

SQU DOCTOR VOLUNTEERS FOR GAZA RELIEF EFFORTS

Our Correspondent
Muscat

"We will not leave Gaza alone," said Dr Hani al Qadhi, Senior Consultant in Trauma and General Surgery at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, after he returned from Gaza on July 7. His words are now rallied in social media like a war cry.

Dr Qadhi went to the besieged territory on June 12 as part of a medical delegation to northern Gaza that performed 150 complex surgeries over three weeks.

Reflecting on his visit to Gaza makes Dr Qadhi emotional. "It was painful to part from our brothers and sisters in northern Gaza after sharing their most poignant and challenging moments. We connected with them unlike any other people. Witnessing their suffering firsthand was distressing."

During his visit, Dr Qadhi also played a crucial role in training medical students of Islamic University and Al Azhar University in Gaza in emergency injury assessment and treatment.

"Our commitment to supporting the resilient Palestinian people is unwavering," he declared.

"They urgently require essentials such as food, electricity and water, and it is our mission to ensure they receive these vital supplies."

He was deeply affected by the destruction, particularly damage to the Muscat Health Centre in



It was painful to part from our brothers and sisters in northern Gaza after sharing their most poignant and challenging moments. Witnessing their suffering firsthand was distressing

DR HANI AL QADHI

Khan Yunis, Gaza funded by Oman Charitable Organization.

His words, "We will not leave Gaza alone," sparked widespread solidarity among citizens and residents on social media.

Dr Khaled al Shamousi lauded his efforts, stating, "Oman can

take pride in Dr Qadhi for his impactful contributions in Gaza, which have galvanised political and public support to aid our Palestinian brethren."

Thanking Dr Qadhi and his colleagues as they were leaving, Palestinian Nour Naim said,

"Farewell to the medical delegation in northern Gaza. They alleviated the suffering of patients and the wounded, renewing hope. Thank you to all who stand in solidarity with us."

Dr Qadhi and his delegation's volunteer work give optimism to Faisal al Yafai. "Inshallah, Gaza will rise again, rebuilding with pride what was lost."

Dr Qadhi worked alongside Palestinian and Jordanian colleagues at Shuhada al Aqsa Hospital in Gaza, performing surgeries under challenging conditions and extreme scarcity of

medical resources.

His efforts won the admiration of many in Oman as he volunteered in Gaza. Among them is Dr Maha al Shaibi, who said, "I am inspired and immensely proud of your actions, Dr Qadhi. I pray for your safety and for the safety of the people of Gaza. We eagerly anticipate a brighter and safer future for all."

Other Omanis who have risked their lives to help their Palestinian brothers in their crisis are Dr Rashid al Rubaie, Dr Khaled al Shamousi, Dr Aiman al Salmi and Saleh al Sawafi.



Mubeen al Kindi; his throw of 67.46m fetched him a gold medal

Mubeen al Kindi sets Omani, championship records at U-23 meet

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Omani athlete Mubeen al Kindi secured gold in hammer throw at the just concluded U-23 Arabian Athletics Championship creating not only a new Omani record but also a meet record by throwing a distance of 67.46m.

Speaking from Egypt to Muscat Daily, Kindi expressed his pride, stating, "I am delighted to have won gold, setting both a new Omani record and championship record."

He attributed the win to efforts of coach Saeed al Harthy and technical staff who help athletes meticulously prepare both physically and mentally for each tournament.

"I am grateful for the unwavering support provided by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth throughout my career. This win marks the fourth

Omani record achieved this year at the meet, fulfilling our ambitious goals."

Elaborating on his performance, he said, "I achieved this result in the first of six throws: 67.46m in the first attempt."

Discussing his preparations for the championship, he said, "It was extensive, focused on gradual improvement towards achieving a 67mr mark. I had promising results during training camps."

Kindi's goal is to cross the 68m mark next year as part of his planned progression. "As I transition from junior to senior level in hammer throw with a 7.26kg weight, I am determined to achieve new milestones in upcoming events."

In the championship, Ali al Balushi won gold in 100m and 200m races, while Hussein al Farsi claimed a bronze in 800m.

MUSCAT DAILY
YOUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD

R024
1 YEAR
(Print edition)

R015
6 MONTHS
(Print edition)

R015
1 YEAR
(Online edition)

Name

Flat No: Building / Villa No: Way No:

Area: Landmark:

Mobile No: Email:

Print edition only ☐ print+Online edition ☐ Online edition only ☐

SUBSCRIBE
TO MUSCAT DAILY

www.muscatdaily.com

For more details
PLEASE CALL 80076000
E-mail: subscription@apexmedia.co.om
Or call /whatsapp Ramu on 99853450
Muscat Daily actual annual subscription rate: RO 52



BANKING THAT IS PROUDLY HUMAN

THE DIFFERENCE.. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

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



bankdhofar



2479 1111



www.bankdhofar.com



بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

Wajmah: Hidden gem for adventure, tourism

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The village of Wajmah in Wadi Sahtan, Rustaq in South Batinah, is a remarkable destination for tourists seeking adventure and discovery. Renowned for its unique location and rich biodiversity, Wajmah offers an array of natural and cultural attractions that captivate visitors.

Wajmah has numerous blissful springs and four aflaj - Al Malj, Al Ghail, Al Khatwa and Al Qabil. These aflaj irrigate the village farms, which are spread out on terraces on the steep mountainside.

Highlighting the village's unique charm, Dr Al Mutasim bin Nasser al Hilali, Director of Department of Heritage and Tourism in South Batinah, said, "Visitors can see old stone and mud houses alongside newly



(Supplied photo)

built homes, creating a striking visual of cultural heritage and modernity."

Among the village's notable landmarks are its small mosques, sablah, aflaj channels and intricately built agricultural terraces. These features offer visitors insights into an ancient way of life, showcasing how residents adapted to their challenging environment by effectively managing water resources and maintaining connections with neighbouring villages.

Wajmah is also a haven for hiking enthusiasts. Adventurers can explore mountain trails leading to other picturesque locations such as Jabal Shams and Misfat al Abriyeen in Hamra, as well as several other villages in Wadi Sahtan, including Al Fara'a, Al Huwaib, Al Hob, Al Wada'im, Al Naid, Al Ghor and Limbu.

Oman to host Climate Week in Feb 2025

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The sultanate is set to host Oman Climate Week for the first time from February 24 to 27, 2025. This landmark event, organised by Environment Authority (EA), aims to galvanise global efforts towards climate action and underscores Oman's commitment to achieving a zero-emissions future.

Oman Climate Week comes at a critical juncture amid escalating global efforts to combat climate change and promote renewable energy solutions to mitigate the impact of global warming.

The agenda for the week includes a series of pivotal events geared towards achieving the COP29 agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 °C by 2025. It will

emphasise collaboration between governments and private sectors to reduce the adverse effects of climate change.

Dr Abdullah bin Ali al Amri, Chairman of EA, stressed on the urgency of climate action, advocating increased investments to combat climate change.

He highlighted the need of immediate financial measures, adaptation strategies, emissions reduction, phasing out coal, carbon pricing, and a seamless transition to renewable energy to safeguard the environment for future generations.

Oman Climate Week will serve as a premier platform for global leaders, policymakers and innovators to showcase progress, foster collaboration, exchange insights on climate change mitigation, and explore opportunities in Oman and the MENA region.

WHERE FINANCE LEADERS CONVERGE.

**BUSINESS TODAY
OMAN
CFO
FORUM**

18 SEPT 2024 | MUSCAT

ORGANISED BY
**INTERACTIVE
apex** | **MUSCAT DAILY**

The Business Today CFO Forum 2024 brings together top finance executives, industry experts, and thought leaders for insightful discussions and knowledge exchange. The forum aims to empower CFOs to drive innovation, navigate complexities, unlock sustainable growth opportunities in today's dynamic business environment, and honor outstanding achievers.

FOCUS AREAS



Enhancing strategic planning & decision-making for competitive advantage



Building resilience & adaptability in finance operations and strategies



Fostering innovation & leadership in finance for long-term success



Embracing data analytics, AI & automation to drive operational efficiency & performance



Integrating ESG factors & advancing sustainable finance initiatives



Navigating regulatory compliance challenges & evolving market trends



Strengthening risk management practices in a dynamic business landscape



Inspiring talent development & enhancing In Country Value (ICV)

BUSINESS TODAY CFO AWARDS 2024

The Business Today CFO Awards will honour CFOs who have demonstrated exceptional performance, finance teams that have achieved remarkable results, and initiatives that have made significant contributions to their organizations and the broader financial community besides the exceptional financial technology solutions.

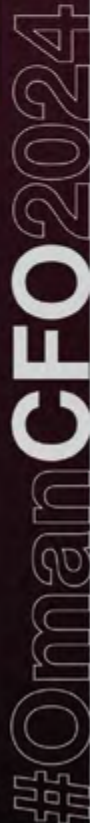
AWARD CATEGORIES

- Emerging CFO of the Year
- Woman CFO of the Year
- CFO of the Year
- CFO of the Year (industry category)
- Lifetime Achievement in Finance
- Finance Team of the Year
- Financial Innovation Award

- Excellence in Risk Management
- Excellence in ESG Integration
- Merger and Acquisition of the Year
- Sustainable Finance Initiative Award
- Digital Transformation Initiative of the Year
- Finance Technology Solutions Company of the Year
- Finance Technology Solutions Leader of the Year

For more information, contact: sajir@apexmedia.co.om, +968 9947 4314

www.bt-cfoforum.com Follow us on  **BTCFO**



Jabal Real Estate Investment Fund listed

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) on Wednesday celebrated the listing of 'Jabal Real Estate Investment Fund', which boasts a capital portfolio of RO17.4mn that aims to invest in a variety of real estate assets.

The fund's units were offered between June 13 and 27. It comprises 174mn units, each valued at 100 baisas. Applications from investors in the first day of subscription exceeded the minimum target capital of the Fund.

Established as a closed-end fund under real estate investment in accordance with MSX regulations, the fund has been carefully structured to meet the needs of investors.

The fund has been designed to provide investors with a unique opportunity to participate in the growth of developed real



estate in Oman and receive recurring income through rent and capital appreciation, the company stated in a release.

'The fund will be managed by a team of experienced profes-

sionals, who have a proven track record of success in the industry. The fund's overall aim is to maintain stable income generated by the Fund's assets, improve the rental yield and deliver strong re-

turns to its unitholders', it stated.

"We are pleased with the successful IPO of Jabal REIF. The fund raised substantial interest from investors and was oversubscribed shortly after subscription

commenced," said Majid al Lawati, fund management team member. "In my opinion, the fund provides investors a good opportunity to earn an attractive long-term return and a potential

asset appreciation upside," he added.

According to Lawati, the fund provides a unique opportunity for investors to participate under a professional management in a diversified income generating real estate portfolio in Oman, with the added potential of growing the asset base in the future.

He thanked FSA and MSX for facilitating the successful launch of the fund, while asserting that the team believes that the launch of Jabal REIF would have a positive impact on overall Oman real estate market, since the fund will contribute positively to the market's transparency and liquidity.

While Jabal Asset Management will be an investment manager, Sohar International Bank will act as the custodian and administrator of the fund. Additionally, a professional property manager will be appointed to en-

sure the effective management and monitoring of the properties.

The fund's management team will actively manage the portfolio, seeking for new opportunities to maximise financial results.

Worth noting that the fund will not use borrowings for the acquisition of the initial portfolio, which creates an opportunity to increase the returns further by attracting leverage later (up to 60% as per REIF regulations).

The fund will target to achieve a long-term total return for investors exceeding both inflation and deposit rates. With quarterly distributions of dividends, the investors will also receive regular cash income.

Oman Real Estate sector demonstrates solid growth supported by favourable economic trends, domestic demand, increase in foreign investments, and progressive government policies.

Oman participates in meeting of WIPO member states' associations in Geneva

Geneva, Switzerland - Represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), the Sultanate of Oman participated in sessions of the 65th meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) member states' associations, which got underway in Geneva.

