

Social media, IT security guidelines issued

Guidelines designed to ensure protection of valuable information assets and standardise cybersecurity measures within government agencies



Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) has issued a set of comprehensive security guidelines aimed at enhancing information security practices across government entities in Oman.

The guidelines are designed to ensure protection of valuable in-

formation assets and standardise cybersecurity measures within government agencies.

Among the key safeguards are the Basic Information Security Controls Guidelines outlining fundamental security standards that government organisations must adhere to. These provide the necessary measures to protect important information assets, reinforcing the overall security

posture of government bodies.

Given the increasing use of social media and the associated risks, MTCIT also released a Social Media Security Guide. This document provides guidelines to enhance the security of social media accounts managed by government entities, ensuring these measures do not conflict with internal security policies. 'The ministry is also diligently

TRA launches campaign to combat cyber fraud

Muscat - Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has launched an awareness campaign called 'La Tamshi Alaik' ('Don't Let Them Fool You') in collaboration with Royal Oman Police, Cyber Defence Centre and telecommunications companies.

The initiative aims to combat the growing problem of cyber fraud by raising awareness and educating the public about preventive measures.

An official from TRA stated, "The campaign will use various awareness messages on common fraud methods and provide guidance on how to avoid these. It will also address misleading advertisements, and the dangers of sharing OTP codes and impersonation on social media platforms."

The TRA official further explained, "This campaign is part of our ongoing efforts to protect users' rights by identifying fraud-

ulent practices and the exploitation of individuals. It supports safe digital transformation, educates the public about electronic threats, and addresses best practices for safeguarding against these risks, ensuring a secure digital environment for everyone."

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology successfully managed over 460 cybersecurity incidents in 2023.

assist government agencies in maximising the value of their technological expenditures.

The Guide to Protecting Children Online addresses the critical issue of online safety for children, outlining strategies to mitigate potential threats they may encounter on the Internet.

Additionally, the ministry provided a Guide and Template for Preparing an Information Technology Strategy in Government, along with a Digital Participation Guide for the Government Sector. These documents are aimed at supporting the digital transformation initiatives within government agencies, fostering greater digital participation and effective IT strategy formulation.

Finally, the Basic Cybersecurity Controls document provides a set of essential security controls that government units must implement to safeguard their information assets effectively. This document is part of a broader effort to ensure comprehensive cybersecurity measures are in place across all government entities.

MHT kicks off Indian four-city tourism roadshow in New Delhi

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) has launched a four-city roadshow in India to showcase the sultanate's diverse tourism offerings. The roadshow, which began in New Delhi on Monday, aims to highlight Oman's unique attractions, from its picturesque landscapes to its rich cultural heritage, which make it an unforgettable destination for Indian tourists.

In addition to New Delhi, the roadshow will cover Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore between August 20 and 28, 2024. These cities were chosen for their significant role in India's outbound tourism market.

The event has drawn participation of 18 Omani tourism companies and hotels, besides key partners from India's tourism

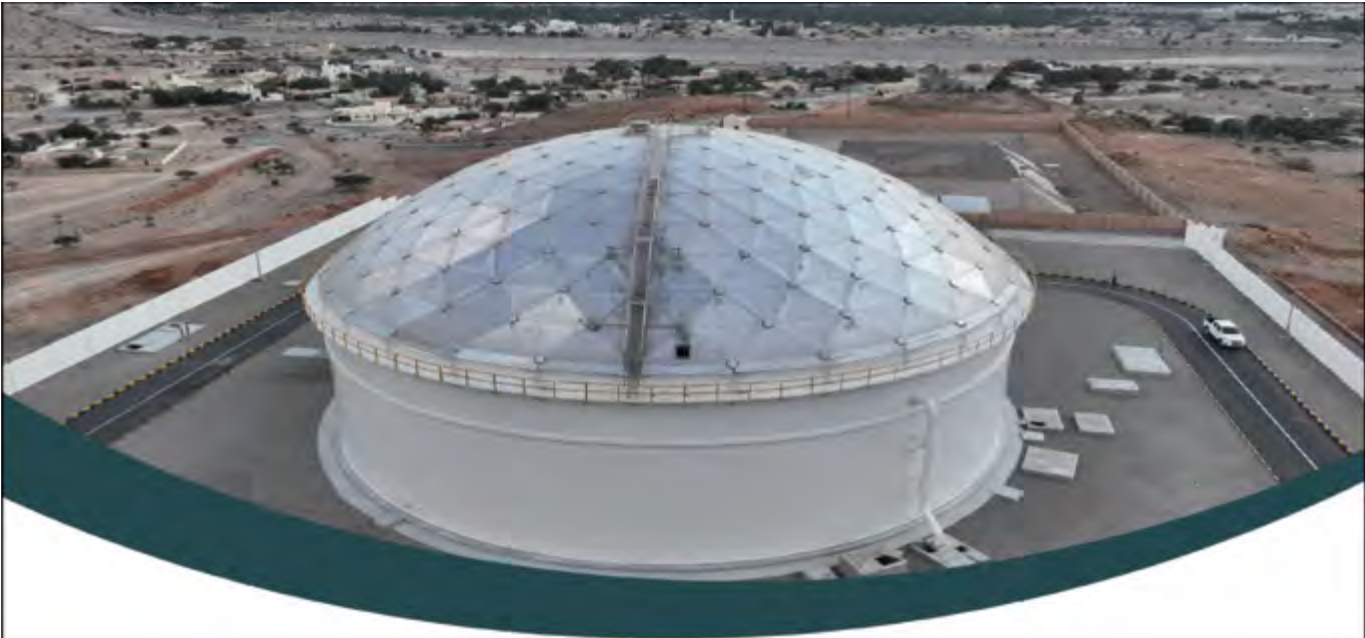


sector, including travel agencies and tour operators.

H E Azzan bin Qasim al Busaidi, Undersecretary for Tourism in Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, stated, "The roadshow aims to introduce leading Indian tourism companies to the distinctive tourism offerings of Oman and to strengthen ties between tourism operators in both countries."

He noted that India is one of the largest sources of tourists worldwide and a key market for Oman. The sultanate received over 600,000 visitors from India in 2023, with the number expected to increase in 2024.

H E Busaidi added that Oman is a destination that appeals to tourists year-round, thanks to its natural beauty and cultural heritage. "Our focus is on attracting more travellers to experience Oman's luxurious and diverse hospitality."



TENDER NOTICE

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

Tender No	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2653003/2024	Supply, Installation and Commission of Double Eccentric Butterfly Valves for permeate pumps in AL-Ansab STP	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	05/09/2024	26/09/2024
T/2653006/2024	Call Off Contract for Supply and Delivery of Submersible & Booster Pumps and motors for two years	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	05/09/2024	26/09/2024
T/2651001/2024	Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of Upgrading of Al Ghubrah Pump Station and Construction of Transmission Pipeline	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International companies who specialized and have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	05/09/2024	09/10/2024
T/ 2653007/2024	Consultancy Services for Construction Tender Evaluation & Supervision of B3C Integrated Network Services at Al Khuwair 17/1 & 17/2	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International companies who specialized and have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	1,500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	05/09/2024	02/10/2024
T/2653010/2024	Consultancy Service for Design and Construction Supervision of Water Supply System to Khasab- Al Khalidiya in Musandam Governorate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International companies who specialized and have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	1,500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	05/09/2024	09/10/2024
T/ 2653009/2024	Consultancy Services for Design and Construction Supervision of Water Distribution Networks in Wadi Bani Khalid Wilayat	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International companies who specialized and have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	1,500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	05/09/2024	09/10/2024

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

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

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

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



UN warns of deepening Gaza crisis amid fuel shortages, evacuations

Cairo, Egypt - The United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported that the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is worsening due to repeated displacement, overcrowded conditions, insecurity, infrastructure collapse, ongoing Israeli military actions, and limited services.

According to OCHA, a recent evacuation order by the Israeli military affected approximately 13,500 displaced individuals across 18 locations, including the Maghazi camp area and several neighbourhoods in Deir al Balah.

The UN office highlighted that the ongoing aggression, evacuation orders and critical shortages of essential materials are severely hampering displaced families' access to basic services in their new locations.

Since October 2023, 86% of the Gaza Strip has been under evacuation orders from the Israeli military, leading to a dramatic concentration of the population in the Al Mawasi area. The pop-



ulation density in this region has surged to between 33,000 and 34,000 people/sqkm, compared to about 200 people/sqkm before the beginning of October.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric noted that the severe fuel shortage is causing hospitals to delay necessary surgical procedures and threatens the operation of ambulances, particularly in northern Gaza.

The death toll from the ongoing Israeli military action since October 7 has risen to 40,139, with 92,743 injured, the majority women and children.

MoCIIP ensures licensed use of Royal emblem

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) started an inspection drive in Musandam on Tuesday to ensure that commercial establishments do not use the sultanate's official emblems without licence.

In a statement, MoCIIP said, 'The ministry's directorate in Musandam continues to conduct inspection visits to various commercial establishments to



ensure that these have obtained the necessary permissions to use Oman's emblem, flag or map on their products.'

It added that using the national emblem or the Royal emblem without licence contravenes Royal Decree No

53/2004 on the Law of the National Flag, Emblem and Anthem. 'The ministry will take all necessary legal action for violations.'

MoCIIP called on all commercial establishments wishing to use the national emblem on their products or advertisements to apply to the ministry for approval.

MoCIIP stated that it will continue to conduct inspection campaigns to monitor markets and take all necessary legal measures against violators.

