (2R) and Naseem Shah picked up three wickets each.

Fast and fabulous

Pakistan quickies shine in ODI series win against Australia

Perth, Australia - Pakistan thoroughly punished Australia for resting their top players in the one-day international series decider at Perth Stadium on Sunday, cruising to an eight-wicket win in the third and final game after a sublime display of seam bowling.

Securing their first ODI series victory in Australia since 2002, an unchanged Pakistan restricted

the hosts to 140 from 31.5 overs before mowing down the total by scoring 143-2 in 26.5 overs.

"It was a great feeling for us as a country, as a nation," said fast bowler Shaheen Afridi. "Everyone is so excited."

Underscoring the diminished standing of the 50-over format, Australia chose to rest their red-ball players for the decider as preparations ramp up for a block-

buster five-Test series against India beginning on November 22.

The tourists, who suffered a narrow loss in the opener before bouncing back with a nine-wicket thumping on Friday, won the toss and elected to field.

Shaheen and fellow quick Naseem Shah led the way, picking up three wickets apiece during a showcase of swing and pace, which accounted for Jake Fraser-McGurk (seven) and Aaron Hardie (12) in the first powerplay.

Josh Inglis, in his captaincy debut, departed for seven after

skyling Naseem to keeper Mohammad Rizwan in the 11th over, and opener Matt Short (22) soon followed, caught at square-leg attempting to pull pacer Haris Rauf (2-24), who was named man-of-the-series for his 10 wickets overall.

It went from bad to worse for the hosts when 21-year-old Cooper Connolly was forced to retire hurt on seven with a suspected fracture to his left hand after copping a nasty blow from seamer Mohammad Hasnain.

A jubilant Rauf then found the edge of Glenn Maxwell on zero,

leaving Australia reeling at 79-5.

No spin was used as the Pakistan seamers maintained the pressure and mopped up the tail. Sean Abbott top-scored with 30.

In reply, Saim Ayub (42) and Abdullah Shafique (37), fresh off half-centuries, played with fluency and controlled aggression during an 84-run opening stand.

Local speedster Lance Morris (2-24) sent both set batsmen packing in the 18th over to give the crowd of 19,781 something to cheer about, leaving Rizwan (30 not out) and Babar Azam (28 not



Coco Gauff celebrates with the WTA Finals trophy

Gauff battles past Zheng to win first WTA Finals trophy

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - American Coco Gauff had a bitterly disappointing summer but on Saturday the youngster was able to celebrate lifting her first WTA Finals trophy, regaining her confidence after a string of frustrating defeats to end her year on a high note.

The 20-year-old showed her mettle against China's Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen in the Riyadh finale, coming back from a set down and holding her nerve through a gritty three-hour and four-minute affair to win 3-6 6-4 7-6(2).

Gauff split from coach Brad Gilbert and flipped the script weeks later, however, winning her second WTA 1000 title last month at the China Open before reaching the Wuhan Open semis.

It was clear she had got back to top form in Riyadh as she beat her key antagonist, Poland's world number two Iga Swiatek, in the group stage and battled past the top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus to reach the championship match.

"I know (I) tend to focus on

I know (I) tend to focus on 'doubters/haters' but this one is really for all of my supporters! Ya'll held it down for me win or lose!

COCO GAUFF

The first WTA Finals title for Gauff was made sweeter after a mid-year derailment when attempts to rebuild her serve led to repeated frustrations on the tour and a coaching shake-up.

"It's been a long season," Gauff said with the gleaming silver trophy in her hand in Riyadh, thanking her family and team for sticking with her through the ups and the downs.

Gauff's year had started on the right track as she won in Auckland and reached the semi-finals at the Australian Open. But the season began to crumble with a fourth-round defeat at Wimbledon and third-round exit at the Paris Games.

She was unable to reset for her U.S. Open title defence after shock early exits in Toronto and Cincinnati and left New York after a dreadful fourth-round defeat by Emma Navarro, when she was plagued by 19 double faults.

'doubters/haters' but this one is really for all of my supporters! Ya'll held it down for me win or lose!" Gauff wrote in a post on X after clinching the title. "I know some of you are a little bit petty like me so it does feel nice to silence them for a bit."

The youngest player to win the season-ending WTA Finals since Maria Sharapova two decades ago, Gauff leaves the first professional women's tennis tournament in Saudi Arabia more than \$4.8 million richer and with a WTA title at every level.

India's Neeraj Chopra appoints Zelezny as coach

New Delhi, India - India's two-time Olympic javelin medallist Neeraj Chopra has appointed Czech great Jan Zelezny as his coach, the 26-year-old said on Saturday.

Chopra, who followed up his gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 with a silver medal at this year's Paris Games, had been coached by German Klaus Bartonietz, who retired this week.

"Growing up, I admired Jan's technique and precision and spent a lot of time watching videos of him," Chopra said in a statement published by the Sports Authority of India.

"He was the best in the sport for so many years, and I believe that working with him will be invaluable because our throwing styles are similar and his knowl-



Neeraj Chopra (L) with Jan Zelezny

edge is unmatched.

"It's an honour to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I

can't wait to get started."