Oman's delegation was headed by H E Dr Saleh Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry.

Addressing the meeting, H E Masan stressed that the Sultanate of Oman attaches great importance to cooperation with WIPO and has worked closely with WIPO on various projects aimed at consolidating the international organisation's intellectual property system in Oman.

"The projects included WIPO's support for frankincense producers, a project aimed at preserving the quality and repu-



tation of Omani frankincense and raising its marketing value locally and internationally through the application of the intellectual property system as a geographical indicator."

"Oman is working on implementing the project of 'National Intellectual Property Strategy' in cooperation with WIPO. The project seeks to establish a compre-

hensive framework to enhance innovation and ensure the protection of intellectual property rights in the Sultanate of Oman."

"WIPO's Global Innovation Index (GII) serves as one of the main reference indicators of this strategy," said H E Masan, noting that Oman advanced ten ranks in the GII in 2023, compared to its position in 2022.

Palestine issue

H E Masan drew the attention of WIPO member states to the Palestinian people's suffering caused by the devastating Israeli attacks. "No international organisation is taking legal action to hold the perpetrators culpable for these heinous crimes against humanity," he rued.

ONA

Global markets continue to fluctuate

Istanbul, Türkiye - Global markets continued to follow a mixed course after the US Federal Reserve chair said that data for the first quarter of the year has not yet provided enough confidence.

"The latest inflation data again showed modest progress, and more good data will strengthen our confidence that inflation is moving toward 2% in a sustainable manner," said Jerome Powell, presenting a monetary policy report to the US Senate on Monday.

On US markets on Monday, the Nasdaq index rose 0.14% and the S&P 500 0.07%, while the Dow Jones lost 0.16%.

"Based on an updated assessment of inflation, it is now appropriate to moderate the degree of monetary policy restraint after holding interest rates steady for nine months," the ECB Governing Council said on Tuesday.

"The latest inflation data boosted confidence, and I continue to expect a few more rate cuts this year if the baseline scenario is confirmed," said Mario Centeno, an ECB member, in



June. The dollar index rose 0.2% to 105.1, just below its previous close, while the barrel price of Brent oil stabilised at US\$84, extending the downward trend to a fourth consecutive working day.

The US 10-year bond yield fell 0.2% to 103.2 after the Fed chairman's speech, while the price of gold was trading up 0.2% at \$2,367 an ounce.

In the UK, the FTSE 100 index fell 0.66%, the CAC 40 index in France 1.56%, the DAX 40 index in Germany 1.28%, and the MIB 30 index in Italy 0.53% on Monday.

Index futures contracts in Europe began on Tuesday mixed.

In Türkiye, the BIST 100 index in Borsa Istanbul completed the day at 10,796.57 points, down 0.62% compared to the previous close, while the USD/TL traded at 32.9090 at the opening of the interbank market on Tuesday.

In French election results last weekend, the left-wing New People's Front came first with 178 deputies, while political uncertainty negatively affected the country's credit rating as coalition talks are needed.

Anadolu News

COMMENTARY

In 2014, Oman shocked much of the world when it ranked in at number three on the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), a UN-sponsored report that ranks countries' commitment to cybersecurity. Oman continued the trend in 2017, when it placed fourth in the world, and in both reports, Oman was ranked first in the Arab world in terms of cybersecurity commitment. Oman, a country that had 4% internet penetration in 2000, was suddenly ranked as one of the most advanced and security-committed cybersecurity powers in the world - far ahead of its neighbours. Like many other cybersecurity researchers, I found myself asking: how did Oman get here?

When it comes to understanding how good a country is at cybersecurity (what researchers call 'a cybersecurity posture'), things are not always so straightforward. Cybersecurity capabilities are inherently hard to estimate due to cybersecurity's essential focus on confidentiality. Many countries are reluctant to fully detail their cyber capabilities, and some data is in turn hard or even impossible to glean. Some index reports, such as the GCI, offer a way around this: a measurement of how advanced a country's cybersecurity posture is by funneling publicly available data through assessment frameworks.

By analysing a country's cyberse-



BENJAMIN LOTTO

The writer is a Fulbright Scholar, journalist, and academic from the US. He is currently researching Oman's cybersecurity posture as part of a Fulbright research grant in Oman

curity policies, initiatives, and standards and technologies in use, indices try to gauge how well a country digitally secures things. And, according to the UN in 2014 and 2017, Oman was excelling by all measures.

When it comes to Oman, its success has a lot to do with an early commitment to cybersecurity and a serious interest in building a globally competitive digital economy. In 1998, Oman began setting up a National Committee for Information Technology. It unveiled its 'Digital Oman Strategy' in 2003, identifying Oman's vision for developing a 'sustainable knowledge-based economy'.

It set up its own Computer Emergency Response Team in 2010, and established the UN-sponsored Arab Regional Cybersecurity Center in 2012. Symbolising Oman's strategic significance, the UN did not choose any other GCC country as a partner to lead Arab cybersecurity initiatives - it chose Oman. His Majesty late Sultan Qaboos set Oman on a path prioritising cybersecurity by including it

in Oman's Vision 2040 strategic development plan and began allocating millions of rials toward cybersecurity programmes - an initiative His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik continued with the establishment of the Cyber Defense Center in 2020. More importantly, Oman has heavily invested in information and communications technology, public-private partnerships (e.g. with Microsoft, Cisco), developing widespread IT ed-

ucation and certification efforts, digitalising its government, and building up its local cybersecurity market, to say nothing of its position as a leader in regional and global cybersecurity forums. It seemed like Oman began forging its path to becoming a cybersecurity superpower. Six years ago, things started to change in major indices.

Since 2018, Oman has steadily

dropped in major indices measuring cyber capabilities. Despite leading the indices early on, Oman ranked 21st in the world in the GCI in 2020, and 30th in the world in 2024 according to the National Cyber Security Index, another index run by Estonia and the UNDP. What caused this change?

One explanation behind this is that it's not necessarily that Oman is doing worse when it comes to cybersecurity, it's that other countries are

catching up and matching or surpassing Oman's cybersecurity development pace. Moreover, different indices also have different criteria for what makes a country cybersecure, further muddying the definition of an advanced cybersecurity posture. As a researcher I interviewed at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology put it, cybersecurity readiness indices do not always

straightforwardly measure a country's cyber posture. Often, they simply represent a snapshot of a country's cyber posture development and may not capture every initiative, change, or regulation. Consequently, they do not always represent the most apt way to compare countries' approaches to cybersecurity.

Field interviews I've conducted with Omani cybersecurity experts, government officials, and journalists point to another reason behind the drop in Oman's rating: Oman can improve when it comes to cybersecurity. For example, some critical infrastructure sectors (e.g. green hydrogen and energy) currently lack publicly available cybersecurity regulation, and there is a lack of standardization in cybersecurity requirements across different sectors.

Some IT professionals I've talked to worry that cybersecurity is prohibitively expensive, forcing cybersecurity to be an afterthought (if necessary), rather than a structural design choice. Moreover, a lack of required penetration testing in the private sector and a general deficit in the cybersecurity workforce leads small and medium enterprises to either not know their cybersecurity posture or be understaffed (or both). This all points to what I coin a patchwork effect in cybersecurity: some industries have strict requirements, some do

not; some sectors have up-to-date regulations, some do not.

Paradoxically, however, this puts Oman in a strategically advantageous position. There are major benefits to regulating slowly, as Oman can learn from and implement the best global cybersecurity standards its allies, such as the United States, have put into practice. By standardizing and systematizing comprehensive cybersecurity regulations across all sectors while growing its cybersecurity workforce, Oman can and will continue its path to cyber excellence. After all, evolving threats to critical infrastructure - such as ransomware, supply chain exploitation, and attacks on artificial intelligence - have pushed cybersecurity to be top of mind for many public- and private-sector decision-makers in Oman.

Global cybercrime cost the world an estimated US\$8.15tn in 2023, and forecasts estimate that cyberattacks are expected to only increase over the next five years. And while Oman may not yet be a cybersecurity superpower, that needn't mean it won't be. Oman has some work to do to tackle tomorrow's threats, but I firmly believe it is up to the challenge.

[The views expressed in this article are entirely those of its author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Fulbright Program, the US Department of State, or any of its partner organisations]



Nasdaq Dubai welcomes \$2.35bn Sukuk issuances

Dubai, UAE - Nasdaq Dubai welcomed three Sukuk issued by Indonesia (Perusahaan Penerbit SBSN Indonesia III) totalling US\$2.35bn, under its US\$35bn Trust Certificate Issuance Programme.

These new listings reinforce Dubai's stature as the world's leading centre for Sukuk listings, with a total value of US\$96.39bn, while further strengthening the close ties between Dubai and Indonesia.

The three Sukuk issuances include US\$750mn Trust Certificates due 2029, US\$1bn Trust Certificates due 2034 and US\$600mn Trust Certificates due 2054, which is a Green Sukuk. The successful listing of these Sukuk solidifies the Republic of Indonesia's position as one of the leading Sukuk issuers on Nasdaq Dubai, with a total of 20 listings amounting to US\$24.1bn.

The total value of debt listed on Nasdaq Dubai adds up to US\$134.1bn, with Sukuk amounting to US\$93.89bn. Nasdaq Dubai continues to also lead on the ESG related listings with

green issuances totalling US\$19.7bn of the US\$29.75bn ESG related issuances.

To celebrate this occasion, Husin Bagis, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the UAE rang the market opening bell alongside Eko NM Saputro, Finance Attache at the Indonesian

Embassy in Abu Dhabi on behalf of Government of the Republic Indonesia and Hamed Ali, CEO of Nasdaq Dubai and DFM. Husin Bagis said, "We are honoured to witness the listing of the new three series of Indonesia Global Sukuk. This transaction attracts interest from diverse investor types and geography, showcasing robust investment appetite and market confidence for Indonesia given the Republic's strong economic fundamentals. The 30-year tranche was a green series and showed evidence of the Republic's dedication and long-term commitment to green and sustainable financing to combat the impact of climate change."

Hamed Ali said, "We are

The three Sukuk issuances by Indonesia include US\$750mn Trust Certificates due 2029, US\$1bn Trust Certificates due 2034 and US\$600mn Trust Certificates due 2054, which is a Green Sukuk

pleased to welcome the Republic of Indonesia's latest sukuk listings on Nasdaq Dubai. These listings not only highlight the importance of Dubai as a hub for Islamic finance but also strengthens the economic ties between the UAE and Indonesia. Moreover, the demand for these issuances demonstrates the confidence that global investors have in our market.

WAM

Fifth Japan-Arab Economic Forum kicks off in Tokyo

Tokyo, Japan - The fifth session of the Japan-Arab Economic Forum launched in Tokyo, Japan on Wednesday.

The two-day forum, organised by the Secretariat General of the Arab League and Japan's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and Economy, Trade and Industry, aims to explore ways to strengthen economic relations between Japan and the Arab countries.

At the outset of the forum, the economic and commercial conference was held between the public and private sectors from the Arab and Japanese sides.

During his speech at the conference, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Aboul Gheit emphasised that the private sector remains a key player in enhancing trade exchange between the two sides, calling for stronger partnerships between government and private sectors, as well as between companies.

He urged the Japanese government to continue encouraging its companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to expand their activities in the Arab region. Likewise, he encouraged Arab companies to take advantage of opportunities in the Japanese market, expressing his aspiration to elevate the partnership to a strategic level to align with the aspirations of the people and the economic potential of both sides.

The Secretary-General pointed out that there are several fields that could witness



progress between the two sides, including partnerships in education, energy transition, digital technology, health, artificial intelligence (AI), and more. He noted that the Japan-Arab Economic Forum could play a significant role in promoting partnership opportunities in these fields and developing them in the future.

The fifth session of the Japan-

Arab Economic Forum, held at the ministerial level, addresses topics related to resilient economic development sectors between Japan and Arab countries.