Food fest in Salalah to showcase local flavours

Salalah - Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) will host Omani Culinary Arts Festival from August 22 to 26 at Al Hafa Beach in Salalah coinciding with the Dhofar Khareef 2024 celebrations.

The festival will bring together some of the most skilled chefs from Oman and the Gulf region for five days of live cooking shows and cultural activities.

Amira bint Iqbal al Lawati, Director General of Tourism Development and Head of Omani Food and Culinary Arts Tourism Programme at MHT, informed that the festival will feature a variety of activities. "We have a fantastic lineup of chefs, including Kuwaiti chef Lulwa al Tanak, and local talents like Salem al Sunaidi, Nader al Aisri, Mohammed al Saadi, Mohammed Issa, Faisal Sajoor and Umm Ayman from Dhofar. The festival will attract cooking enthusiasts and influencers from Oman and abroad," she said.

The event will have live cooking demonstrations, a Little Chef Corner for children, popular folk music performances and a farmers' market showcasing local products, besides cooking competitions. Visitors can enjoy authentic Omani cuisine at several food stalls and explore a gifts and souvenirs corner.

Amira further informed that the festival is part of the Omani Food and Culinary Arts Tourism Programme, which aims to promote Omani cuisine locally, regionally and globally. "Through



this programme, we aim to position Omani culinary arts on the cultural tourism map, supporting local communities and creating opportunities for small and medium enterprises," she added. MHT's focus on food tourism is driven by Oman's rich cultural heritage and the authenticity of its hospitality. Amira stressed the importance of developing tourism patterns based on Oman's unique advantages, adding that food and culinary arts are central to the cultural identity of any society. "Food tourism is growing globally, and Oman is well-positioned to benefit from this trend," she said. In addition to promoting Omani cuisine, the festival aims

to document and preserve the heritage of Omani dishes, while also adapting these to suit the evolving tastes of tourists. The ministry is working to develop entrepreneurship opportunities in food-related fields and support Omani chefs by offering them international training programmes. Amira added that the success of these initiatives depends on collaboration between public and private sector entities, as well as the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders. "Together, we can ensure Oman's culinary traditions continue to thrive and contribute to the nation's tourism and economic goals."



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Re-Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Description	Tender Fee (Nonrefundable) OMR	Tender Purchase deadline	Clarification deadline	Tender Submission Date
TENDER/2024/06/ENG/013	(Re-Tender) Construction of Commercial Buildings at Al Raki in Wilayat Yanqul at Al Dhahirah Governorate.	100	27.08.2024	01.09.2024	04.09.2024

Bank Name & Account Number Bank Muscat (0423005687760617)

The Conditions:

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



MHT hosts global airlines in Dhofar for fam trip

Our Correspondent
Salalah

To enhance global awareness on Dhofar Khareef, Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) organised a familiarisation trip for representatives of 15 international airlines on Tuesday. Part of a broader effort to promote Oman and its key tourist

destinations, particularly Dhofar during khareef, the fam trip aimed to showcase the governorate's attractions and increase tourism from around the world. The guests' itinerary included visits to various tourist sites and destinations in Dhofar, showcasing the diverse appeal of the governorate. Dhofar Khareef 2024 features

over 180 activities and events, running for 90 days till September 20. The activities are centred around five themes - environment, public health, youth, children, and arts and culture. Dhofar Municipality described Dhofar Khareef - which kicked off on June 21 - as a prime destination for both families and individuals.

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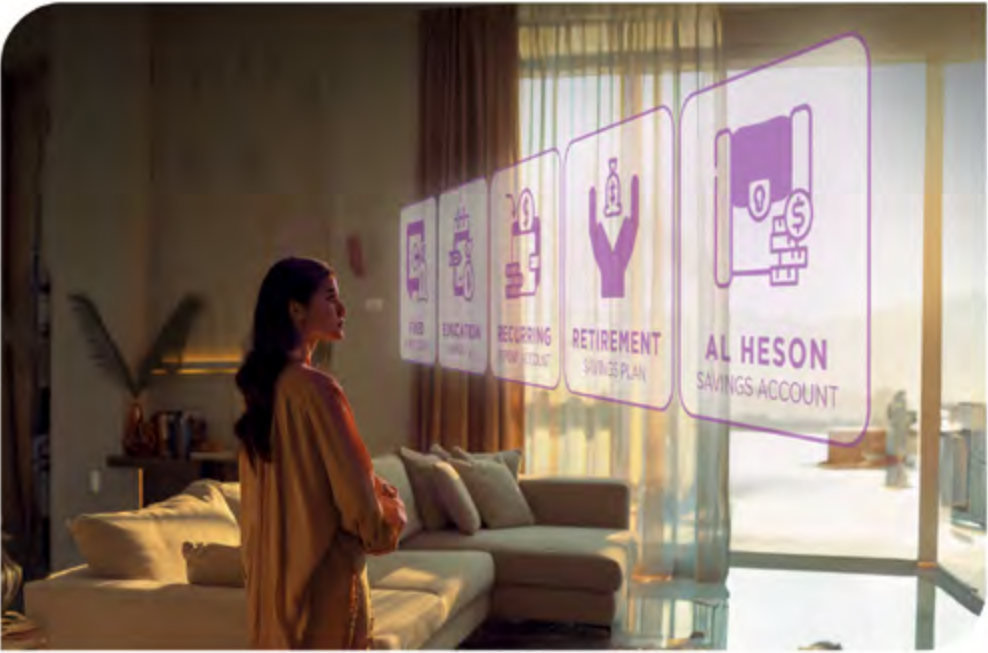
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EA chief signs 4 research contracts to study key environmental challenges



Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Environment Authority (EA) on Tuesday signed four research contracts with academic institutions to address the country's critical environmental issues. These projects, funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation, are part of a strategic initiative to advance environmental research in Oman. The contracts were signed by Dr Abdullah bin Ali al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, with top officials from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS), and the National University of Science and Technology. 'Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis for Sustainable Management

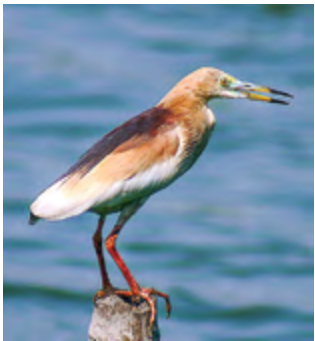
of the Omani Coast: Sohar and Salalah Ports as a Case Study' - one of the projects, led by SQU - aims to study various aspects of sustainable management of Oman's coasts by focusing on factors like biodiversity and water quality, around the ports in Sohar and Salalah in particular. Another project from SQU, 'The Mysterious Energy Surrounding: A Detailed Study on Natural Radiation Levels in Oman', will create a database to monitor radiation exposure across the country. The findings will help develop guidelines to ensure that radiation levels are kept within safe limits so as to protect both the environment and public health. The University of Technology and Applied Sciences is leading a study titled 'Measuring the Concentration of Radioactive Radon

Gas and Radon Compounds in Oman and Its Impact on Health'. This research will assess indoor air quality by measuring radon gas concentrations, focusing on its potential link to lung cancer. The study will cover residential, commercial and industrial areas to help improve indoor air quality. The fourth project, conducted by the National University of Science and Technology, is titled 'Revolutionising the Sustainability of Special Economic Zones in Oman: Valorization of Pollutant Streams through a Bio-Refinery Based on Bio-Electrochemical Systems'. This initiative aims to transform waste materials and pollutants into valuable products using innovative bio-refinery technologies. EA chairman Amri emphasised the importance of these research projects, noting that they address pressing environmental issues in Oman. He mentioned that experienced research teams from national universities will lead the projects, with close collaboration from the Environment Authority to ensure effective outcomes. Each project is expected to take between six months to a year to complete, with dedicated technical teams and steering committees overseeing their progress. Dr Abdullah also highlighted that beach erosion, driven by climate change, sea level rise, and increased tropical conditions, remains a significant concern for Oman. The research projects aim to provide solutions that will help protect the country's natural resources and ensure long-term sustainability.

Al Ansab Wetland witnesses first breeding of rare heron species

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Al Ansab Wetland in Muscat has marked a significant milestone in bird conservation with the first recorded breeding of two important bird species: The Black-crowned Night Heron and the Indian Pond Heron. The development underscores the environmental value of this artificial wetland as a crucial sanctuary for various bird species. The Indian Pond Heron, breeding for the first time in Oman, is particularly noteworthy. Its presence at Al Ansab highlights the wetland's suitability as a safe and supportive environment for rare bird species. Additionally, the Black-crowned Night Heron, typically known to breed in southern Oman, has now been documented breeding in the northern part of the country for the first time, also at Al Ansab.



Indian Pond Heron



Black-crowned Night Heron

Manal al Kindi, head of the Wetland Department at Nama Water Services, emphasised the significance of these findings. "The discovery of new bird breeding records reflects the importance of protecting and preserving wetlands. Al Ansab lakes are a local treasure and a globally important habitat for a wide range of bird species," she said. Recognised as a key biodiversity site, Al Ansab Wetland attracts birdwatchers, researchers, and nature enthusiasts from

around the world. The recent discoveries reinforce the need to protect such sites to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy and learn from these unique ecosystems. Al Ansab Wetland is an artificial habitat created by treated water from a nearby facility, which flows into a series of ponds. This process provides a rare water source in the surrounding desert, supporting over 305 species of resident and migratory birds.