Zelezny won gold at the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympics and silver in 1998. The 58-year-old

also holds the men's javelin record with a mark of 98.48 metres, achieved in 1996.

"I like his story and I see big

It's an honour to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I can't wait to get started

NEERAJ CHOPRA

potential, as he is young and able to improve," Zelezny said in the statement.

"We are getting to know each other more closely and will start in person at a traditional winter camp in South Africa.

"I believe in his progress, especially in the technical aspect, so that he can continue achieving top positions at the main championships."

CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION WANTED

Senior accountant, Indian, male, 18 years' experience in Oman. Immediate joining. Contact: 91172545

SEND YOUR REQUEST FOR

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

عيادة فصول السنة للطب الهندي التقليدي
ALL SEASON AYURVEDA CLINIC

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

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

WJ Towell Group Company

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

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

- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease



Spain's far-flung Canary Islands are deservedly one of Europe's most popular travel destinations, but there's much more to them than the famous 'winter-sun' tagline suggests. Eight wonderfully varied islands make up this entrancing volcanic archipelago off Morocco's Atlantic coast, where eerily beautiful lava-sculpted landscapes sweep from black-sand beaches and sparkling sea pools to misty laurisilva (laurel forests), scented pine groves and curiously craggy peaks.

You could visit year after year (like many travellers do), exploring a different island each time, and still be blown away by the Canary Islands on every single trip.

First-timers are often drawn to the larger, better-known Canaries, particularly Tenerife and Gran Canaria, but each island has its own personality. Lanzarote and Fuerteventura on the east side feel beachier, surfer and more laid-back, while the three western islands – La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro – are much less tourist than the rest, says Isabella Noble, a popular writer on the Canary Islands guidebook.

"You don't have to stick to just one island either, as excellent flight and ferry links make it easy to plan a longer island-hopping trip. No matter your travel style, here's a guide to finding the Canary Island that's best for you," says Isabella.

Tenerife

Best island for epic hikes, mountain scenery and family trips

The archipelago's largest and most-visited island combines sun-baked golden beaches and a flourishing gastronomic scene with seemingly endless activities, from cetacean-spotting in Europe's first Whale Heritage Site to next-level surfing, kitesurfing and hiking. Tenerife is a hugely popular pick for holidaying families, but has enough variety to entertain a wide range of visitors, especially beyond the main south coast beach towns.

There's the spectacular Parque Nacional del Teide, where

CANARY ISLANDS

Isabella Noble, one of the writers on the 'Canary Islands' guidebook, provides insights for the discerning traveller to decide which island is right for a perfect holiday



Spain's tallest peak looms 3718m tall and walking trails thread through a moon-like high-altitude valley. More thrilling hikes await in the biodiverse Anaga mountains.

Lanzarote

Best island for art, beaches and wineries

With brooding volcanic cones, glinting black-pebble beaches and the odd palm-spangled valley, Lanzarote feels like a giant colour-shifting natural canvas. So, it makes sense that the easternmost of the Canaries captured the heart of the locally born 20th-century artist and environmental campaigner César Manrique, whose impossible-to-miss influence and works await all over the island – from the white-washed, sky-blue-windowed homes of coastal villages to the inimitable lava-field house at the Fundación César Manrique.

In recent years Lanzarote has grown into a tempting destination for art, design and architec-

ture lovers, but it's also packed with outdoor fun and has a blossoming, local-rooted food scene. You can't miss the sprawling volcanic expanses of the Parque Nacional de Timanfaya, which played a key role in creating Lanzarote's respected wine region, La Geria, where vines grow in mineral-rich volcanic-ash sands.

Fuerteventura

Best island for beaches and water sports

A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2009, the second-largest Canary (after Tenerife) lures visitors with its dazzling beaches, year-round sunny climate and raw lunar-like beauty.

Wind-lashed and evocatively arid, Fuerteventura has the archipelago's dreamiest sands: from the honey-gold dunes of the protected Parque Natural de Corralejo in the north, to the secluded, undeveloped expanses of Playa de Cofete on the island's southern tip (catch it at sunset and you'll see).

The island rivals Lanzarote's Famara as the Canaries' top surfing destination, with a laid-back wave-riding scene – for all kinds of levels – centered on the former northern fishing villages of El Cotillo (with surf-whipped sands below cliffs) and Corralejo (more resort-like). You can also go sailing, windsurfing, kitesurf-

ing, paddle boarding and diving.

La Palma

Best island for nature, stargazing and offbeat hiking

It's impossible not to fall for gorgeously green La Palma. Deservedly nicknamed 'La Isla Bonita', the entire island is a UN-

ESCO Biosphere Reserve, with steep rainforested hills and around 850km of hiking routes. Adventure sports abound, from kayaking to kitesurfing, and the pretty capital Santa Cruz de la Palma is crammed with elaborate 16th-century mansions.

La Palma's most thrilling walking routes revolve around the un-

missable 50-sq-km Parque Nacional de la Caldera de Taburiente, where a miles-wide depression was created by a volcano collapsing in on itself. And following the 2021 eruption of the Tajogaite volcano in the south of the island, local businesses have now bounced back, offering new experiences.