These include energy security for both supply and demand sides, digital infrastructure, innovation with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the metaverse, in addition to aspects of sustainable

economic development such as clean energy technologies, sustainable development goals initiatives, and human resource development in energy and digitalisation.

The forum's activities feature seminars and visits organised by the Japanese side. ONA

OPEC daily crude output falls by 0.3% in June

Ankara, Türkiye - Crude oil production from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decreased by 0.3%, or by 80,000 barrels per day (bpd), in June to average 26.57mn bpd, according to OPEC's monthly oil market report released on Wednesday.

Crude oil output fell mainly in Saudi Arabia, while production experienced the biggest increase in Libya and Venezuela.

Production in Saudi Arabia, the group's largest producer, declined by 76,000 bpd, whereas output rose by 24,000 bpd in Libya and by 21,000 bpd in Venezuela.

Total daily crude oil production of the OPEC+ group, which consists of OPEC and some non-OPEC producing

countries, fell by 125,000 barrels to 40.80mn bpd.

Demand forecasts

The global oil demand growth forecast for 2024 remained broadly unchanged from last month's assessment at 2.25mn bpd year on year.

Total world oil demand is anticipated to reach 104.5mn bpd in 2024, bolstered by strong demand for air travel and healthy road mobility, including trucking, the organisation said.

It is estimated that oil demand in OECD countries will increase by 190,000 bpd this year to 45.84mn barrels. In non-OECD countries, demand is expected to increase by 2.06mn bpd this year to 58.62mn barrels.

Anadolu News

DSCE reviews sustainable energy programmes

Dubai, UAE - Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE), chaired the 83rd meeting of the council, held virtually in the presence of Saeed Mohammed al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the DSCE.

The meeting was also attended by Ahmed Buti al Muhaibri, Secretary-General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and board members Dawood al Hajri, Director-General of Dubai Municipality; Abdulla bin Kalban, Managing Director of Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA); Saif Humaid al Falasi, CEO of Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC); and Juan Pablo Freile, General Manager of Dubai Petroleum.

During the meeting, the Council reviewed the semi-annual evaluation of the programmes and projects aimed at achieving sustainable development through renewable and clean energy projects and the transition to a green economy.



These initiatives are aligned with the Demand Side Management Strategy, which aims to consolidate Dubai's position as a global benchmark for water and energy efficiency to achieve savings of at least 30% by 2030 and 50% by 2050 compared to business as usual in electricity and water use.

Over the past five years, qualitative projects have focused on increasing electricity production from solar energy, reducing

water and electricity consumption, increasing the number of electric vehicle charging stations, reusing wastewater, and reducing carbon emissions.

As a result of these programmes, Dubai achieved significant reductions in electricity and water use in 2023 compared to business-as-usual scenario. Last year, Dubai reduced electricity consumption by 15.9%, equivalent to 9.7 terawatt hours, and

water consumption by 12.4%, equivalent to 18.8bn imperial gallons (BIG). These savings are equal to approximately AED14.6bn in financial terms.

"In line with the vision and directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, we are steadily progressing in implementing the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai

Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to provide 100% of the energy production capacity from clean energy sources by 2050," said Saeed Mohammed al Tayer, Vice Chairman of DSCE.

"The aim is to enhance Dubai's competitiveness, ensure the prosperity and quality of life for citizens, residents and visitors, as well as consolidate the Emirate's position as a global hub for green economy. The Council regularly evaluates existing and planned projects to keep pace with Dubai's prosperous growth by adopting the principles of circular economy and reducing energy and water consumption."

Ahmed Buti al Muhaibri, Secretary-General of DSCE, said, "Over the past years, the Council has been keen to establish implementation mechanisms for major programmes and projects supported by policies and strategies that achieve the desired goals of creating a strong local economy and society."

WAM

UNCTAD calls for strategies to curb digital economy's environmental impact

Geneva, Switzerland - UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on Wednesday launched The Digital Economy Report 2024, shedding light on the significant environmental impact of the global digital sector and the disproportionate burden developing countries bear.

This detailed report highlights that while digitalisation drives global economic growth and offers unique opportunities for developing countries, its environmental repercussions are becoming increasingly severe. Developing countries remain unevenly affected both economically and ecologically due to existing digital and development

divides, but they have the potential to leverage this digital shift to foster development.

Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary-General, underlined the need for a balanced approach: "We must harness the power of digitalisation to advance inclusive and sustainable development, while mitigating its negative environmental impacts. This requires a shift towards a circular digital economy, characterised by responsible consumption and production, renewable energy use and comprehensive e-waste management. The digital economy's growing environmental impact can be reversed".

The report emphasises the



pressing need to address the environmental costs of rapid digital transformation. Key concerns include the depletion of finite raw

materials for digital and low-carbon technologies, escalating water and energy consumption and the growing issue of digitali-

We must harness the power of digitalisation to advance inclusive and sustainable development, while mitigating its negative environmental impacts

REBECA GRYNSPAN

sation-related waste. As digitalisation progresses at an unprecedented rate, understanding its link to environmental sustainability becomes increasingly critical. Developing countries are piv-

otal in the global supply chain for transition minerals and metals, which are highly concentrated in a few regions. Africa's vast mineral deposits, essential for the global shift to low-carbon and digital technologies, include cobalt, copper, and lithium, crucial for a sustainable energy future. The continent holds significant reserves: 55% of the world's cobalt, 47.65% of manganese, 21.6% of natural graphite, 5.9% of copper, 5.6% of nickel and 1% of lithium.

According to the World Bank, demand for minerals required for digitalisation like graphite, lithium, and cobalt could surge by 500% by 2050. The increased

demand presents a development opportunity for resource-rich developing countries if they can add value to extracted minerals, utilise proceeds effectively and diversify within the value chain and other sectors.

Amid current global crises, limited fiscal space, slow growth and high debt, developing countries should maximise this opportunity by domestic processing and manufacturing. This would help them secure a larger share of the global digital economy, generate governments revenues, finance development, overcome commodity dependence, create jobs and raise living standards.

WAM

Crossing the Sahara: BMW R 1300 GS Adventure so far the best

The appearance of the new BMW R 1300 GS Adventure is sure to attract attention. Never before have seating comfort, ergonomics and wind and weather protection been so harmoniously combined with precise handling, exceptional suspension comfort and smooth running

Christof Lischka

When it comes to motorcycle adventure and long-distance touring, BMW R 1300 GS Adventure is the rock in the surf. An almost completely newly designed model with enhanced adventure expertise across the board.

Crossing the Sahara in searing heat, climbing the Himalayas or exploring the Amazon rainforests - for more than two decades the big BMW GS Adventure with flat twin boxer engine has been synonymous with such long-distance motorcycle journeys with a passenger and lots of luggage.

To ensure that this remains the case in the future, and to provide adventurous motorcyclists with even more adventure expertise, BMW Motorrad has almost completely redesigned the engine, chassis, bodywork, design and storage concept of the new R 1300 GS Adventure compared to the previous model, taking the cornerstones of the BMW GS Adventure to a new level.

The legendary twin-cylinder boxer engine is once again at the heart of the new R 1300 GS Adventure. The new design, first introduced on the R 1300 GS, is much more compact than its



The big BMW GS Adventure with flat twin boxer engine has been synonymous with long-distance motorcycle journeys with a passenger and lots of luggage

predecessor thanks to a transmission located under the engine and a new arrangement of the camshaft drive. It generates 107kW (145hp) from 1,300cc at 7,750rpm. Maximum torque is 149Nm at 6,500rpm. This makes it by far the most powerful BMW boxer engine ever to be

produced in series.

At the centre of the new suspension is the sheet metal shell main frame made of steel, which in addition to being significantly optimised in terms of installation space also offers higher levels of stiffness than the predecessor model.

In place of the previous tubular steel construction, the new R 1300 GS Adventure now has an aluminium lattice tube rear frame made of aluminium tubes and forged parts.

The EVO Telelever front wheel guide with flex element and the revised EVO Paralever rear wheel guide also provide even greater steering precision and riding stability.

The previous Dynamic ESA Next Generation electronic suspension itself offered a high level of ride safety and riding fun on a wide variety of terrains with its dynamic adjustment of the damping and adjustable spring basis at the rear.

The new electronic Dynamic Suspension Adjustment (DSA) now goes one step further, combining the dynamic adjustment

of the front and rear damping with a corresponding adjustment of the spring rate (spring stiffness) - depending on the selected riding mode, riding condition and manoeuvres. The automatic adjustment of the spring basis ensures load compensation. This makes for an even more thrilling riding experience on all surfaces. Whether solo, with passenger or with bulky luggage - DSA ensures an even higher level of ride safety, performance and comfort.

Also, the new adaptive vehicle height control and vehicle height control comfort are available ex works as optional extras for the chassis of the new R 1300 GS Adventure. With adaptive vehicle height control, the new R 1300 GS offers fully automatic adjustment of the vehicle height to suit the operating conditions, ensuring maximum comfort without having to compromise on riding dynamics and lean angle freedom. The vehicle height is lowered by 30mm when stationary and at low speeds.

The new R 1300 GS Adventure can also be fitted with the optional adaptive vehicle height control comfort system for smaller riders, or for particularly good accessibility and even easier handling. It has all the features and functions of the vehicle height control, and a standard height that is 20mm lower.

Even in the standard version, the new R 1300 GS Adventure now has four rather than three riding modes to suit individual rider preferences. The "Rain" and

"Road" riding modes allow riding characteristics to be adapted to most road conditions. With the "Eco" riding mode it is possible to achieve the maximum range on a single tank of fuel, while the additional riding mode "Enduro" enables an enhanced riding experience off the beaten track with a specific set-up for off-road use.

With the new Automated Shift Assistant (ASA), BMW Motorrad offers an innovative technical solution to make motorcycling easier and more comfortable. True to the motto "Simplify your ride", the riding experience is further enhanced by the automation of the clutch and gear shift, without sacrificing the emotionally important dynamics of the gear change.

The Automated Shift Assistant (ASA) will also be available as an option on the BMW R 1300 GS from model year 2025.

BMW Motorrad is regarded as the pioneer par excellence when it comes to motorcycling safety and related innovations.

Accordingly, the new R 1300 GS Adventurer offers a new, very small and attractive full LED headlamp with a novel, distinctive light icon as standard. The light unit consists of one LED unit for low and high beam along with four additional LED units for the daytime running light and the side light. The new R 1300 GS Adventure also features two extra-flat auxiliary headlamps with LED technology that blend harmoniously and safely into the bodywork.

Bank Muscat relaunches reward scheme under Asalah, Al Jawhar

Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has launched its highly popular scheme under Asalah and Al Jawhar banking for 2024 after its great success last year.

The current referral schemes, which will run till the end of December, offers cash rewards when referring new customers to the bank to enjoy an extraordinary experience.

It is worth noting that the current scheme is cross-referral between the two segments, 'Asalah' Priority Banking and 'Al Jawhar' Privilege Banking. Asalah customers may refer Al Jawhar customers to the bank, while Al Jawhar customers may also refer customers to open a new Asalah salary account and avail the advantages of this year's campaign.

This Asalah-Al Jawhar referral scheme has been getting positive feedback from customers every year.

"We are pleased about the relaunch of the referral scheme campaign this year for Asalah Priority Banking and Al Jawhar Privilege Banking from Bank Muscat, after the great success of the scheme last year," Abdulnasir al Raisi, General Manager - Personal Banking, Bank Muscat, declared.



Sohar International celebrates graduation of 'Financial Explorer'

Sohar International, Oman's best bank, proudly participated in the graduation ceremony of the 'Financial Explorer' programme organised by the College of Banking and Financial Studies.

As the exclusive banking sponsor, this strategic initiative underscores Sohar International's unwavering commitment to the socio-economic advancement of the sultanate and aligns seamlessly with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Representing the bank, Khalil Salim al Hedaifi, Chief Government and Private Banking Officer, attended the graduation ceremony and delivered a keynote address. Held at the College of Banking and Financial Studies premises, the ceremony was graced by the patronage of H E Dr Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, and attended by parents, and college management and faculty.