Financial Services Authority warns people against online scams

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has issued a warning to the public following a surge in complaints regarding fraudulent activities targeting consumers via WhatsApp. According to FSA, several complainants have reported being contacted by individuals through WhatsApp, who requested personal and bank details under the guise of simplifying procedures. Many victims were later shocked to find that money had been withdrawn from their bank accounts without their consent. The FSA discovered that these consumers were initially directed to a fake website link via Google search. The link, which falsely appeared to be associated with the FSA, was used to lure the victims into providing sensitive information, after which they were further deceived through a link sent via WhatsApp.

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Source: xe.com

BRIEFS

China's industrial sector sees steady growth

China's industrial sector registered a steady revenue growth in July 2024, as indicated by an increase in VAT invoice issuance, the State Taxation Administration said.

Tax data revealed a 6% year-on-year growth in the sales revenue of industrial companies nationwide in July, 1.7 percentage points higher than that recorded in the second quarter, according to the Administration.

Specifically, the mining sector's sales revenue rebounded last month, rising by 9.7% due to increased bulk commodity prices, the administration said.

Meanwhile, sales revenue of the electricity generation and supply sector increased by 5.6% in July as China entered its peak season of power consumption.

From January to July, the number of new taxpaying business entities rose by 7.3% from a year earlier, the Administration said.



Oman's vehicle spare parts exports surge by 27% amid decline in imports

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman's vehicle spare parts exports reached RO9.87mn during the first five months of 2024, marking a 27.04% increase from RO7.77mn recorded in the same period in 2023, according to data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

This growth highlights the rising demand for Omani spare parts in international markets.

In contrast, the country's imports of vehicle spare parts fell by 11.8%, amounting to RO44.7mn during the first five months of this year, down from RO50.68mn in

Oman's imports of vehicle spare parts fell by 11.8% to RO44.7mn during the first five months of 2024, down from RO50.68mn in the corresponding period of last year

the corresponding period of the previous year. The total weight of these imports also saw a decrease, dropping to approximately 11.35mn kg from 12.22mn kg in 2023.

The United Arab Emirates remains the largest supplier of vehicle spare parts to Oman, with imports from the UAE valued at RO19.48mn during January – May period. Japan followed with

RO13.73mn, while India, Thailand, and China contribute RO2.16mn, RO2mn, and RO1.67mn, respectively.

On the export front, Oman shipped out approximately 14.33mn kg of spare parts, up from 10.24mn kg in the previous year. The Czech Republic emerged as the top importer of vehicle spare parts from Oman, with purchases worth RO4.1mn,

followed by Mexico, the Netherlands, the US, and the UAE.

However, Oman's re-exports of vehicle spare parts saw a sharp decline, totalling RO11.13mn this year, a drop of 65.66% from RO32.4mn in 2023. The weight of re-exported parts also decreased to 2.65mn kg from 5.29mn kg the previous year.

The UAE remains the leading destination for re-exports, with a value of RO7.28mn, followed by Turkey, the UK, Luxembourg, and the US.

As of April 2024, Oman had 1,527 businesses involved in the sale of vehicle spare parts, including 856 retailers of new parts and 671 specialising in used parts.

Galfar awards framework deal to Worley oman



Our Correspondent
Muscat

Galfar Engineering and Contracting Company has awarded a framework agreement to Worley Oman to provide services in Petroleum Development Oman's (PDO) northern concession areas.

Under this five-year framework agreement, Worley Oman will deliver engineering and procurement support services for PDO's Qarn Alam and Saih Rawl projects, according to a disclosure submitted by Worley to the Australian Securities Exchange. Worley is a global professional services company based in Australia.

'The scope of the agreement includes engineering, project support, and procurement services across PDO's capital expenditure portfolio as PDO advances its decarbonisation roadmap,' the disclosure stated.

Worley expects that most of

the services provided will focus on transitional or sustainability-related activities across PDO's facilities and infrastructure assets. These services will be executed from Worley's office in Oman.

"We are pleased to support Galfar Engineering and Contracting Company and to build on our longstanding relationship with PDO through this framework agreement," said Chris Ashton, Chief Executive Officer of Worley.

In June 2023, Galfar Engineering and Contracting Company secured a major contract worth RO280mn for off-plot delivery at Qarn Alam from PDO, with an execution period of seven years. This contract also includes an optional three-year extension valued at RO120mn.

Additionally, in February 2024, Galfar won another project delivery contract at Qarn Alam worth RO100mn from PDO, with a five-year execution period.

18th GPCA Forum to take place in Oman in December

Muscat – The 18th Annual GPCA Forum, the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association's (GPCA) flagship event, will take place for the first time in Oman at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre in Muscat from December 2 to December 5, 2024. The event will be hosted by OQ Group.

The forum will address the theme 'Industry's Next Chapter: Driving Sustainable Advancement for Global Progress', attracting delegates from across the region and globally over four days of knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration.

The forum will open with welcome remarks from Eng Abdulrahman al-Fageeh, CEO, SABIC and Chairman, GPCA, followed by a ministerial address from H E Salim bin Nasser bin Said al Afi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, on December 2, 2024.

This year, the forum will unpack important themes, from clean energy transition to sustainability, shaping the future leaders, the challenge of feeding



H E Salim bin Nasser al Afi will deliver a ministerial address at the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum on December 2

the world, the impact of geopolitics on the chemical industry, innovation and much more.

Now in its 18th edition, GPCA's flagship event will combine an array of new and im-

proved features including the 2nd GPCA Solutions Xchange Program, the 6th GPCA Legacy Award "Al Rowad", the 3rd edition of the GPCA Youth Forum and much more.

For the first time this year, the forum will host the inaugural GPCA Startup Nexus, a brand new GPCA initiative which aims to foster innovation and collaboration by bridging the gap between the start-up ecosystem and the chemical and petrochemical industry in the region.

Dr Abdulwahab al-Sadoun, Secretary General of GPCA, said, "We look forward to welcoming delegates from across the region and the world to the prestigious Annual GPCA Forum, which this year will take place for the first time in Muscat. Attracting senior industry leaders from the chemical industry globally, the forum will offer an ideal opportunity to chart the future of the chemical industry in a redefined world, challenge the status quo, and provide an enabling environment for innovation and collaboration."

Omantel set to make Salalah Middle East's 2nd largest submarine cable hub

Muscat – Omantel recently highlighted its technology-driven solutions during an important ICT event with the government officials and business leaders from Dhofar Governorate. The Omantel ICT event took place in Salalah in the presence of H H Sayyid Marwan bin Turki al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

Omantel showcased the innovative solutions provided by the company that have contributed immensely to supporting the digital transformation process in the sultanate and strengthening the local economy of the Dhofar Governorate.

Talal bin Said al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, reiterated the company's focus on keeping pace with global technological advancements and highlighted its edge in having a strong ICT infrastructure. This is reflected in Omantel's business model, marked by an integrated system of a sprawling core network,



strategic acquisitions, and collaborations, including partnerships and alliances with major international technology companies to bring the most advanced technologies to foster digital transformation in Oman.

Mamari said, "We attach great importance to the Dhofar Governorate due to its strategic location for global tech investments. Over the past few years, we have worked on a series of strategic projects and initiatives that have attracted around \$150mn in global investments. These include the establishment of the SN1 Data Center in partnership with Equinix which is the

world's leading data center provider, attracting major global content providers and hyperscalers to build their own massive data centers in the city, and the upcoming landings of 10 international submarine cables in Salalah next year, which will make it the second most connected city in the Middle East."

On the sidelines of the event, a panel discussion titled 'Challenges and Opportunities Related to the Adoption of Digital Technologies in Oman' was held. The panelists included Dr Amer Awadh al-Rawas, a leading ICT expert who has contributed immensely to the

growth of the telecommunications sector in Oman; Laila Abdullah al Hadrami, Executive Director of Oman Information Technology Society; and Lujaina Saif al Kharusi, Vice President of Governance, Regulatory Affairs, and Compliance at Omantel.

The session provided insights into several models, generating significant interest among participants and reflecting the extent of Oman's interest in future technologies. The event also shed light on steps taken in digital transformation at the corporate level and reviewed multiple experiences in digitization and the technology sector.

Qatar expected to double economy by 2031: Standard Chartered

Doha – Standard Chartered's recent global research highlights Qatar's ability to restore government revenues to pre-2014 oil price shock levels and notes that it is on track to double the size of its economy by 2031.

This significant recovery is a testament to Doha's strategic positioning within the global energy market and its ongoing efforts in economic diversification. Currently, Qatar ranks as the sixth-largest gas producer in the world and holds the third-largest gas reserves, allowing the Gulf state to leverage rising hydro-

carbon prices effectively. The primary drivers behind this recovery include higher hydrocarbon prices and a surge in global demand for energy, particularly within the LNG market, according to Standard Chartered.

The bank noted that Qatar's strategic expansion of LNG capacity, set to increase output at the North Field by 85% by 2025, is poised to further boost revenues. Notably, this expansion is expected to nearly double natural gas output by the end of 2030 from the current 77mn tonnes per annum (mtpa) with



the bank's recent Global Focus Economic Outlook Q2-2024 forecast pointing towards a 'calm before the upsidized gas boom'.

The global oil market has experienced significant changes since the 2014 oil price shock. While Standard Chartered acknowledges a recovery in previously low oil prices, these remain volatile due to geopolitical risks, production level adjustments, and shifts in global demand.

Despite recent price volatility driven by geopolitical factors

and demand fluctuations, robust demand persists, particularly during the summer months, with Brent crude forecasted to hit around \$100 per barrel by year-end. Such dynamics, combined with technological advancements and a shifting geopolitical landscape, continue to shape the global oil market within the broader context of an ongoing energy transition.