NEW
Bose SoundLink Max Portable Speaker

Whether you're the go-to DJ in your crew or a music lover with the sickest playlists that you can't wait to share, now is your time to shine. The Bose SoundLink Max Speaker combines big-speaker energy, grab-and-go convenience, and lasting power so your favorite songs can turn up the vibe all day and night.

Bose and SoundLink are trademarks of Bose Corporation.

AVAILABLE NOW AT:

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
92311039 / 99347243



Krakow, Poland

In Poland's picture-perfect old capital Krakow, you can get your skates on in a snowy square, fill up on mulled beverages and gingerbread, and experience sublime moments in serene galleries and candlelit churches.

Start in misty Rynek Glowny, the largest medieval town square in Europe, inhaling aromas of sizzling kiel-basa (sausage) from the Christmas stalls. Dominating it all is the cavernous Renaissance Sukiennice or Cloth Hall. Inside, ornate light fittings drop down like art nouveau anchors from the barrel-vaulted ceilings.



Cologne, Germany

Long favoured as a festive destination, Cologne has several Christmas markets, the largest of which is in the city centre, beneath the cathedral. There are even markets dedicated to mythical gnomes and to maritime history, complete with sea shanties and pirates. If you fancy something a little more traditional, put your skates on and head to the outdoor rink at Heinzels Winter Fairytale on Heumarkt, which runs from November 25 to January 5 (closed on December 24 and 25).



Budapest, Hungary

Igniting the Christmas atmosphere in mid-November, Budapest brings two Christmas market contenders to the table - Vorosmarty Square and Basilica. Vorosmarty Square is right in the heart of the city and is Budapest's oldest Christmas market. Here, you'll find plenty of food stalls, handicraft shops and free concerts. Basilica has all of the above, but with the slight edge - Christmas laser projections on the Basilica itself and an ice rink that circles around a grand Christmas tree.



Strasbourg, France

France's 'Capital of Christmas' looks like a real-life Nativity scene at this time of year. You'll find 300 traditional market stalls taking over the city's central squares with lots of gorgeous hand-painted wooden Christmas decorations for those looking for stocking fillers. Seek out the Market of the Irreducible Small Producers of Alsace for sausages and almondy, fruity, brioche-like kugelhopf.

PLAN AN X-MAS GETAWAY

Come Christmas and Europe's medieval and baroque squares glitter with lights and, in many places, a romantic dusting of snow. Germany usually springs to mind as the king of Christmas markets, but go further afield to find other beautiful European cities and their festive gatherings. If you're planning a Yuletide holiday, it's time now to consider some of the top Christmas markets in Europe, before you decide on your destination:



Basel, Switzerland

Basel's Christmas market is the biggest and most beautiful in Switzerland, with 160 meticulously decorated stalls selling a wide array of culinary wonders from gob-stopping sausages and authentic Basel Lackerli (a local twist on gingerbread) to hot punch, festive fondue, and rib-sticking raclette to beat the winter chill.

It's split into two different sections at Barfusserplatz and Munsterplatz. The former offers handmade wooden toys, jewellery and Nativity scenes, while Munsterplatz's fairytale forest is filled with fun festive activities for kids



Prague, Czech Republic

Postcard-pretty Prague is perfect for the festive season. The setting is magnificent - on one side, the 14th-century twin spires of the Church of Our Lady Before Tyn, on the other, the city's famous 15th-century astronomical clock. Between them swirls a glittering pool of seasonal cheer. There are presents aplenty, including frosted, hand-blown glass baubles. But it's the food that will keep you hanging around - warm sausages just off the grill, fresh pancakes; garlic-and-cheese flatbread; all topped off with a slug of svarak, the local, citrusy drink. Its cinnamon scent is misted over the whole square.



Salzburg, Austria

The pretty hometown of Mozart and The Sound of Music comes into its own at Christmas, with snow-sprinkled renditions of Silent Night (the carol was written and first performed nearby) and market stalls that look much as they did when they were first set up in the 15th century.

The focus here is on quality over quantity, so expect hand-knitted socks rather than novelty candles for stocking fillers. For optimum Christmas cheer, join the free daily concerts at 5pm in front of the cathedral, or belt out carols at the Tuesday singalongs (6pm-8pm).



Berlin, Germany

For a more modern take on tradition, arty Berlin has it covered. The city centre is festooned with more than 80 Christmas markets (there's even one specially for dogs), so don't try to cover them all. If you're after scale, Spandau is the biggest. For looks, Weihnachtszauber, in magnificent Gendarmenmarkt square, is the prettiest, with plenty of arts and crafts on offer. Get your pulse racing at Winter World on Potsdamer Platz — it's less about shopping and more about winter sports, with tobogganing, curling and ice skating.



2024
OMAN'S MOST TRUSTED BRAND AWARDS
AN APEX MEDIA EVENT

VOTE
FOR YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS

Go to muscatdaily.com/omtb-2024 to vote or scan QR code

For details call Sajir 99474314 Or email sajir@apexmedia.co.om



SCAN TO VOTE