In his speech, Khalil al Hedaifi emphasised the importance of

This initiative underscores Sohar International's commitment to the socio-economic advancement of the sultanate and aligns with Oman Vision 2040

the programme in imparting essential knowledge and skills related to financial literacy, financial technologies, and entrepreneurship.

He stated, "In our ever-changing world, early education in financial concepts has become pivotal for developing financial acumen and making informed decisions about money management. At Sohar International, we continuously align with national efforts to enhance educational opportunities for our youth.

"By nurturing inclusive and accessible programs that focus

on providing students with practical entrepreneurial skills while broadening their financial literacy, we contribute to creating a youth workforce that is empowered, inspired, and skilled to lead transformational change."

The 'Financial Explorer' programme marked the culmination of an intensive two-week curriculum designed to equip 60 school students from across Oman with critical skills and knowledge in financial literacy, financial technologies, and entrepreneurship.

The curriculum encompassed three core themes: financial literacy, financial technologies (Fintech), and entrepreneurship. Participants also benefited from a variety of cultural and sports activities, as well as scientific visits.

Dr Zahran bin Salem al Salti, Dean of the College of Banking and Financial Studies, stated, "The program aims to equip students with fundamental knowledge and skills in financial literacy, technologies, and en-

trepreneurship, while also instilling positive money management behaviours to enhance banking and financial culture among the young generation. We express our gratitude to Sohar International for sponsoring the programme. Sohar International's support exemplifies how public-private partnerships can drive national progress. We hope to continue this collaboration and create a long-term impact on society."

Sohar International's steadfast support for initiatives like these underscores its unwavering commitment to advancing the nation's socio-economic development. The bank's strategic sponsorships are meticulously crafted to deeply engage with the community while delivering exceptional value to its members.

Previously, Sohar International has consistently extended its support to diverse knowledge-sharing platforms and programmes facilitated by various organisations.

INDIA

Extreme weather fuels challenges

Environmental crisis is causing displacement and forcing people to migrate to overcrowded cities

New Delhi - Weather-related disasters such as extreme heat, droughts and massive flooding are increasing in frequency and intensity in India.

While the suffering they cause is immense and wide-reaching, it usually vulnerable, impoverished communities that suffer the most.

A study conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a New Delhi-based public interest research and advocacy organisation, tracked extreme weather events that occurred in India last year and found that the country, overall, experienced such events on 314 out of the 365 days.

The CSE said 2,923 people died, almost two million hectares of crops were ruined, 80,000 homes were destroyed, and more than 92,000 animals were killed. But these numbers could be even higher because the data was not complete, according to the organisation.

The environmental crisis is also causing displacement and forcing people to migrate to already overcrowded megacities, Sunita Narain, head of the CSE, told DW.

She said human-induced climate change is impoverishing farmers and others in the agricultural sector.

"With increasing frequency of extreme weather events, people are losing the ability to cope and have no alternative but to migrate. The challenge is for all countries, particularly the rich, to take climate change targets seriously," Narain stressed.



A man rows a boat through a flood-affected area at the Balmukh village in Morigaon, Assam on Saturday (ANI)

With increasing frequency of extreme weather events, people are losing the ability to cope and have no alternative but to migrate

SUNITA NARAIN

Getting worse

India already records some of the highest numbers of population displacements in the world every year. The vast majority of is triggered by disasters.

The 'State of India's Environment-2022' report puts country

fourth in the world when it comes to climate change-induced migration. The study revealed that over three million people were forced to leave their homes in 2020-2021 due to environment-related catastrophes. The Internal Displacement

Monitoring Centre (IDMC) in India estimates there are currently about 14 mn people in total who have been forced out of their homes due to climate change. While the state is willing to provide immediate support for disaster relief and rehabilitation, there is little long-term institutional support for the needs of those affected by these disasters.

A report published by Action-Aid and Climate Action Network South Asia estimated that India alone will see 45mn people

being forced to migrate from their homes by 2050 due to climate emergencies - three times the current number of people on the move as a result of extreme weather events. The summer of 2024 has already taken its toll on parts of India, which are experiencing heavy rainfall and devastating floods.

The heavy rain followed an unbearable heat wave, which caused temperatures to hit as high as 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in places like New Delhi and the northern states of

Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Even though the main summer months - from April to June - are always hot in India, temperatures have grown more extreme in the past decade. The intensity of rain and floods has also increased.

About 80 per cent of India's population, meanwhile, lives in regions that are considered vulnerable to disasters such as heat waves or severe flooding.

Carbon emissions

Scientists say extreme weather

and the disasters associated with it are set to worsen as the planet grows warmer with emissions of greenhouse gases on the rise.

They have called for drastic measures to reduce the emissions to control the fast-rising global temperatures.

India is currently the third-highest emitter of planet-warming gases. But its per capita carbon footprint is far lower compared to Western industrialised nations.

According to the World Bank, India emits on average about two tonnes of CO2 per person every year, compared to around seven tonnes per person in the European Union and 15 in the United States.

And as part of India's climate change efforts, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has vowed to cut the nation's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2070.

Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, said India needs to develop a long-term plan to tackle the problem of climate-induced migration.

"India is experiencing a rapid pace of migration from areas with intensive agriculture, which are impacted by declining rainfall and droughts," he said.

"The affected people are moving to heavily populated megacities like Mumbai, where they face a different set of increasing climate risks, including heavy rains, cyclones, and rising sea levels," he added.

DW

SC issues notice to Bhavani Revanna

New Delhi - The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to Bhavani Revanna, mother of Prajwal Revanna, over the Karnataka SIT plea against a High Court order granting anticipatory bail to her in connection with the abduction case. However, SC remarked: "Let us not politicise the matter."

A bench of justices, Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, issued notice to Bhavani Revanna.

However, the court said to leave aside the political reasons, as it noted the reasons given by the High Court in its order. The court also noted the serious allegations

against her son, who ran away and was eventually caught. Thereafter, the court asked, in such kinds of allegations, what kind of role the mother played in abetting the crime committed by her son.

The court also said that there is only a limited point as to whether the High Court is justified in protecting her against arrest.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Karnataka State, said that the victim was kept in captivity under the family's direction and that she is the one who directed the captivity.

ANI

India, Austria to further cement friendship

Vienna, Austria - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his historic visit to Austria, has reinforced the commitment to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Austria, emphasising core democratic values and the rule of law as shared foundations.

PM Modi arrived in Vienna on Tuesday for a day-long State visit. Here, he met Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer.

The visit holds special significance as it marks several decades since an Indian Prime Minister last visited Austria, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Modi expressed his delight. "Had an excellent meeting with Chancellor Karl Nehammer. This visit to Austria is very spe-



Austrian Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer welcomes PM Narendra Modi in Vienna on Wednesday (ANI)

cial because it is after several decades that an Indian Prime Minister is visiting this wonderful country. It is also the time

when we are marking 75 years of the India-Austria friendship."

"There are several shared principles that connect us such

as democracy and rule of law. In the spirit of these shared values, Chancellor Karl Nehammer and I agreed to further cement the

India-Austria friendship across various sectors," he said in a post on X.

Economic cooperation emerged as a pivotal theme in their discussions, with both leaders acknowledging the potential for enhancing trade and investment ties. PM Modi highlighted in his post: "Stronger economic ties naturally featured in our talks but we do not want to limit our friendship to only this aspect. We see immense potential in areas like infra development, innovation, water resources, AI, climate change and more."

The meeting between the two was characterised as 'extensive and fruitful' by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

ANI

Women in politics: Have gender quotas worked in Asian nations?

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, the first woman to lead Japan's capital, clinched a third term on Sunday to extend her time in office running one of the populous cities in the world.

Dozens of candidates were competing to unseat her, with female opposition lawmaker Renho Murata one of the main challengers - a rarity in Japan's male-dominated political scene.

In the country's 47 prefectures, only two governors are women. At the national level, the ratio is similar - only about 11 per cent of members in the lower house of parliament are female. Japan does not currently have mandated gender quotas for politicians. According to Mikiko Eto, a political science professor at Hosei University, such law

would be 'the most important point' to address the disbalance.

Unlike Japan, many political systems around the world have implemented gender quotas to increase the number of women in politics.

In Taiwan, where there are reserved seats for women and candidate quotas in place, women now make up 41.6 per cent of parliament - the highest percentage of female lawmakers in Asia.

In Indonesia, women's representation in parliament was quite low before the 30 per cent candidate gender quota was introduced. In 1999, fewer than one in 10 lawmakers was female. Two decades later, that number had risen to one in five.

"In countries where women's descriptive representation is still



Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike

very low, affirmative actions like gender quotas seem to be the first step to take," Nanyung Choi, a scholar who specialises in women and politics in Southeast Asia, told DW.

In 2023, India passed a bill to set aside 33 per cent of seats for women in the lower house of the national parliament as well as in state assemblies. But the quota wasn't implemented for this year's general election. So out of the 543 lawmakers elected, only 74 were women - 14 per cent.

Elsewhere in the region, 50 seats are reserved for women in Bangladesh's 350-member parliament. But only around five per cent of the candidates vying for the other seats in the election earlier this year were women, according to data collected by the

Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Some countries in Asia have managed to increase the number of women legislators without gender quotas, 'but it is not clearly associated with democratic development', said Choi.

In Singapore, for example, around 30 per cent of members of parliament are women, but that figure is a result of 'the People's Action Party-led government's decision to appoint more women to parliament to boost its weak democratic and inclusive credentials', she added.

Beyond the numbers

While gender quotas might have led to more women in politics, Choi states that the profile of those who 'have made their way to decision-making positions'

also needs to be discussed.

Some comparative studies show that 'the majority of women parliamentarians in Asia are middle-aged, educated and professional women' while 'young and working-class women are largely absent', said Choi.

Moreover, she warns that having more women in parliament is one issue, while assessing if this 'has translated into any meaningful progress in gender equality' is a different question.

In the case of Taiwan, even with more than 40 per cent of parliamentarians being women, MPs' efforts to represent women's interests are important but insufficient as the attitude of the executive branch of the government remains the key.

DW



UK police launch manhunt after death of 3 women

London, UK - A manhunt is underway on Wednesday following the deaths of three women after they were found seriously injured at a residence in Hertfordshire, southeastern England.

Hertfordshire police were called to a property in the town of Bushey just before 7pm BST (1800 GMT) on Tuesday, where they discovered the three women with severe injuries.

All three succumbed to their injuries at the scene.

The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit has identified Kyle Clifford, 26, from Enfield, north London, as a person of interest in this case. Clifford is believed to be in either the Hertfordshire or north London areas, prompting an extensive search effort by law enforcement.

Rob Hall, detective superintendent at the unit, said in a

statement: "This is an incredibly difficult incident for the victims' family and we would ask that their privacy is respected as they come to terms with what has happened."

"Whilst we are still in the early stages of this investigation, we

Police have identified Kyle Clifford, 26, from Enfield, north London, as a person of interest in this case

are actively seeking Kyle Clifford. I would ask anyone who knows where he is to contact police immediately," he added.

Anadolu Agency

NATO allies providing Ukraine with new air defence systems

Washington, D.C., US - NATO allies are banding behind Ukraine to provide Kyiv with dozens of new air defence systems over the coming months to help stave off continued Russian aerial attacks, US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday.

The 'historic donation of air defence equipment for Ukraine' will include contributions from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and the US, Biden said during a ceremony commemorating NATO's 75th anniversary and kicking off the alliance's three-day summit in Washington, D.C.

"We know (Russian President Vladimir) Putin won't stop at Ukraine. But make no mistake - Ukraine can and will stop Putin, especially with our full collective support. They have our full support," he said at the historic Andrew W Mellon Auditorium during a lavish ceremony in the same room where NATO's founding document was signed.

Germany, Romania and the US will jointly provide Ukraine with additional Patriot batteries, while the Netherlands and 'other partners' will send what a joint leader statement described as additional 'Patriot components'. Italy will send an additional SAMP-T system. A total of five systems will be contributed under the effort.