In a press release, Muhannad Mukahall, Chief Executive Officer and Head of CCIB at Standard Chartered, Qatar, said, "Qatar's return to pre-2014 gov-

ernment revenue levels marks a significant milestone in its economic journey. However, this achievement was neither coincidental or accidental but in fact strategically driven by a combination of higher hydrocarbon prices, increased global demand for LNG, and substantial economic diversification efforts within sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, and finance. This is a remarkable turnaround and one that is welcome as we continue to face volatile oil prices and an ever-shifting, vulnerable geopolitical landscape."

Eurozone inflation at 2.6% in July as euro hits 9-month high

Brussels, Belgium – Eurozone inflation edged up to 2.6% in July, a slight rise from 2.5% in June, matching Eurostat preliminary data and surpassing initial economist estimates of a 2.4% rate.

The uptick clouded expectations for swift rate cuts by the European Central Bank (ECB), and it has boosted the euro to its highest level against the dollar since late December 2023.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile energy and food prices, remained steady at 2.9%, highlighting underlying price pressures remain well above the central bank's 2% target.

Inflation remains higher in services

In July 2024, the primary contributors to the annual euro area inflation rate were services (1.82 percentage points), followed by food, alcohol & tobacco (0.45 percentage points), non-energy industrial goods (0.19 percentage points), and energy (0.12 percentage points).

Services inflation, representing nearly 45% of the harmonised index of consumer prices, stood at 4%, slightly down from the previous 4.1%. The lowest inflation rate among consumer items was observed in non-energy industrial goods, which recorded an annual increase of just 0.7%.

Among eurozone member states, Finland (0.5%), Latvia (0.8%), and Denmark (1.0%)



The European Central Bank on Tuesday reported that the eurozone current account recorded a 51bn euro surplus in June 2024

Eurozone's core inflation, which strips out volatile energy and food prices, remained steady at 2.9%, highlighting underlying price pressures remain well above the ECB's 2% target

registered the lowest annual inflation rates. Conversely, Romania (5.8%), Belgium (5.4%), and Hungary (4.1%) saw the highest rates.

In Germany, consumer prices rose by 2.6% compared with July 2023, reflecting a modest increase from the previous month's rate of 2.5%. Meanwhile, inflation slowed in both Spain and Portugal, with Spain's harmonised inflation rate dropping from 3.6% to 2.9% and Por-

tugal's from 3.1% to 2.7%.

Separately, the European Central Bank reported on Tuesday that the eurozone current account recorded a 51bn euro surplus in June 2024, the highest on record, up from 38bn euro in the previous month.

Over the 12 months to June 2024, the surplus reached 370bn euro (2.5% of euro area GDP), a significant increase from 30bn euro (0.2%) a year earlier.

The euro maintained its

strength at 1.1080 against the US dollar, its highest level since late December. The currency has posted gains in five of the last six sessions, driven by growing expectations that the Federal Reserve might soon signal its readiness to begin cutting interest rates.

"At the heart of the story is whether EUR/USD will break out of an 18-month trading range, which has largely contained EUR/USD between 1.05 and 1.11. The FX options market suggests that - at least over the next month - the bias is with the upside," commented Chris Turner, Global Head of Markets at ING Group.

Turner added, "Lower oil prices on the back of a potential

Middle East peace deal are good news for EUR/USD."

Luca Cigognini, Market Strategist at Intesa Sanpaolo, noted, "The euro continues to benefit from the general weakness of the greenback, which is failing to counter recent negative sentiment."

Cigognini highlighted that the market is focused on the upcoming Jackson Hole symposium, particularly on Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech, which could confirm expectations of a rate cut in September and maybe more by the end of the year.

Conversely, Danske Bank Research remains bearish on the euro, forecasting a stronger US dollar as markets may be overestimating the likelihood of Fed rate cuts.

The bank stated: "We see EUR/USD heading lower from here. We do not believe the structural strength of the US economy justifies a steep cutting cycle this time around, which should keep the USD supported."

European equities inched higher on Tuesday, with the Euro Stoxx 50 up 0.2%, eyeing its sixth consecutive positive close, the longest winning streak since May.

European stocks have now fully recouped the early month sell-off triggered by recession fears in the US and a hawkish rate hike by the Bank of Japan that spiked the yen.

(Source: Euronews.com)



China keeps key loan rates unchanged as economic recovery shows progress

Beijing, China – China's one-year loan prime rate (LPR), a market-based benchmark lending rate, came in at 3.35% Tuesday, unchanged from the previous month.

The over-five-year LPR, on which many lenders base their mortgage rates, also remained unchanged from the previous reading of 3.85%, according to the National Interbank Funding Center.

The monthly-released data is a pricing reference rate for banks and is based on rates of the People's Bank of China (PBOC)'s open market operations, which mainly refer to the rate of the medium-term lending facility (MLF).

The PBOC said in its second-quarter monetary policy report that the reference function of MLF interest rate to LPR has declined following interest rate marketization.

On July 15, China's MLF rate

remained unchanged. On July 22, the central bank lowered the interest rate on seven-day reverse repos, a key short-term policy rate, from 1.8% to 1.7%. On the same day, China cut both one-year and over-five-year LPR.

The central bank's operations last month may have indicated the direction of LPR reform, according to experts.

"In the future, it could be considered to clearly designate a short-term operational interest rate of the central bank as the main policy interest rate," said Pan Gongsheng, governor of China's central bank, at the Luji-azui Forum held in Shanghai in June.

The seven-day reverse repo operation rate has essentially taken on this function. Pan noted that the interest rates of monetary policy tools of other terms can be stripped of their policy interest rate characteristics.

Xinhua



MOL Pakistan announces 3 new gas discoveries

Islamabad, Pakistan – MOL Pakistan, a subsidiary of Hungary-based MOL Group, has made three significant gas discoveries in the TAL Block, where the company has operated for 25 years and produced hydrocarbons for 19 years.

The Razgir-1 exploratory well was spudded on January 9, 2024, and drilled to 3,950 meters. Three successful well tests have been performed so far in three separate geological formations, MOL Pakistan said in a press release.

MOL is the operator of the TAL Block and its share is 8.4 % of the volumes produced.

MOL spudded the Razgir-1 well in January 2024 and completed it ahead of the target date while testing operations are in progress to ascertain the full potential of the well.

Gas and condensate were discovered in three reservoirs, the company said.

"By using state-of-the-art technology combined with the creativity of our highly skilled colleagues, MOL Pakistan was able to secure these discoveries in the TAL Block, in a mature

area where the company has carried out exploration and production activity for 25 years. This result shows the resilience and professionalism of our team that provides energy supply security in Pakistan for two decades. The new well marks the long-awaited exploration campaign commencement in the TAL Block and a major milestone for MOL Pakistan. We look forward to the production phase of the project," said Zsombor Marton, Executive Vice President, Exploration and Production, MOL Group.

MOL Pakistan has been operating in Pakistan since 1999. The company holds working interests in four blocks and operatorship in the TAL and Margalla Blocks.

MOL made its first hydrocarbon discovery in Pakistan in 2002 and has since announced a total of 13 commercial discoveries, most recently in 2020 in the TAL block with the drilling of Mamikhel South-1 well. Since entering the Pakistani market, MOL has discovered more than 400mn barrels of oil equivalent of proven and probable reserves in the TAL Block.

Japanese companies less optimistic about economy amid weak yen, inflation

Tokyo, Japan – Around 70% of major Japanese companies expect the country's economy to expand over the next year, down from some 80% a year ago, due to concerns about a weak yen and inflation affecting personal consumption, a Kyodo News survey showed.

A total of 72% said the economy is expected to expand solidly or grow moderately, with many citing a recovery of consumer spending, according to the survey of 111 firms including Toyota Motor Corp and cosmetics maker Shiseido Co.

While the percentage was lower than the 82% projecting growth last summer, the latest survey showed 23% expect the economy to stay flat or slow down moderately, up 8 percentage points, showing some companies are becoming more cautious.

With multiple answers allowed, 84% of those predicting economic expansion cited recovery in consumer spending as the



reason behind their response, followed by recovery in capital spending at 79% and increased spending by foreign visitors at 53%.

Among those that projected the economy to remain flat, 64% cited a slump in consumer spending, followed by the adverse impact of a weak yen and

rising prices at 48%.

The survey, covering leading companies in each sector, also showed 70% of the firms found their earnings are on a growing trend.

While 42% of the companies said they plan to raise the prices of their products and services over the next year, 76% said they

were undecided over their wage policy for the spring wage negotiations for 2025.

Asked about policies that need to be pursued by the government of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, 35% said addressing the low birthrate and aging population, while 34% cited measures to tackle a weakening yen and

soaring prices.

Regarding the country or region where companies intend to focus their operations, capital investment and spending on research and development while taking into consideration economic security, 58% cited Japan, followed by North America at 35% and Southeast Asia at 32%.

Meanwhile, only 6% said they want to place an emphasis on China.

Of the respondents, 10% have plans to expand operations in China while 9% are looking to scale back their businesses and 40% said they will maintain their current operations in the country.