US President Joe Biden termed the move as a 'historic donation of air defence equipment for Ukraine'

But the coming months will also see the US and its NATO allies send Ukraine 'dozens of additional tactical air defence systems', Biden said.

Those include the NASAMS, HAWKS, IRIS T-SLM, IRIS T-SLS and Gepard systems.

The president also referenced an earlier announcement that the US will pause exports of hun-

dreds of air defence interceptor munitions to other allies and partners and will redirect them to Kyiv instead as it continues to face barrages of Russian drone and ballistic missile attacks.

Biden maintained that Russia is 'failing' in what he called its 'war of choice' against Ukraine, saying that in the over two years that it has been waging the con-

flict, it has been met with 'staggering' losses, including over 350,000 dead and injured troops. Nearly one million other Russians have fled the country 'because they no longer see a future in Russia', he added.

Speaking before Biden, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said a Russian victory in Ukraine would risk em-

boldening Russia's chief international allies, posing major challenges to global security.

"The biggest cost and the greatest risk will be if Russia wins in Ukraine. We cannot let that happen," he said.

"Not only would it embolden President Putin, it will also embolden other authoritarian leaders in Iran, in North Korea and China. They all support Russia's brutal war. They all want NATO to fail. So the outcome of this war will shape global security for decades to come. The time to stand for freedom and democracy is now. The place is Ukraine," he added.

Meanwhile, addressing a Washington think tank, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for quicker action against Russian President Vladimir Putin before the US election. Zelensky and Biden are due to meet on Thursday. Moscow has said it will closely follow the summit.

Zelensky thanked NATO for its 'strong declaration' over air defence. "I am grateful to our partners - the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, and Romania - for adopting a strong declaration in support of Ukraine's air defence system to protect its people, cities, and critical infrastructure," Zelensky said.

Agencies

IN SEARCH OF MISSING PEOPLE



Rescuers search for missing people after a ferry accident in a river in Yangon, Myanmar, on Wednesday. Eight people, including three students, are missing, according to an official from a rescue organisation (Xinhua)

Death toll in riots, violence in New Caledonia rises to 10

Ankara, Turkey - The death toll of the riots in France's overseas territory of New Caledonia rose to 10 on Wednesday since the outbreak in May, according to media reports.

A man was killed during the clashes with law enforcement officers in Mont-Dore, near the capital Noumea, the broadcaster NC la 1ere said. The suspect, Rock Victorin Wamytan, who was a former convict, shot the police during clashes.

Police localised him, shot back, and killed Wamytan, who is the 10th victim of the riots and the violence in the Pacific archipelago since May.

The Pacific archipelago has been gripped by unrest since mid-May that was sparked by a bill to review electoral rules.

If changes to the electoral rules were adopted, French nationals who have lived on the island nation for at least 10 years would have been eligible to vote



The Pacific archipelago has been gripped by unrest since mid-May that was sparked by a bill to review electoral rules

in local elections. Locals, however, were concerned that the changes would dilute the indigenous Kanak population's vote.

France declared a state of emergency and deployed additional forces to assist local forces in reinstating order. Amid dia-

logue efforts, French President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the parliament and announced early elections after the far-right National Rally swept more than 31 per cent of the vote in the European Parliament elections.

Anadolu Agency

NATO getting tough on China for backing Russia's 'Ukraine aggression'

Washington, D.C., US - At their summit in the US capital, NATO leaders are not only set to approve a new military aid package for Ukraine, but also to talk tough on China.

In an interview with US media ahead of the summit, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg described China as 'the main enabler of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine'.

Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, told DW at a foreign ministers' meeting in Prague in May that China's support was 'a huge difference-maker right now on the battlefield'. He added that for China to purport to seek better relations with countries in Europe while at the same time fuelling the biggest threat to Europe's security 'does not add up'.

Beijing has repeatedly denied

supplying Moscow with weapons. However, the alliance has accused China of building up Russia's war machine by providing critical components.

According to the US assessment, China is the top supplier of machine tools, microelectronics, and nitrocellulose - critical to making munitions and rocket propellers - and other dual-use items that Moscow uses to ramp up its defence industrial base.

China's behaviour during the war in Ukraine is being viewed by NATO countries as proof that Europe cannot afford to ignore the challenge Beijing poses.

According to a senior US State Department official, the alliance is now 'focused like a laser on the relationship between China and Russia.'

This is quite a shift for an or-



ganisation that has been traditionally focused on security in the transatlantic area. China was not featured in a high-level NATO public document until the end of 2019. Only in its latest strategic concept, agreed in

Madrid in 2022, the alliance describes Beijing's ambitions as a challenge to its security.

"There is a shift," Liselotte Odgaard, a senior fellow with the conservative Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., told DW. This

shift started under former US President Donald Trump and 'has taken off in Europe'.

Odgaard pointed out that the US considered China the principal threat to its security interests for a long time. "But they have

convinced Europe - and pushed Europeans - to see that China is also a problem for Europe and for the whole US alliance system," she said.

Many in Europe now seem to acknowledge that US allies in Asia and Europe face some of the same challenges. "And as Russia and China cooperate, there is a need to mirror that cooperation by strengthening European cooperation with Asian partners," Odgaard said.

Confronted with a more assertive and aggressive China, some countries in Asia also seem to be convinced of a need for more cooperation.

When Japan's prime minister addressed a session of the US Congress in April this year, he spoke about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "Ukraine of today may

be East Asia of tomorrow," Fumio Kishida told US lawmakers.

In June, South Korean National Security Advisor Chang Ho-jin told reporters Seoul will review the possibility of supplying weapons to Ukraine, after the leaders of North Korea and Russia signed a pact pledging mutual defence in the event of war.

NATO has collaborated with partners in the Indo-Pacific since the early 2000s, but Russia's war against Ukraine and security challenges posed by China have led to a deeper engagement.

The alliance views these countries who share a region with China and bring new insights to the table as partners to counter China's and Russia's attempts to challenge the rules-based global order.

DW

Fearing arrest, Netanyahu could avoid Europe stopover on way to US

Jerusalem - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering avoiding a stopover in Europe on his way to the US over fears that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is readying to issue an arrest warrant against him over the Israeli army's crimes in Gaza.

Netanyahu is scheduled to travel to the US and to deliver a speech before the US Congress on July 24. He is also expected to meet US President Joe Biden in the White House.

On May 20, ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for

war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip. Khan also requested warrants for three of the Hamas group's top leaders including its chief Ismail Haniyeh.

The Israeli public broadcaster KAN said Netanyahu's office reviewed the matter of stopping in Europe on his way to Washington as his plane, known as Wing of Zion, is unable to make a transatlantic flight while carrying a full load of passengers.

His office reviewed the option of having a stopover in the Czech Republic or Hungary, as these two countries are considered friends to Israel, and called



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

ICC arrest requests 'unacceptable', according to KAN.

It, however, noted that Netanyahu's office in the end decided to go for a direct flight to Washington with a limited number of passengers on board.

While the US is not a member of the ICC, receiving Netanyahu despite an international arrest warrant could expose it to criticism.

Israel also is not a member of the court, whereas Palestine was accepted as a member in 2015.

The ICC, established in 2002, is an independent international body not affiliated with the

United Nations or any other international institution, and its decisions are binding.

Meanwhile, the Israeli police on Wednesday arrested nine protesters after they blocked a highway near Tel Aviv, demanding early elections and a prisoner swap deal with the Hamas group. The protesters holding a big banner reading 'enough of the government of destruction' blocked traffic on the Morasha Junction, and burned tires on the road.

The police intervened to clear the highway of the protesters and arrested nine of them.

In recent weeks, Israeli oppo-

sition parties along with families of Israeli captives held in Gaza escalated protests to pressure the Israeli government to go for a prisoner swap deal with the Hamas group.

Indirect talks have resumed this week in both Cairo and Doha as Israeli delegations were dispatched to both capitals.

Egypt, Qatar, and the US have been trying for months to secure a truce and the release of 120 remaining hostages in Gaza, but to no avail, as Israeli PM Netanyahu insists on continuing the war until the full defeat of the Hamas group in Gaza.

Anadolu Agency

Gaza City residents asked to evacuate

The Israeli army dropped leaflets calling on residents to leave Gaza City and head south towards Zawaida and Deir al-Balah

Gaza City, Palestine - The Israeli army on Wednesday ordered all Gaza City residents to evacuate and head towards the central city of Deir al-Balah.

The military dropped leaflets calling on residents to leave Gaza City immediately and head south towards Zawaida and Deir al-Balah.

"Gaza City will be a dangerous combat zone," the leaflets warn.

The flyers provide instructions on safe routes to evacuate Gaza City, via the Salah a-Din road or the coastal road.

Earlier this week, the army ordered Palestinian residents in western neighbourhoods of Gaza City to leave and head towards Deir al-Balah.

Although the army designated Deir al-Balah and Za-



waida as safe zones, the army continued to pound these areas, causing many fatalities among Palestinians.

Death toll rises to 38,295

Israeli forces killed 52 more Palestinians in attacks in the

Gaza Strip, bringing the overall death toll to 38,295 since last October 7, the Health Ministry in the besieged enclave said on Wednesday. A ministry statement added that at least 88,241 other people have been injured in the onslaught.

"Israeli forces killed 52 peo-

ple and injured 208 others in four 'massacres' against families in the last 24 hours," the ministry said, adding that 27 of the victims were killed in an airstrike on Al-Awda School in the town of Abasan, east of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

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

Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal

offensive on Gaza since an October 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian group Hamas.

Nine months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered Tel Aviv to im-

mediate halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

Stormy weather and sea conditions have required the US to move the dock several times since it was constructed two months ago.

The UN has warned that without new deliveries, the few remaining bakeries in Gaza only have enough fuel to operate for

Although Israeli army designated Deir al-Balah and Zawaida as safe zones, the army continued to pound these areas, causing many fatalities among Palestinians

US to dismantle Gaza aid pier

Meanwhile, several US officials have confirmed that a makeshift dock built off the coast of the Gaza Strip will be used to deliver some aid over the coming days before being torn down for good, the Associated Press reported.

Efforts to get humanitarian aid into Gaza have been repeatedly hampered by bad weather

another day or two. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in the first week of July, aid workers were only able to bring 500,000 litres (132,000 gallons) of fuel into Gaza and just about two million litres in June.

"In both cases, this was less than a fifth of the estimated 400,000 litres required every day to sustain humanitarian, medical and related operations," he said.

UN assessments have found that the inability to deliver aid in Gaza due to Israeli shelling has led to 'catastrophic' levels of hunger, particularly among children.

Agencies

Erdogan, Orban discuss global, regional issues

Washington, D.C., US - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban discussed bilateral ties and regional and global issues on Tuesday.

Holding a closed-door meeting on the sidelines of a NATO leaders' summit in the US, Erdogan told Orban that Turkey is continuing its peaceful efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war and Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip, according to Turkey's Communications Directorate.

Erdogan also underlined that the international community should increase its efforts to ensure peace in these regions.

The president told Orban that Ankara expects support for revitalising Turkey's European Union accession process and advancing relations with the bloc during Hungary's term presidency.

Relations between Turkey and Hungary were elevated to the level of a strategic partnership in 2013 after the establishment of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council. The friendly ties have gained momentum in every field in recent years.

Last December, the two coun-



Turkish President Erdogan receives Hungarian PM Orban in Washington

tries celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Meanwhile, Greece acknowledged on Tuesday that relations with Turkey have improved significantly since last year.

Speaking at a public debate with former US Ambassador Daniel Speckhard held at the Council on Foreign Relations, a Washington-based think tank, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said that after three years of turbulent bilateral relations, things have improved between the two NATO allies.

Mitsotakis noted that while

some fundamental Turkish positions regarding the Eastern Mediterranean remain unchanged amid the thaw in the relations, 'we are cooperating better in addressing irregular migration. We reached an agreement that allows Turkish citizens to travel to (some) Aegean islands through a visa facilitation scheme. These are among the positive steps'.

On ongoing tensions with North Macedonia, Mitsotakis said the country's new government violates the 2018 Prespa Agreement.

Anadolu Agency

Israel's actions pour cold water on truce deal

Istanbul, Turkey - While a series of talks held in Doha have raised some hope for a ceasefire in its deadly war on Gaza, analysts say Israel's recent actions and statements from its top leadership could prove to be a major stumbling block.

Israeli media reports last week said the military is gearing up for a third phase of operations in Gaza, which apparently means a transition to intelligence-based attacks from the intensive bombing that has laid waste to most of the enclave, killed more than 38,200 Palestinians and wounded over 88,000.

In a meeting attended by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and top military and intelligence officials, the army's commanders asked for at least four more months of operations in Rafah, according to Israeli Channel 12.

The reports, more or less, have poured cold water on intense speculation over a possible truce deal, although a new round of talks is set to kick off in the Qatari capital, with an Israeli delegation led by Mossad chief David Barnea departing Tel Aviv on Wednesday.

Ihab Maharmeh, a doctoral researcher at the University of



In a meeting attended by PM Netanyahu and Defence Minister Gallant, the army's commanders asked for at least four more months of operations in Rafah

Sussex, believes the ongoing negotiations are unlikely to have any impact on Israeli plans for the third phase of its 'genocidal

war'.

Palestinian groups have shown their proclivity for a ceasefire agreement, but 'Netanyahu and his right-wing coalition seem intent on continuing the genocidal war', Maharmeh, who is also a researcher at the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, told Anadolu.

"While signs indicate that Hamas has been open from day one to reach an agreement, Netanyahu is working to undermine negotiations by intensifying his aggression against civilians in Gaza."

Hamas is likely to interpret

this as a signal that Israel is not genuinely interested in a ceasefire, he said, with the group having clarified that any agreement must have a complete end to Israeli aggression.

"Nevertheless, Hamas will remain open to any agreement that achieves a ceasefire, withdraws the IDF from Gaza, and contributes to humanitarian aid entry," he added.

Maharmeh said even if there is a 'temporary truce' then Netanyahu can be expected to simply use it to 'repatriate some Israeli prisoners only to resume the genocidal war afterward'.

Anadolu Agency

GOLDEN TOUCH



Lionel Scaloni

‘Messi can be with our team for as long as he wants to be’

East Rutherford, US - Argentina's path to the Copa America final has been no bed of roses, coach Lionel Scaloni said, as he lauded his players for their performance in Tuesday's 2-0 semi-final win over Canada.

Canada, ranked 48th in the world, played high-energy football and looked to turn the match into a physical battle but Argentina's quality shone through in the end.

"It is extremely tough to reach another final. It is tough because we know how hard it is to get there," Scaloni told reporters.

"The bar has been set very high. Everyone thought it was going to be a bed of roses and it wasn't like that at all. Canada proved it today by being a very difficult opponent."

This edition of the Copa America is likely to represent the last chance for many senior squad members to add to their trophy collection with the national team.

"You know how I feel about Angel. We don't want to retire him earlier than needed," Scaloni said.

"We don't want to feel melancholy. We have to let him play, and then we'll see if we can convince him or not to stay with us. But so far, he's here, and he has to be allowed to enjoy this moment."

"For Leo (Messi), it's similar to Angel. We have to let him be and we will never be the ones to close the door. He can be with our team for as long as he wants to be. And if he wants to retire but still come and hang around, it would be great."

Messi scores as Argentina beat Canada to reach Copa America final

East Rutherford, US - Defending champions Argentina booked their place in the Copa America final after goals from Julian Alvarez and Lionel Messi gave them a 2-0 win over Canada in Tuesday's semifinal in New Jersey.

Argentina will face either Uruguay or Colombia in Sunday's final in Florida, a match that could represent the last shot at silverware for several senior squad members including Messi, Angel Di Maria and Nicolas Otamendi.

"Let's enjoy what we are experiencing as a national team, as a group. It is not easy to be in a final again, to compete again to be champions," Messi told TyC Sports.

"I'm living it as I have been living everything lately: enjoying it very much and being aware, as it happens to Fideo (Di Maria) and Ota (Otamendi), that these are the last battles."

Argentina have won a joint-record 15 Copa titles and reached the final six times in the past eight



Lionel Messi celebrates with teammates after scoring against Canada in the Copa America semifinal on Tuesday

editions but Canada caused them real problems in the opening 20 minutes, Jacob Shaffelburg twice shooting wide from promising positions.

After soaking up the early pressure, though, Argentina went ahead when Rodrigo De Paul played through Alvarez, who ghosted in between two defenders to score with a tidy finish in the 22nd minute.

Argentina, 2022 World Cup winners and number one in FIFA's rankings, gradually took control and Messi had a chance to double their lead in the 44th minute when he created space in the box with some silky footwork before lashing his effort wide.

Canada nearly snatched an equaliser against the run of play in first-half stoppage time as Jonathan David sneaked in ahead of his marker to get on the end of a long throw, but his close-range shot was hit straight at goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.

Messi had struggled with a muscle injury earlier in the tournament but appeared revitalised on a hot and humid evening at the MetLife Stadium.

He scored Argentina's second in the 51st minute, sticking out a boot to divert Enzo Fernandez's shot from the edge of the area past Canada goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau.

Marsch: We've put together some incredible performances

East Rutherford, US - Canada coach Jesse Marsch said he was proud of what his squad had achieved at the Copa America despite Tuesday's semi-final defeat by Argentina after the North American underdogs put higher ranked teams in the shade on their tournament debut.

Former Leeds United manager Marsch took over just five weeks before the tournament kicked off but Canada adapted quickly to his methods and outperformed fellow CONCACAF sides Mexico and the US, who failed to make it out of the group stage.

Canada, who will co-host the 2026 World Cup with Mexico and the US, gave Argentina a run for their money in the opening stages of the semi-final before goals from Julian Alvarez and Lionel Messi sealed a 2-0 win for the defending champions.

Argentina had defeated the Canadians by the same score in the tournament opener.

"What I said to the team afterwards is I know that they're very disappointed, but I'm very proud of them," Marsch told reporters.

We need to find a way to expand our player pool. We need to continue to challenge our group to come together and be able to perform in moments like this.

JESSE MARSCH

"We've put together some incredible performances, just starting our process."

"We need to find a way to expand our player pool. We need to continue to challenge our group to come together and be able to



Jesse Marsch

perform in moments like this.

"But in general, we've had a wonderful five-six weeks together and it's gone way better than any of us could have scripted. There's still a lot of work to do, but we've built a really good foundation."

Canada's semi-final appearance marks their deepest run at a major tournament outside the Gold Cup and they have a third-placed playoff to come on Saturday.

"I'm trying to really build and develop every single player in this pool so that we can have a real 26-man squad when it comes to 2026. So the match on Saturday will also be vital for that because we'll make some changes, we'll get some new faces on the pitch and challenge them to be able to see if they can hold up in these kinds of matches."

Oman ready for ICC World Cup League 2 in Scotland

Muscat - A new venue and a changed format (50-over-a-side) welcomed Oman national cricket team in Scotland as they arrived earlier this week to compete in the ICC Cricket World Cup League 2 (CWCL2), which will be held from July 16-24.

Following the disappointment of the ICC T20 World Cup in West Indies, where Duleep Mendis' men lost all four games in the group stage, the team regrouped at home and had a brief camp before departing for Scotland. Aaqib Ilyas, who led Oman at the T20 World Cup, has been retained as skipper.

Three changes have been made to the squad that participated in the T20 World Cup with Jay Odedra, Samay Shrivastava and Karan Sonawale drafted into the team. The players who have been dropped are Naseem Khushi, Mohammad Nadeem and Shakeel Ahmed.

The Men in Red are scheduled to play a 50-over tri-nation tournament as part of the CWCL2 and will face hosts Scotland and Namibia in the series.

Both Scotland and Namibia



Oman will play a 50-over tri-nation tournament as part of the CWCL2 and will face hosts Scotland and Namibia

were coincidentally part of the same group at the T20 World Cup. Oman lost to Namibia in a Super Over in Barbados and then were outplayed by Scotland in Antigua.

Coach Mendis was confident that the team, which has few changes from the T20 squad, will put up a strong performance in the CWCL2, where Oman had finished behind Scotland in the

previous cycle to qualify for the ICC ODI World Cup qualifier in Zimbabwe.

The ICC has tweaked the format and in the current cycle, has included eight teams in the CWCL2.

Oman meet Scotland on 16 July and then take on Namibia on 18 July. They play again with Oman taking on the hosts on 22 July and Namibia on 24 July.

Prior to the main competition, Oman will take on Scotland A team in two 50-over practice games on 11-12 July at Forfarshire CC's Forthill ground, the venue of CWCL2.

Mendis said: These warm-up games will give us a good idea of the conditions here in Scotland. It is always nice to play few friendly games ahead of the main competition.

The weather is much better than Oman at this time and the players are getting used to the conditions having arrived well in advance."

The 2024-2026 ICC Cricket World Cup League 2 (CWCL2) is the second edition that forms part of the 2027 ODI World Cup qualification process.

With Super League scrapped, the CWCL2 has been increased from seven to eight teams and Scotland are the defending champions.

The teams participating are Canada, Namibia, Netherlands, Scotland, Nepal, USA, UAE and Oman. The top four will advance to the next round following a total of 144 matches and then play the final qualifier featuring 10 teams, with four top teams joining the top eight for the World Cup.

Oman team: Aaqib Ilyas (c), Zeeshan Maqsood, Ayaan Khan, Kashyap Prajapati, Shoaib Khan, Karan Sonawale, Pratik Athawale, Jay Odedra, Khalid Kail, Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Samay Shrivastava, Rafiullah.

Free home delivery & timely service

Oman Oasis
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Oasis Water Co. SAOC,
PO Box 87, Rusayl 124,
Sultanate of Oman.
www.omanoasis.com

CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222
or GSM: 9275 5522

Winner of
His Majesty's Cup Award
in 2012 & 2013
for Best Five Factories

C.O. No. 1206402

BLAST FROM FUTURE

Record-breaking Yamal scores stunner as Spain edge France to reach Euro final

Munich, Germany - Spain struck twice in five minutes in a pulsating first half to secure a 2-1 comeback win over France on Tuesday as a record-breaking goal from teenager Lamine Yamal and a Dani Olmo effort propelled them into the Euro 2024 final.

The 16-year-old Yamal cancelled out Randal Kolo Muani's opener with a sublime shot in the 21st minute to become the youngest scorer in a Euro or World Cup before Olmo added another in the 25th for his third goal in the knockout stage.

The Spaniards, who have won every game of the tournament so far, confirmed their favourites tag with another display of attacking football, especially in the first half, that is a far cry from the tiki-taka passing game that earned them world and European titles more than a decade ago.

"I'm very happy to have made it to the final," said man-of-the-



Spain's Lamine Yamal scores against France in their Euro 2024 semifinal match on Tuesday

We were in a difficult moment, you wouldn't expect a goal so soon. I wanted to put it in where it went in, and I'm very happy. I'm happy and content with the victory.

LAMINE YAMAL

match Yamal. "Now the most important thing is to win it. We were in a difficult moment, you wouldn't expect a goal so soon."

"I wanted to put it in where it went in, and I'm very happy. I'm

happy and content with the victory. I want to win, win and win," added the teenager.

They will now face the winners of Wednesday's match between England and Netherlands

in the final in Berlin on Sunday as they hunt for a record-breaking fourth European crown.

It was an anti-climactic end to France's tournament, although the 2022 World Cup finalists never lived up to expectations in

Germany with a very low conversion rate that carried into the semi-final.

"Spain proved tonight that they are a very good team. We were fortunate to open the scoring, but they caused us problems

because they were superior in terms of control," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

"Tonight they showed all their qualities. We were... perhaps a little less fresh, which led to some technical waste, particu-

larly in the build-up of the game. We didn't push forward often enough."

Spain had an early chance when Yamal, the youngest player to feature in a Euro semi-final, floated a cross to the far post but Fabian Ruiz headed over the bar.