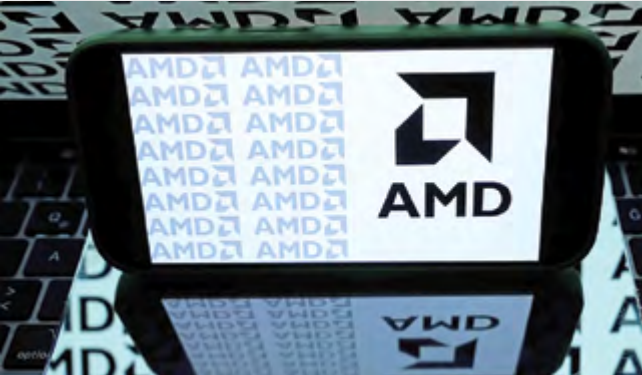
The survey was conducted from mid-July to early August. The results do not reflect recent turbulent moves in the stock and foreign exchange markets caused by the Bank of Japan's additional interest rate hike and growing concerns over the US economy.

Kyodo News

US chipmaker AMD to buy ZT Systems for \$4.9bn

New York, US – US-based global semiconductor manufacturer AMD announced Monday that it had signed a definitive agreement to acquire artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure provider ZT Systems for \$4.9bn.

The move is a major step in AMD's AI strategy to deliver leadership AI training and inferencing solutions based on innovating across silicon, software and systems, the company said in a statement.



ZT Systems' experience in designing and optimising cloud

computing solutions will also help cloud and enterprise cus-

tomers significantly accelerate the deployment of AMD-powered AI infrastructure at scale, it added.

"ZT Systems adds world-class systems design and rack-scale solutions expertise that will significantly strengthen our data center AI systems and customer enablement capabilities," said AMD Chair and CEO Lisa Su.

She added that the acquisition also builds on AMD's investments that aim to

accelerate its AI hardware and software roadmaps.

AMD has invested more than \$1bn in the last 12 months to expand its AI ecosystem and strengthen its AI software capabilities, said the statement.

AMD is considered Nvidia's closest rival in the overheated market for AI chips, but lags far behind Nvidia, which accounted for 98% of data centre GPU sales in 2023, according to Techinsights.

Anadolu Agency

MoE receives approval from University College of London for teachers' training

H E Dr Madiha bint Ahmed al Shaibaniya, Minister of Education, patronised on Sunday the official announcement and receipt of the approval of the University College of London for six strategic programmes affiliated with the Specialised Institute for Professional Training for Teachers.

The programmes are namely, the Mathematics Experts Programme, the Supervision Experts Programme, the New Teachers Programme, the Arabic Language Experts Programme (1-4), the Senior Teachers Programme, and the Science Experts Programme.

Sunday's event was attended by H E Prof Dr Abdullah bin Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary in the Ministry of Education; a number of the minister's advisors, Dr Said al Amri, head of the Office of the minister; Dr Intisar Ambosaidi, Director-General of the Specialised Institute for Professional Training for Teachers; a number of stakeholders and

heads of the teams of trainers of the six strategic programmes at the institute; and a representative of the University College of London, at the ministry's General Diwan.

Dr Intisar Ambosaidi expressed her pride in the success of the specialised institute in obtaining the approval of its six strategic programmes, pointing out the importance of this step in enhancing the quality of education, raising the professional competence of teachers, and empowering them with the skills necessary to teach efficiently and professionally in line with international standards and meeting the needs of the local education system.

On the importance of the specialised institute obtaining accreditation for the six strategic programmes, Dr Intisar Ambosaidi explained that the University College London on March 14, 2018, granted accreditation certificates to the Specialized Institute



tute for the programmes: Mathematics Experts, Supervision Experts, Science Experts, New Teachers, Arabic Language Experts (1-4), and Senior Teachers; so that the qualifications granted by the institute become at the level of a higher education diploma.

"This accreditation confirms that the institute's programmes meet the standards and require-

ments of Level 6 of the Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Wales."

As for the stages of obtaining the certifications for these six strategic programmes, Ministry of Education contracted with the London Institute of Education (currently known as the University College London) on June 25,

2015, to provide academic support services to the specialised institute (which was then called the Specialised Centre) to provide a set of services that included: First: Library services for the main library at the specialised institute.

The project included providing advice and assistance in selecting and maintaining sources, developing, and implementing the li-

brary indexing system and the reciprocal borrowing system, promoting, and marketing the library's uses, and providing a resident expert in library management to be present at the institute's headquarters.

Providing academic support services for the institute's specialised programmes came in second. The project included conducting an internal and external update to certify the programs: Arabic language, science, mathematics, new teachers, supervision experts, and senior teachers, and certifying programs that comply with the specifications and requirements of appropriate academic degrees and implementing a system to determine the procedures to achieve the academic accreditation requirements by the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority and Quality Assurance of Education.

Work was done on the accreditation requirements for five

programs: Arabic language experts, mathematics experts, science experts, supervision experts, and the senior teachers programme.

The institute's programmes specified in the contract met those requirements, and thus the institute was granted accreditation certificates from University College of London on March 14, 2018, for these programmes in addition to the new teachers' programme.

Dr Intisar Ambosaidi explained: "The specialised institute is working to accredit its strategic programs internationally, and to include them in the National Qualifications Framework of the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority and Education Quality Assurance locally to ensure the quality of strategic programs, and to achieve Goal (45) of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, which is to work on the quality of programs in accordance with local and international standards."

Geely makes warranty offers on 2025 models

Towell Auto Centre LLC (TAC), the exclusive distributor of Geely vehicles in Oman, proudly announces an exclusive and exciting offer on its 2025 line-up, featuring the Tugella, Emgrand, Preface, and Coolray models.

Geely Oman is setting a new standard in automotive assurance with an industry-leading seven-year/250,000km warranty offer, underscoring its commitment to delivering exceptional value and peace of mind to its customers.

It's the perfect time for the people of Oman to seize incredible deals on Geely's renowned vehicles. In addition to attractive EMI prices, Geely Oman is offering benefits to enhance the ownership experience.

The four models - Coolray, Emgrand, Preface and Tugella - come with a ground-breaking seven-year/250,000km manufacturer warranty offer for the

2025 models. Customers purchasing any of the 4 models from the 2025 line-up, will receive a manufacturer warranty of seven years or 250,000kms, whichever comes earlier, making it an irresistible offer.

The 2025 line-up

Preface: Step into the future with the Preface, a sedan that merges cutting-edge technology with a sleek design. Enhanced by Geely's revolutionary CMA (compact modular architecture), the Preface provides a spacious, premium interior, adaptive cruise control, and a 360-degree panoramic camera system for safety and comfort. **Tugella:** Designed for adventure and comfort, the Tugella promises an exhilarating drive without compromising on luxury and style. This sporty crossover redefines the driving experience with its powerful 2.0L tur-

bocharged engine, adaptive suspension system, and a host of premium features. Its design is also underpinned by the CMA. **Coolray:** Uncover the sleek and dynamic Coolray, a compact SUV with striking design, advanced technology, and powerful fuel-efficient 1.5TD four-cylinder engine. It offers an exhilarating driving experience. It is equipped with a 10.25-inch digital instrument panel, a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission and intelligent safety features.

Emgrand: For those who value sophistication and versatility, the Emgrand sedan is the perfect choice. Its elegant design, spacious interior, and impressive fuel economy make it ideal for both urban commutes and longer journeys. The Emgrand boasts a 12.3" HD digital dashboard, advanced driver assistance systems, and a luxurious, quiet cabin.

ahlibank holds Q2 meeting of branch managers

In a recent gathering aimed to discuss and highlight key points, achievements, operations, and overarching strategy, ahlibank held its branch managers meeting for the second quarter of the year 2024.

The meeting acted as a unique platform for employees to share thoughts, opinions, and insight on various topics regarding the performance of ahlibank.

The gathering highlighted discerning topics such as operations control, product development, credit department, change management, innovation, E-channels, wealth management, and more. Powered by its extensive branch network established nationwide, the branch managers provided insight into their joint efforts, exploring new avenues to boost customer experience and address the various strategies to implement.

Oman Post ropes in Otaxi for parcel delivery across Oman

Oman Post, the national postal operator, recently signed an agreement with OTaxi to enhance its parcel delivery services domestically.

This strategic partnership which aligns with Oman Post's commitment to engaging the private sector in line with Oman Vision 2040 objectives aims to ensure delivery within 24 hours in Muscat and from 48 to 72 hours in other governorates, reflecting Oman Post's dedication to customer-centric solutions.

This collaboration marks the first phase of an expansive plan to enhance service offerings, initially focusing on parcel delivery service and extending to include additional postal services.

"At Oman Post, we continuously explore innovative ways to exceed our customers' needs in partnership with the private sector. This strategic collaboration with OTaxi enables us to achieve that goal by introducing



faster and more efficient delivery services," said Sheikh Ibrahim bin Sultan Alhosni, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Oman Post.

By significantly reducing delivery times, he said, "we are not only enhancing our service offering to our customers but also supporting the small and medium-sized enterprises across Oman, who rely on rapid parcel delivery to drive their growth and success."

Harith al Muqbali, Chief Executive Officer of OTaxi, commented that this partnership

with Oman Post is a testament to "our shared vision of enhancing logistics and delivery services in Oman through providing fast delivery solutions across the sultanate".

"We are eager to contribute to a service that directly benefits businesses and consumers alike by providing reliable and expedited parcel delivery. Through this strategic alliance, we are confident that we can deliver a transformative experience that empowers the growth and success of enterprises across Oman."

ROHM's new season to offer spectacular shows for everyone

Following the launch of its Open Doors initiative in 2024, exporting scheduled productions outside the walls of the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM), the opera house will continue to offer special performances for specific institutions, hospitals, and nursing homes in Muscat, with this year, the introduction of sign language across all educational activities to create more inclusivity.