France did better from an almost identical move in the ninth minute with Kylian Mbappe, playing without a mask after breaking his nose earlier in the tournament, crossing for Kolo Muani to head in their first goal from open play at Euro 2024.

But the Spaniards, who were missing suspended Dani Carvajal and Robin Le Normand as well as injured Pedri, quickly turned the game around. Yamal curled a stunning left-footed effort from 25 metres in off the post to break another record held by Brazil great Pele, as the youngest scorer in a Euro or World Cup. Before France had any time to recover Olmo completed their lightning-quick comeback in the 25th with a shot that was deflected in by France's Jules Kounde.

France, who had only conceded one goal in their previous five games in the tournament, upped the tempo after the break and had chances through Mbappe and Theo Hernandez.

But they could not carve out an equaliser with Spain, pulling back and successfully soaking up the pressure.

No fairytale finish for record scorer Giroud

Munich, Germany - The international career of France's top scorer Olivier Giroud ended quietly on Tuesday, after a late cameo appearance in their 2-1 semi-final loss to Spain at the European Championship.

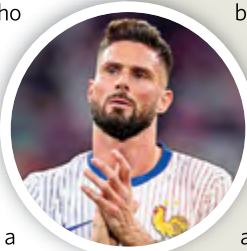
Giroud played 137 times for Les Bleus and scored 57 goals, more than any other player for France.

Hopes of a final swansong in Germany, however, were dampened by being relegated to the bench, with 56 minutes of game time in four substitute appearances and two attempts on goal.

Giroud, 37, announced his retirement from international football before the tournament, as he secured a move to Los Angeles FC after finishing at AC Milan last season.

"He had a lot of good moments, but also some more difficult ones," coach Didier Deschamps.

"He is an example of longevity, seriousness and professionalism. Even though he had less playing time at this Euro, he was fully with the squad. He is one of the leaders. I want to say well done and thank you."



Olivier Giroud

France look to learn lessons after semifinal disappointment

Dortmund, Germany - France were among the favourites for Euro 2024 and while they reached the semi-final stage their exit left many feeling that their tournament had been a failure.

Securing a place in the final four saw coach Didier Deschamps achieve a contract target and he is set to remain at the helm for two more years, but few in the French set-up will emerge with much credit from the tournament in Germany.

Their much-vaunted forward line left with reputations battered and attacking midfielder Antoine Griezmann with questions over his international future.

Even their defence, which had stood firm throughout the tournament, crumbled when needed



France's Kylian Mbappe and teammates are dejected after the defeat

the most as they allowed Spain to fight back for a 2-1 win.

Kylian Mbappe was perhaps the biggest disappointment, contributing only a penalty and an assist, but with mitigating cir-

cumstances. A broken nose in France's opener against Austria threatened a premature end to his participation but after missing the next match he returned with a mask to protect his face.

Reaching final 'a dream come true' for wonderkid Yamal

Munich, Germany - Spain teenager Lamine Yamal on Tuesday sought to play down excitement over his wonder goal against France, but said reaching the European Championship final was a dream come true for him - and his mother too.

Sixteen-year-old Yamal eclipsed Brazilian great Pele to become the youngest player to score in a World Cup or Euros with a stunning 21st-minute strike that sailed into the top corner, helping Spain come from a goal down to beat France 2-1.

He was asked how he felt about scoring what could be the goal of Euro 2024.

"I'm really happy for the victory and for getting to the final. I don't know if it's the best goal of the tournament but it's the most special for me because getting to a final with the national team in the Euros is something super special for me," he told reporters.

With his creativity, pace and panache, Yamal has glittered as part of a Spain side who have



Spain's Lamine Yamal celebrates after scoring against France in their Euro 2024 semifinal match on Tuesday

won all their six matches at Euro 2024. They are now within reach of a record-breaking fourth Euros title.

His coach Luis de la Fuente described Yamal's goal as "a touch of genius".

Yamal was asked if he was

aware he had become an icon of the tournament and said it did not matter what people thought of his individual contribution.

"I try not to look at that too much. I don't know if I'm the icon or not.

"That doesn't really help any-

thing on the pitch. I need to help my team, that's what I try to do and that's what I tried to do today," he said.

"I was really happy after the final whistle. It's a dream come true, reaching a final with the senior national team."



Investment opportunity

Healthcare Industry

Well equipped clinic for lease at Al Hail !

For more details
Contact: 95076464

De la Fuente all praise for Spain's work rate

Munich, Germany - Spain coach Luis de la Fuente hailed his team's quality and cohesion in coming from a goal down to beat France, a feat he took no credit for and said was all about his players' insatiable hunger for success.

De la Fuente said his team had versatility and outstanding individual qualities, which when put together created a special brand of football that would be on show in Sunday's final, regardless of whether the opponent is England or Netherlands.

"Our idea of football is based



Spain's Dani Olmo celebrates his goal with teammates

on our self-assurance. This is what we want to play, we want to play to our strengths. I know that we are able to play football, we've seen it throughout the tournament," he told reporters.

"Individually they are fantastic but they offer the collective benefits of their individual qualities ... they always work for the common good, for the collective effort. They are very generous in their efforts and work rate. This is just one more sign that this is an insatiable team, they want to keep improving with the spirit of sacrifice."



14

PIZZAS AT HOME

Try these recipes for home-made pizzas - not available with a dial



15

IN TOWN

Srilankan Tourism Roadshow hosted by Embassy of Sri Lanka



16

ENTERTAINMENT

A peek into tinsel town, in Hollywood and Bollywood

IN FOCUS: DALKHOUT

GREEN

glory

Visit

‘Dhofar’s gateway to Khareef serenity’ that transforms into a sheet of green, with dewy mornings and mesmerising odours of flora and fauna in July

As the Khareef season unfurls with its misty embrace, the Wilayat of Dalkhout in the western corner of Dhofar Governorate beckons with its lush green mountains and captivating views of the Arabian Sea, drawing tourists from near and far.

Dalkhout marks the onset of the Khareef season, nestled along the coastal strip where nature unfolds in pristine beauty and diverse landscapes.

The Wilayat includes the Khadrafi area, renowned for its natural abundance and once-flourishing Kadhi trees, which

faced near extinction due to overgrazing and regional animal populations. Sultan Qaboos University has played a crucial role in their preservation and propagation of this species through dedicated research initiatives.

The terrain of Dalkhout is a tapestry of natural wonders, complemented by its prolific seafood harvest, including squid and various fish species that Dhofar Governorate is celebrated for.

The region’s historical depth is reflected in its archaeological sites, cave inscriptions, and a mosque dating back 350 years. Dalkhout also

thrives in crafts, agriculture, and enjoys moderate weather year-round.

Natural springs like Harfut, Al-Maghsil, Khadrafi, and Sarfit dot the valleys of Jabal al-Qamar, while ancient caves and grottoes, such as Shisa, Mashalul, and Isbeer, have served as shelters through millennia, adorned with archaeological marvels that are now attractions for tourists.

Dalkhout, with its blend of natural splendour and cultural heritage, invites visitors, domestic and foreign, to discover its serene landscapes and vibrant history amidst the Khareef season’s vibrance.



Majestic Baobab

Among its treasures, Dalkhout hosts a majestic baobab tree, one of Oman’s largest, revered by visitors, researchers, and wildlife enthusiasts alike. This monumental tree stands as a symbol of environmental resilience and a focal point for ecotourism in the region.



HOME-MADE PIZZAS

The 'imp' and the crust

Scrumptious pizzas are not always something that you dial for, rather they can be something you die for if you try making them at home, focusing on the ‘important tips’ that make them crisp and crunchy

Mushroom Puff Pastry Pizza

Ingredients

All-purpose flour - for dusting
1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
2tbsp olive oil - for brushing and drizzling
400g salted butter
4 baby bella mushrooms - sliced
½ cup crushed garlic cloves
Salt and black pepper, to taste
¾ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
Thinly sliced fresh chives - for topping

Method

Preheat the oven to 220°C. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

On a lightly floured surface, gently roll out the puff pastry into a 20cm x 30cm rectangle. Transfer to the prepared baking sheet. Use a paring knife to score a 1.5cm border around the edges without cutting all the way through. Poke the pastry all over inside the border with a fork. Brush the center of the pastry with a thin layer of olive oil. Bake until golden and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the mushrooms and garlic and cook, stirring, until starting to brown, about 4 minutes. Add a pinch each of salt and pepper. Cook until the liquid is mostly evaporated. Sprinkle the mozzarella over the puff pastry, avoiding the border. Top with the mushrooms and bake until the cheese is melted and the pastry is golden brown - 10 to 12 minutes. Let it cool for 10 minutes, then top with the chives and drizzle with more olive oil. Cut into pieces.

Important tip: Before baking the pastry, poke it all over (inside the border) with a fork to enable aeration.



Cauliflower Crust Pizza

Ingredients

- 2 300g bags riced cauliflower - thawed
- 60g cream cheese - softened
- ¼ cup plus 1tbsp grated parmesan cheese - divided
- 1 large egg - beaten
- 3 garlic cloves - grated, divided
- 1½tsp salt, divided
- 1tsp ground black pepper - divided
- ½tsp Italian seasoning
- 33tbsp olive oil - divided
- 1tbsp medium yellow cornmeal
- 1tbsp unsalted butter
- 200g baby bella mushrooms - sliced, 1tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 2tsp balsamic vinegar
- ½ cup ricotta cheese
- 2tbsp chopped Italian parsley, plus more to serve
- 1½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- Red chilli flakes - optional

cornmeal. Place the cauliflower mixture onto the prepared parchment. Gently pat the crust into a 12-inch round. Transfer the half sheet pan to the preheated baking stone. Bake until the crust is golden and dried out, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove to a wire rack.

Melt the butter in a medium sauté pan over medium heat. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring frequently until the liquid reduces and the mushrooms begin to brown. Stir in the thyme, 1 grated garlic clove, ½tsp salt, and ¼tsp pepper and stir until mushrooms are golden brown. Stir in the balsamic vinegar and allow the vinegar to reduce slightly, about 30 seconds. Remove the mushrooms from the heat.

Combine the ricotta, 2tbsp parsley, remaining grated garlic clove, ¼tsp salt, and ¼tsp pepper in a medium bowl.

Brush the surface of the cauliflower crust with the remaining 1tbsp of olive oil and sprinkle with the remaining 1tbsp of parmesan. Sprinkle the mozzarella all over. Dot the surface with the ricotta mixture. Top with the mushrooms. Bake until the cheese is melted and bubbly, 12 to 14 minutes more.

Allow to sit 5 minutes. Carefully remove from parchment and place on a cutting board. Garnish with more parsley and red chilli flakes, if you like. Slice and serve hot.

Important tip: Freezing riced cauliflower after pressing out the moisture, and before cooking, helps in keeping bad odour out.

Method

Preheat the oven to 220° C. Place a pizza stone, steel, or an upside-down baking sheet on the upper third rack of the oven. Place the cauliflower in the center of a lint free kitchen towel. Pull the four sides up to make a bundle and squeeze very well over the sink to remove as much moisture as possible. Combine the dried cauliflower, cream cheese, ¼ cup of parmesan, egg, 1 grated garlic clove, 1tsp salt, ½tsp ground black pepper, and Italian seasoning in a medium bowl until well combined.

Place a 14-inch piece of parchment paper on a half-sheet pan. Pour 2tbsp of the oil onto the parchment and dust with the

FUN WITH FOOD

1. How many Papa John's outlets are there in Oman?
- A. 22
- B. 16
- C. 29
- D. 12

Email your answers to
hubert.vaz@apexmedia.c.om
with your name and telephone number.
The first two correct answers will win
Food Vouchers from Papa John's.

PAPA JOHN'S
Better Ingredients, Better Pizza.

Fruit Pizza

Ingredients

For the cookie crust

11/3 cup unsalted butter - softened
1½ cup granulated sugar
1tsp orange zest
1tsp vanilla
2 large eggs
2tbsp whole milk - at room temper- ature
4 cups all-purpose flour
1tbsp baking powder
½tsp salt

For the frosting

2 jars marshmallow creme
240g cream cheese

For toppings

- 1 cup mango cubes
- ½ cup sliced strawberries
- 1 can mandarin oranges - drained
- 1 kiwi - sliced

1 cup blueberries and raspberries
2 peaches - pitted and sliced
1 pear - cored and sliced

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C. For the cookie crust, in a large bowl, cream the butter, sugar, orange zest, and vanilla thoroughly. Add the eggs and beat until light and fluffy. Add the milk and mix.

In a medium bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt, then blend this into the butter mixture. Divide the dough into 2 disks and lightly flatten each disk between 2 sheets of parchment paper.

Refrigerate dough for 1 hour.

Roll each dough half into a 25cm round, then transfer to pizza pans. Bake for until the cookie dough is cooked and golden brown, but not overly crisp and set aside to cool.

For the frosting, in a mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whip together the marshmallow creme and cream cheese until light in texture. Spread onto each cooled crust. To decorate, top the pizza with prepared sliced fruit, as desired. Slice into squares or wedges and serve.

Important tip: Let the crust cool completely before spreading the cheese mixture.



take a break

IN TOWN

Tourism roadshow



Srilankan Tourism Roadshow hosted by Embassy of Sri Lanka







Photos: V.K. Shafer

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

- 

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19
It's a big balancing act when it comes to love, work, family, friends, and private life. The trick is getting what you need when you need it and making sure others get what they need from you. Prioritizing and flexibility. With those two tools, you can make almost anything work. Yes, at some moments a few of your major priorities will have to fall by the wayside.
- 

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20
There's a time for fun and games and that time is...now. Yes, really! The stars want you to go and play. Turn off the computer, turn off the TV, and get out of the house. Come on now. No rolling your eyes and grumbling about how you just want to relax. Grab your sweetheart or best pal and plan a fun adventure somewhere out there in the great wide open.
- 

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21
Underestimating people is almost always a mistake, and that's especially true in your case. So why not stop being so hard on everybody else (and yourself) and give 'em a break? It's all a matter of having expectations and managing them sensibly. For instance, if you expect to fail, very often that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- 

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22
Turn "I wish" into "I will" and "I can't" into "I can." Don't you think it's about time you started taking yourself seriously? So stop telling yourself that your plans, hopes, and desires are silly. Don't dismiss what your soul is trying to tell you. Listen to your secret wishes and see where they lead you. The stars are telling you that now is the time. Who knows?
- 

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Hold back that boundless ambition for now. You have something more immediate that needs handling on the home front and you know it. Whether it's family, friends, or sweethearts, someone's been clamouring for your attention. Can you help it that you're so charming and lovable that you're actually necessary to some people? Go ahead. Take a break.
- 

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
The stars are telling you to accept gracefully the things you can't change, to have the courage to change the things you can, and to develop the ability to tell the difference. It's understandable that this can all seem a little bit confusing, especially at first. After all, that's a pretty tall cosmic order to fill. Fortunately, you have the wisdom and perceptiveness to see it through, and then some.
- 

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Like the great duets of the ages, you and a certain someone make such beautiful music together. Right now, collaboration brings out the best in both of you, especially when it comes to work-related topics. This person may not have been your first choice, but you've turned out to be a first-class duo after all.
- 

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
To appreciate where you are now, you have to take a look at where you've come from. This will be especially rewarding for you now that you have the ultimate gift from the cosmos: hindsight. Go ahead and take a good, long look, and don't be afraid to be honest with yourself about what you see. You'll find that your ability to accept reality will make you appreciate your present situation all the more.
- 

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
In the infinite wisdom of the Beatles: all you need is love, love is all you need. And now more than ever their little homily is right on in more ways than one. So apply their words to any and all areas of your life that seem blocked or otherwise impossible in this moment. You might be surprised by the healing power of kindness and affection.
- 

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19
Farmers know that fields have to lie fallow or nothing planted in them will bloom. The same principle applies to your life. If you've been working far too many hours, it's time to find a way to relax truly so that you too can grow during the appropriate season. So don't fret too much if you're feeling a little low energy.
- 

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18
If you make a promise to someone (including yourself), make sure you follow through. If, on the other hand, you find yourself making about a million commitments without the wherewithal to ensure they happen, now is the time to ask yourself why you're bent on promising the impossible. Take on a doable load and accomplish every responsibility you commit to.
- 

PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20
The skill of flirting doesn't just apply in the realm of romance, you know. Sometimes it's necessary to perform that delicate dance of come-closer-no-wait-no-really-come-closer with other desirable elements in your life. Before you plunge into a wholehearted commitment, it's a good idea to take it for a test drive.

BOGGLER

G	O	N	O
R	I	I	O
M	I	D	T
A	R	S	M

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

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

DO YOU SUDOKU?

LEVEL EASY:

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

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

TRIVIA QUIZ - FOR TEENS

1. What was Leonardo da Vinci's famous portrait, known for its mysterious smile, called?



A. Mona Darling
B. Dream Girl
C. Mona Lisa
D. Smiling Lisa

2. Who was the first president of the United States?

A. George Washington
B. John Adams
C. Abraham Lincoln
D. Theodore Roosevelt

3. How many petals does the periwinkle flower have?

A. Three
B. Five
C. Six
D. Twelve

Answers
3. B
2. A
1. C

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

entertainment

JAMES CAMERON'S 'RIGHT HAND MAN' DIES

Jon Landau, the Oscar-winning producer who made the dreams of James Cameron come to life by overcoming extreme logistical challenges to bring the filmmaker's *Titanic* and *Avatar* blockbusters to the big screen, has died. He was 63.

Landau's son Jamie Landau confirmed that he died Friday in Los Angeles after a 16-month battle with cancer. A son of producers, Landau produced films including *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* (1989) and *Dick Tracy* (1990) before spending some five years as an executive at Fox, where he oversaw *Die Hard 2* (1990).



Ellen Pompeo to return with 'Grey's Anatomy' new episodes

Meredith Grey will be doing more rounds when *Grey's Anatomy* returns. Ellen Pompeo, who has starred as Dr Meredith Grey since the Shonda Rhimes-produced ABC series launched in 2005, will be back for more episodes when season 21 returns. Viewers will see her onscreen in at least seven episodes in the forthcoming season.

WHATS ON

Genre

Comedy

Starring:

Scarlett Johansson, Channing Tatum, Christian Clemenson

Language:

English



FLY ME TO THE MOON

Starring Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, *Fly me to the Moon* is a sharp, stylish comedy-drama set against the backdrop of NASA's historic Apollo 11 Moon landing.

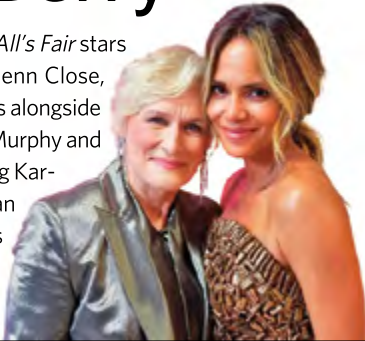
BEIBER PERFORMS A 10 MILLION DOLLAR GIG

Justin Bieber performed at the pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani (son of India's richest man Mukesh Ambani) and his fiancée Radhika Merchant earlier this week. The grapevine says Bieber was paid US\$10m for the private gig. The Canadian pop star and millennial heartthrob performed his 2015 hit *Love yourself*, and his 2017 collaboration with DJ Khaled *I am the One*, apart from his first and popular hit *Baby*. His Instagram has ever since been flooded with fun photos and videos from his encounter with the billionaire heir and his bride.



New Hulu drama stars Kim Kardashian and Halle Berry

Hulu's upcoming legal drama series *All's Fair* stars Kim Kardashian, Halle Berry, and Glenn Close, who also serve as executive producers alongside Ryan Murphy. The show, created by Murphy and others, is a glossy procedural featuring Kardashian as a top divorce attorney at an all-woman L A law firm. This marks Berry's first series role since 2015's *Extant*.



CAN THIS YOUTUBER BE NEXT US PRESIDENT?

Jimmy, aka 'Mr Beast', the world's top YouTuber broke the internet by simply tweeting, "If we lower the age to run for president I'll jump in the race." The now viral post led to 30 million plus views with a majority further sharing support for Jimmy. Alas for his fans, Jimmy does not meet the minimum age criteria for the coveted job.

Jimmy is known for his philanthropy and wild videos that have a message of goodness.



MAYHEM AND TENDER MOMENTS



BOLLYWOOD MOVIE REVIEW: DESPICABLE ME 4

Genre: Action Starring: Kristen Wiig, Steve Carell, Pierre Coffin, Will Ferrell

Despicable Me 4 is a 2024 American animated comedy film produced by Universal Pictures and Illumination. It serves as the sequel to *Despicable Me 3* (2017), the fourth main installment, and the sixth overall installment in the *Despi-*

cable Me franchise.

The film, directed by Chris Renaud, co-directed by Patrick Delage (in his feature directorial debut), produced by Chris Meledandri and Brett Hoffman, and written by Mike White and Ken Daurio, stars the voices of Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Pierre

Coffin, Joey King, Miranda Cosgrove, Steve Coogan, Sofia Vergara, Stephen Colbert, Renaud, Madison Polan, Dana Gaier, Chloe Fineman, and Will Ferrell.

In the film, Gru (Carell) and his family, now including Gru Jr., are forced to relocate to a safe house to hide from Maxime Le Mal (Ferrell), an old schoolmate and rival of Gru who seeks revenge with his girlfriend Valentina (Vergara). At the same time, one of the new neighbours, Poppy Prescott (King) is

intent on getting Gru to help her to get enrolled to his school.

In the first *Despicable Me* movie in seven years, Gru, the world's favourite supervillain-turned-Anti-Villain League-agent, returns for an exciting, bold new era of Minions mayhem in Illumination's *Despicable Me 4*. Gru faces a new nemesis in Maxime Le Mal (Emmy winner Will Ferrell) and his femme fatale girlfriend Valentina (Emmy nominee Sofia Vergara), and the family is forced to go on the run.

The film features fresh new characters voiced by Joey King (*Bullet Train*), Emmy winner Stephen Colbert (*The Late*



Show with Stephen Colbert) and Chloe Fineman (*Saturday Night Live*). Pierre Coffin returns as the iconic voice of the Minions and Oscar nominee Steve Coogan returns as Silas Ramsbottom.

The plot unfolds as Anti-Villain League (AVL) agent Felonious Gru attends a reunion at his school Lycée Pas Bon where he reunites with his rival Maxime Le Mal, who has a feud with Gru for stealing his talent show act when they were younger. Maxime reveals he has enhanced himself with cockroach parts to make himself overpowered and so he can conquer the world, but Gru has him

arrested with the help of the AVL. Maxime escapes prison and reveals his invention that turns people into human-roach hybrids, which he plans to use specifically on Gru's biological infant son Gru Jr. The roller-coaster continues with some stupid moments but more fizz than earlier versions.

Parents need to know that *Despicable Me 4* is part of the popular supervillain-turned-good animation franchise. There's a glimpse of a Minion butt, plus plenty of Minion jokes and lots of heartfelt family moments.

Rating ★★★★★



DRIVE A MAZDA FOR LESS LIMITED-TIME ONLY

EXCLUSIVE OFFER



MAZDA 2
1.5L
STARTING PRICE
RO **5,699**
★ 3 DAYS ONLY



MAZDA CX-60
2.5L
STARTING PRICE
RO **10,999**
★ 3 DAYS ONLY



MAZDA CX-90
3.3L TURBO MHEV
STARTING PRICE
RO **15,999**
★ 3 DAYS ONLY



MAZDA CX-3
2.0L
STARTING PRICE
RO **7,499**
★ 3 DAYS ONLY

DO NOT MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY! RUSH NOW.
OFFER VALID FROM JULY 9 TO 11 2024

VISIT YOUR NEAREST MAZDA SHOWROOM TODAY!