Season 2024-25 is richly sewn with the seeds of a truly magical season: international names of great note, popular shows, operas to feed the mind and soul, beloved Arab artists, and enough choice to inspire the love of music across all generations.

This is third and the final part of the series on the ROHM's new season to be published in this section of *Muscat Daily*.

Spectacular shows

As always, ROHM strives to present a full and varied programme for every audience member to enjoy. Joining this world-class season is a captivating choice of family-friendly shows defining this as a year of

stories and fairy tales.

As part of its spectacular programmes of the new season, ROHM will present *Beauty and the Beast* on Ice as the opera house welcomes Olympic award-winning ice skaters telling this tale as never before, with contortionists, German wheel acts, fire breathers, aerial acrobatics, and more (January 2, 3 and 4).

Other spectacular shows joining this season include the world premiere of 'Sword of Wisdom' Acrobatic Show an awe-inspiring performance of the extraordinary U-Theatre ensemble with drumming, martial arts, acrobatic excellence, and dynamic percussion theatre (19th and 20th December).

Locals and tourists will also be able to rejoice in the popular annual Military Music: Oman and the World outdoor show, with guest participation from Austria and Jordan this season (November 7, 8 and 9).

A welcome return to the programming is the Folk Music Festival, this year inviting the wonderful countries of Bulgaria, South Korea, and Paraguay to join Omani folk musicians in a



ROHM will present Beauty and the Beast on Ice as it welcomes Olympic award-winning ice skaters

glorious presentation of heritage and cultural traditions (January 16 and 17).

Educational programme

The 2024/25 calendar of educational activities will include two Open House days designed for local enthusiasts to discover the Royal Opera House Muscat uniquely. The first Open House event will focus on the World of Fairy Tales (December 21) with a full day of activities inspired by fabled stories of childhood, de-

signed for families and children. The second Open House, Join Us! will showcase the different professions of the theatre with staff hosting workshops on

ROHM SEASON PART III

make-up, costumes, props, sound, photography, storytelling, and design (February 1).

Special Projects (in April and May) around specific shows will also be presented, including

Harry Potter: A World of Magic, La Traviata Project, Welcome to Sherwood Forest with Robin Hood! and Paganini for Everyone focused on Nicolo' Paganini's role on the history of the violin and music itself.

Several masterclasses with leading artists including Ambassador of Song Thomas Hampson, renowned conductor Fabio Mastrangelo, soprano Joyce El Khoury, world-class musicians Simon Zhu and Gile Bae, and organist Claudio Astronio will also be offered to

music students based in Oman.

This year, ROHM is also launching a new educational activity Let's Read to complement a season full of fairy tales, featuring monthly reading groups for children, young adults, and families. In an exciting collaboration with Elisabetha Dami, we welcome the author and her internationally adored creation Geronimo Stilton for a theatrical presentation of stories (November 6).

ROHM will offer local schools exclusive morning performances of the Robin Hood family opera (April 15, 16, 17), giving both local Arabic and international schools a unique opportunity to enjoy this captivating production.

Finally, this year's Summer Camp will feature two amazing weeks inspired by the world of Superheroes during which children will be introduced to music, theatre, dance art, and technology.

Outreach activities

The outreach programme will include established activities that run throughout the season

including Lunch Music in the Opera Galleria; Coffee and Dates, exclusive talks with the artists; Opera Talks with our musicologist in the music library; the Absolute Music Series, and Movie Nights.

In this season's Absolute Music Series, ROHM welcomes the soprano Joyce El Khouri accompanied by pianist Serouj Kradjian and a Lebanese ensemble for a unique concert entitled Scheherazade (October 21).

This year, ROHM is launching Emerging Talents, a three-concert format with young winners of international competitions performing in Muscat. This new concert series will present internationally recognised artists including 'Ambassador of Song', Thomas Hampson, accompanied by the Muscat Philharmonic Orchestra and Omani Opera Choir Group, conducted by Lubnan Balbaaki (February 9), pianists Aristo Sham and Nikolai Kuznetsov (December 6) from the Monte Carlo Music Masters and violinist Simon Zhu and pianist Gile Bae (February 24) from the Paganini Prize.

MHD hosts inaugural Jetour Tribe event featuring newly launched Jetour T2 vehicles

MHD Automobile LLC, a leading name in the automotive industry in Oman, announced successful completion of the inaugural Jetour Tribe event, a thrilling experiential drive showcasing the newly launched Jetour T2 vehicle.

This event marked the Dhofar Khareef edition, with more editions to follow, a release stated.

This three-day expedition, attended by over 50 Jetour T2 owners, took place against the breathtaking backdrop of the Khareef season in Dhofar. It provided Jetour T2 enthusiasts with a unique opportunity to fully experience the capabilities of their vehicles.

Organised by MHD Automobile LLC, the event was designed to reconnect with valued customers, inviting participants to embark on an exhilarating journey that combined adventure with the stunning diversity of Oman's landscapes.

Commenting on the event, Mohsin Hani al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles LLC, expressed his enthusiasm, stating,



"The Jetour Tribe event exemplifies our commitment to delivering exceptional experiences for our customers, creating lasting memories while showcasing the remarkable performance of Jetour T2."

The meticulously organised adventure catered to drivers of all experience levels, ensuring a

safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. The journey commenced at the Jetour showroom in Azaiba, leading participants on an engaging 10-

The event exemplifies the commitment of MHD to delivering exceptional experiences for its customers, creating lasting memories while showcasing the remarkable performance of Jetour T2

hour drive to Dhofar. Over the following days, the Jetour Tribe explored a variety of terrains, from expansive plains to majestic mountains and sandy

beaches, all within the picturesque setting of Dhofar.

Under the hood, Jetour T2 is powered by a 2.0-litre 4-cylinder petrol engine that generates an impressive 254 horsepower and 390 Nm of torque. This powerhouse ensured a thrilling and dynamic driving experience, whether Jetour Tribe was navigating city streets or conquering off-road trails.

MHD Automobile LLC extends its deepest gratitude to all participants who contributed to the success of the Jetour Tribe in Oman. This event underscores the company's dedication to fostering a vibrant community of Jetour T2 enthusiasts and delivering unforgettable experiences.

For more details or to book a test drive, one can visit Jetour showrooms in Azaiba, Mabela and Salalah.

MHD Automobiles is Oman's premier distributor of luxury performance automotive brands, committed to providing exceptional products and services to customers across the sultanate.



Saud Bahwan unveils luxurious Toyota Camry

Saud Bahwan Automotive (SBA) recently unveiled all-new Toyota Camry at an exclusive event held at the Toyota showroom at Wattayah.

The event was attended by H E Jota Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Oman; Shunsuke Chijiwa, Deputy Chief Representative of Dubai Office at Toyota Motor Corporation and distinguished guests from both the public and private sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Managing Director - Corporate, Saud Bahwan Group, said, "For decades, Toyota has been the brand of choice for families in Oman. Each model, renowned for its quality, dependability and reliability, has become a trusted companion on our roads."

The all-new Toyota Camry is poised to carry forward this proud legacy, making lasting impressions on enthusiasts and drivers alike, SBA stated.

"At Saud Bahwan Automotive, our commitment goes beyond delivering exceptional vehicles. We continually invest in nurturing a talented workforce and establishing world-class facilities to enhance the joy of ownership for our customers," Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan said.

Expressing his gratitude to customers and to Toyota Motor Corporation, he said, "We are deeply grateful to our loyal customers in Oman, who have supported us through generations. Your trust and loyalty are the cornerstones of our

success. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the team at Toyota Motor Corporation for their unwavering support and guidance."

Sharing his views on the all-new Toyota Camry, he said, "The all-new Toyota Camry is a true masterpiece, designed to capture attention with its stunning profile. Inside, it offers a meticulously crafted environment that promises some of the finest on-road experiences. With a gasoline & hybrid engine

For decades, Toyota has been the brand of choice for families in Oman. Each model, renowned for its quality, dependability and reliability, has become a trusted companion on our roads

ABDULLAH MOHAMED BAHWAN

options, customers can choose the level of performance and efficiency that best suits their needs."

Later in the evening, Shunsuke Chijiwa, Deputy Chief Representative of Dubai Office at Toyota Motor Corporation, shared his thoughts about Toyota Motor Corporation and Saud Bahwan Group's journey as partners.

"Toyota Motor Corporation has a very long relationship with Saud Bahwan Automotive, for more than 50 years since

1975. They are one of the most important partners among the all the distributors in the world.

"That's why, the late Honorary Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation, Dr Shoichiro Toyoda and his son and current Chairman Akio Toyoda have visited Oman and deepened their personal relationship with Bahwan family, which is not always the case with other distributors."

Chijiwa said, "As a part of such production strategy, our brand-new product, Camry is going to be launched today in Oman. I'm very honoured to be able to participate in such an exciting event. I can see so many Camry on the road in Oman and from that, I can feel that our Camry has been cherished in Oman for long time."

"With this model change, we have improved the design, driving performance and other aspects, so I believe that all of you will enjoy the new generation Camry."

The customers later went around experiencing the all-new Camry and what makes this vehicle stand out.

The all-new Camry offers two powertrain options: a 2.5-litre four-cylinder in line VVTi-engine producing 201 hp and 240 Nm of torque, paired with an eight-speed Direct-Shift Multi-mode automatic transmission, and the Camry HEV with an electrified hybrid system that combines a petrol engine and two electric motors, delivering a combined power of 226 hp.

Bank Muscat gets Euromoney's 'Best Bank' for CSR award

Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, was recently awarded for being the Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility by Euromoney as a culmination of its concrete initiatives in the field of Social Responsibility.

As part of its sustainable strategy, the bank is committed to serve society through several sectors covering different community groups. This includes various aspects such as environment, sports, youth, education, entrepreneurship and health, in addition to its contributions to enhancing financial literacy and partnership with various associations and charitable teams in the sultanate.

The award reaffirms Bank Muscat's leadership in the implementation of vital and sustainable projects in the field of social responsibility and a recognition of its role in supporting activities that are of a great importance to the Omani community, fostering voluntary works among community members.

On the occasion, Talib bin Saif al Makhmari, Head of Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said, "We are glad to receive this award from the pres-



tigious Euromoney which indicates the Bank's keenness to sustainability and corporate responsibility aspects."

Makhmari pointed out that sustainability has consistently been a core principle of the bank's operations. "For decades, the bank has diligently pursued a significant impact in the realm of social responsibility by adopting clear strategies and implementing annual sustainable programmes and initiatives designed to positively affect various sectors of Omani society."

Bank Muscat's sustainability and social responsibility strategy is dedicated to achieving long-term benefits for various segments of society, making a positive impact in areas such as

education, youth development, sports, alternative energy, health, and the SME sector.

As a leading financial institution in the sultanate, the Bank is committed to supporting individuals and society through the creation of strategic social responsibility programmes.

Sustainability is at the core of all initiatives launched by the Bank, ensuring that they achieve beneficial outcomes for all while strengthening relationships and partnerships with various entities, whether governmental, private, or charitable, across the sultanate.

To promote transparency and raise awareness of its efforts in this area, Bank Muscat publishes an annual sustainability report

based on the guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and sector-specific supplements for the financial sector. This report highlights the positive impact of the bank's activities on the economy, society, and the environment. It also demonstrates the bank's growing openness to sustainability reporting, underscoring its influence on the decision-making process, as well as its policy and strategy.

Bank Muscat is undertaking a broad array of initiatives in social responsibility and community service, benefiting thousands of community members. The 'Green Sports' programme enhances local sports teams across various wilayats in the sultanate.

Indian group calls for blood donation

In celebration of the Indian megastar Chiranjeevi's 69th birthday, a group of Indian expats called upon all to join them in a blood donation camp at Baushar Blood Bank in Muscat on Friday.

The members of Chiru Mega Youth Force is organising the 'life-saving Blood Drive' under the leadership of Ramadas Chandaka, they informed through a press release.

Since 2003, Chiru Mega Youth Force has been dedicatedly organising camps for this noble cause three times a year.

'Your (blood) donation can make a difference. Join us and contribute to saving lives,' the group stated. The blood donation drive will begin at 8.30am and one can contact Chandaka at 99448389 for more information.



German court upholds ex-Nazi camp secretary conviction

Berlin, Germany - Germany's Federal Court of Justice (BGH) on Tuesday upheld the conviction of a 99-year-old former concentration camp secretary of complicity in the murder of over 10,000 people.

The woman, identified as Irmgard F in accordance with German privacy laws, worked as a stenographer and typist at the Stutthof death camp near Nazi-occupied Danzig, now Gdansk in northwestern Poland.

"The conviction of the defendant... to a two-year suspended sentence is final," presiding judge Gabriele Cirener said.

The President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Josef Schuster, welcomed the verdict, calling Irmgard 'a conscious accomplice of the National Socialist murder machine' It is 'enormously important' for Holocaust survivors that even 'a belated attempt at justice' is made, said Schuster. An estimated 65,000 people died at Stutthof. Victims included Jewish prisoners, Polish partisans and Soviet Russian prisoners of war.

In 2022, a juvenile court in Itzehoe in the northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein sentenced Irmgard F to two years' probation. DW

Biden urges to preserve democracy

The US President was addressing the first night of Democratic National Convention

Washington, D.C., US - US President Joe Biden asked Americans on Monday to defend democracy one more time in the upcoming November 5 presidential election.

"Let me ask you: Are you ready to vote for freedom? Are you ready to vote for democracy and for America? And let me ask you: Are you ready to elect Kamala Harris and Tim Walz as president and vice president?" Biden said on the first night of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, Illinois.

As the four-day event kicked off earlier on Monday, thousands of pro-Palestine protestors gathered in Chicago to push for an end to US support for Israel's war on Gaza, where more than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed.

Biden, 81, became emotional during his appearance at the convention after being introduced by his daughter Ashley.

"With a grateful heart, I stand before you now on this August night to report that democracy has prevailed. Democracy has delivered, and now democracy must be preserved," he said.

He also said that each vote will



Earlier, Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance at the convention and vowed to defeat Republican nominee Donald Trump in the November 5 election

determine whether democracy and freedom will prevail. "It's that simple - and that serious. The power is in your hands. History is in your hands. America's future is in your hands," he added.

Last month, Biden announced that he was dropping out of the 2024 race for the White House, ending his bid for reelection.

After offering his 'full support and endorsement' for Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee, she officially launched her presidential campaign. Harris chose Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate in the race.

Earlier, Harris made a surprise appearance at the convention and vowed to defeat Republican nominee

and former President Donald Trump in the November 5 election. "This November, we will come together and declare with one voice, as one people, we are moving forward," she said.

Harris, 59, is scheduled to speak on Thursday, the final day of the convention, when she will formally accept the party's nomination for president. If elected, she would make US history as the first female president.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who ran for president in 2016, also made a speech at the convention, where she praised Biden for bringing dignity

and competency to the White House. "And now, we are writing a new chapter in America's story. Kamala has the character, experience and vision to lead us forward," Clinton said.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez made an appearance onstage as well, getting loud cheers from the crowd.

Elon Musk 'willing to serve'

Meanwhile, billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk on Tuesday expressed his willingness to serve after Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump hinted that

he will consider Elon Musk for cabinet role or advisory post if he wins. "I am willing to serve," posted Musk on his 'X' platform after the Trump in a Reuters interview said that Musk will be welcome to become part of the US administration if the Republican candidate wins the US presidential election in November.

Trump in an interview to the news agency pointed out that if he returns to the White House, he would like to offer Musk a position as an advisor or cabinet member to the head of the US administration, if the entrepreneur is willing. Agencies

Search underway for six missing after yacht sinks off Italian coast

Ankara, Turkey - Search and rescue operations are still underway for the six missing people after a yacht sank early on Monday off the Italian coast, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Mike Lynch, a 59-year-old tech entrepreneur and a billionaire who is also the owner of the vessel and his 18-year-old daughter are the two British people reported missing. Lynch's wife, Angela Bacares, is among those rescued.

The Italian fire department separately said on X that the first inspection of the cave divers inside the shipwreck was 'unsuccessful'.

"Limited access to the bridge, with difficulties due to the presence of furniture that obstructs the passage," the statement added.

One person, who was identified by the firefighters as the yacht's chef, Rick, drowned and



six more were missing after a yacht sank on Monday due to a storm 20km (over 12.4 miles) east of Palermo in southern Italy, while 15 others were rescued, according to media reports.

The incident took place around 5am local time (0300GMT) when the 56-metre-long (184 feet) boat sank

due to heavy rains and stormy weather.

Coastguards and the fire department have rescued 15 people, and a search for the remaining people is underway, the Italian fire department said in a statement.

The British-flagged boat sank to a depth of 49 metres (nearly 161 feet), and a helicopter is also assisting with the operations, it said.

The people on the yacht were from the UK, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, France, Ireland, US, and Canada.

Earlier, several media reports said four Britons, two Americans, and a Canadian were missing after the boat capsized.

A one-year-old child and her mother were among those rescued and taken to a children's hospital in Palermo for medical care.

Anadolu Agency

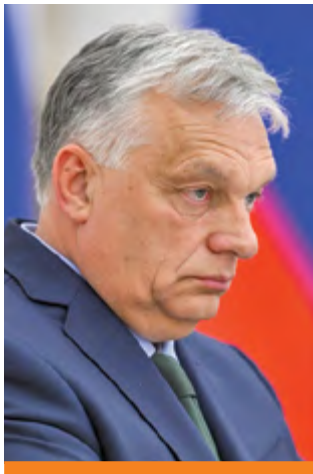
EU, Hungary tensions escalate over visa facilitation for Russians

Budapest, Hungary - Tensions between the EU and Hungary have intensified over Budapest's alleged move to ease Schengen visa restrictions for Russian citizens, with Hungary yet to respond to the EU Commission's request for clarification on its 'National Card' programme.

The dispute comes on the heels of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's controversial visit to Moscow shortly after Hungary assumed the EU presidency, further straining already fraught EU-Hungary relations.

EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson had requested an explanation from Hungary regarding the 'National Card' programme, which reportedly allows Russian and Belarusian citizens easier travel within the EU. The deadline for Hungary's response passed on Monday without any comment from Budapest.

The issue is expected to be a



The dispute comes on the heels of Hungarian PM Viktor Orban's controversial visit to Moscow shortly after Hungary assumed the EU presidency

key topic at the upcoming EU foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels on August 28, which has been moved from Hungary, diverging from the tradition of holding informal meetings in the capital of the country holding the EU presidency.

Hungary's position on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict has often clashed with the broader EU stance, with Orban facing accusations of being 'pro-Russian', which he denies. Additionally, Hungary has been at odds with the EU over military and financial support for Ukraine and its EU membership negotiations.

These disagreements compound existing EU concerns about Hungary's 'adherence to democratic principles and the rule of law', which have led to the freezing of a significant portion of EU budget allocations to Hungary under the 'breach of Union law' procedure.

Anadolu Agency

No 'red lines' in Ukraine's confrontation with Russia, says Zelensky

Moscow, Russia - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that there can be no 'red lines' in Ukraine's confrontation with Russia, defending Ukraine's recent incursion into Russia's Kursk region as necessary due to Western restrictions on strikes deep into Russian territory.

"If our partners had lifted all restrictions on strikes against targets in Russia, we wouldn't have needed to physically enter the Kursk region," Zelensky stated during a meeting at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry in Kyiv late on Monday.

Zelensky argued that

Ukraine's operation in Kursk revealed the fallacy of the so-called 'red lines' in dealing with Russia. "We now have a crucial ideological shift - the naive, illusory concept of red lines concerning Russia, once prevalent in some assessments of the war, has crumbled," he said.

He claimed that Ukrainian forces currently control approximately 1,250sqkm of territory and 92 settlements in Kursk.

Zelensky also urged Western allies to synchronise with Ukraine and expedite the delivery of promised weapons and military equipment.



We now have a crucial ideological shift - the naive, illusory concept of red lines concerning Russia, once prevalent in some assessments of the war, has crumbled

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

The operation in Kursk began on the night of August 5-6, with Ukrainian forces entering near Sudzha. On August 12, Zelensky confirmed the incursion but did not disclose its objectives.

Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the incursion as a 'terrorist attack', while the

Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations reported that over 121,000 people had been evacuated from the combat zone.

Independent verification of claims from both sides remains challenging due to the ongoing conflict.

Meanwhile, US Defence Secretary

Lloyd Austin and Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov discussed Ukraine's military operations on Monday, the Pentagon said.

In a phone call, Austin and Umerov also discussed ongoing support from allies and partners in helping meet Ukraine's urgent

military requirements, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh told reporters.

Austin reiterated US support for Ukraine and that the two will continue to remain in close contact, she added.

Stressing that the US will continue to support Ukraine in its fight against Russia, Singh said: "Our main avenue of supporting Ukraine is through security assistance, so presidential drawdown packages are going to continue."

"I don't have more information," she said when asked to provide more details about to

what degree the Russians are withdrawing forces.

"We have seen movements of Russian forces, but I couldn't tell you exactly where they're pulling their forces from, other than what they've said publicly, as well as that they are going to move forces. But I just don't have more specifics to get into on where they're pulling them from," she added.

Singh also underlined that there has not been a change in the US's longstanding policy on how weapons can be used on the battlefield or within Russia.

Anadolu Agency

WHO Europe chief Hans Kluge says mpox ‘is not the new COVID’

Geneva, Switzerland - The Europe chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday that mpox, declared a public health emergency of international concern by the health body, ‘is not the new COVID’.

“Mpox is not the new COVID, regardless of whether it’s pox clade I, behind the ongoing outbreak in East and Central Africa, or pox clade II, behind the 2022 outbreak that initially impacted Europe and has continued to circulate there,” said Hans Kluge, explaining different variants of the disease. “Based on what we do know, mpox primarily transmits

through skin-to-skin contact with lesions, including during sex.”

According to the WHO, one of the Declaration of Global Health Emergency goals is for all countries to be alert and ready should any pox cases come to their territory.

“We know how to control mpox, and, in the European Region, the steps needed to eliminate its transmission altogether,” said Kluge.

WHO says on its website that of the confirmed cases in the WHO African region in 2024, 95 per cent were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC),



European region now sees about 100 new mpox cases every month

which is experiencing an upsurge of mpox cases.

It has more than 15,000 clinically compatible cases and over 500 deaths reported, already exceeding the number of cases observed in the DRC in 2023.

Also, this year, cases of mpox, linked to one variant of mpox, have so far been reported in the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo, and cases linked to another variant have been reported in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, and South Africa.

On August 15, Sweden became the first country outside

the African continent to confirm the mpox clade 1b variant in an individual with a travel history to central Africa, according to the WHO.

Kluge said the European region now sees about 100 new mpox cases every month.

“While anyone can catch mpox, not everyone is at equal risk,” said Kluge.

“People who closely interact with someone who is infectious, including through sexual contact, are at greater risk for infection, particularly sexual partners, but also, potentially, household members and health workers.”

Anadolu Agency

Joe Biden's comments on Gaza ceasefire ‘misleading’: Hamas

Gaza City, Palestine - Hamas on Tuesday called US President Joe Biden's claim that the Palestinian group had backed away from a Gaza ceasefire deal ‘misleading’.

“Biden and (US Secretary of State Antony) Blinken's statements are misleading and don't reflect the true position of the movement, which is keen on halting the aggression,” Hamas said in a statement.

As he prepared to leave Chicago after a keynote address to the Democratic National Convention, Biden said: “It's still in play, but you can't predict.”

“Israel says they can work it out ... Hamas is now backing away,” he added.

Hamas said Biden's comments ‘were part of the US bias towards the Israeli occupation and full complicity in the aggression and war of extermination against the defenceless civilians in Gaza’.

It said the latest US proposal ‘constitutes a reversal of what the parties reached on July 2, based on Biden-backed proposal on May 31, and UN Security Council Resolution 2735’.

The proposal ‘is an American response and surrender to the new conditions of the terrorist (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu and his criminal plans against the Gaza Strip’, Hamas said.

Gaza ceasefire talks in Qatar



At least 12 Palestinians were killed on Tuesday in an Israeli airstrike on a school that shelters displaced people in Gaza City, the Civil Defence Agency said

concluded on Friday by presenting ‘a proposal that narrows the gaps’ between Israel and Hamas that is consistent with the principles set out by Biden on May 31.

Biden said in May that Israel presented a three-phase deal that would end hostilities in Gaza and secure the release of hostages held in the coastal enclave. The plan includes a ceasefire, a hostage-prisoner exchange, and the reconstruction of Gaza.

But Hamas said on Sunday that Netanyahu set new conditions in the Gaza ceasefire and hostage swap proposal that was floated during the Doha talks.

“The new proposal meets Netanyahu's conditions and aligns with them, particularly his refusal of a permanent ceasefire, a complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and his insistence on continuing the occupation of the

Netzarim Junction (which separates the north and south of the Gaza Strip), the Rafah crossing, and the Philadelphi Corridor (in the south),” Hamas said in a statement.

“He also set new conditions in the hostage swap file and retracted from other terms, which obstructs the completion of the deal,” it added.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Israel will not

withdraw from the Philadelphi Corridor on Gaza-Egypt border and the Netzarim Axis, which divides the Gaza Strip into two parts ‘under any circumstances’.

“Israel will not, under any circumstances, leave the Philadelphi Corridor and the Netzarim Axis despite the enormous pressure it is under to do so,” Netanyahu said in statements cited by Israeli daily Maariv during a meeting with families of Israelis

Biden and (US Secretary of State Antony) Blinken's statements are misleading and don't reflect the true position of the movement, which is keen on halting the aggression

HAMAS

held captive in Gaza.

“These are strategic principles, both militarily and politically,” added Netanyahu.

12 killed in strike on school

At least 12 Palestinians were killed on Tuesday in an Israeli airstrike on a school that shelters displaced people in Gaza City, the Civil Defence Agency said.

Several other people were injured in the attack that targeted the Mustafa Hafez School in the al-Rimal neighbourhood, western Gaza City, which shelters hundreds of displaced people, medical sources told Anadolu.

The strike has caused the collapse of one of the school's buildings that housed some 700 displaced civilians, eyewitnesses said.

Anadolu Agency

World's oldest person dies at 117 in Spain

Madrid, Spain - Maria Branyas, the world's oldest person, died on Monday at the age of 117, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Born on March 4, 1907, in San Francisco, US, Branyas moved to Spain as a young child in 1915. She had held the title of the world's oldest person since January 17, 2023, following the death of French supercentenarian Lucile Randon at 118, according to Spanish media.

A supercentenarian is a person who is 110 years or older.

The Gerontology Research Group (GRG), which oversees the Guinness World Records list of oldest people, confirmed that Branyas' age and status were scientifically validated. In July, she became the 8th longest-lived person in recorded history, according to GRG data.

Branyas' life spanned numerous historical events, including her survival of the COVID-19 pandemic. At 113, she contracted and recovered from the virus in April 2020, becoming at the time the oldest known survivor of the disease.

Prior to her global recognition, Branyas had been acknowledged as Spain's oldest living person since December 22, 2019. The Gerontology Research Group and Guinness World Records are expected to announce the new holder of the title ‘world's oldest person’ in due course.

Anadolu Agency

Pakistan conducts training launch of ballistic missile

Islamabad, Pakistan - Pakistan on Tuesday conducted ‘successful’ training launch of surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II, the military said.

“The training launch was aimed at training of troops, validating various technical parameters and performance evaluation of different sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability,” the Pakistani army said in a statement.

Tuesday's training launch was witnessed by senior officers from the Strategic Plans Division and Army Strategic Forces Command, as well as scientists and engineers of strategic organisations. Shaheen-II is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a range of 1,500km (932 miles).

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, and services chiefs congratulated the scientists and engineers on their achievement.



tists and engineers on their achievement.

The two South Asian arch rivals - Pakistan and India - are among a small handful of countries with nuclear arsenals. India joined the nuclear club long before Pakistan, in 1974, prompting Islamabad to follow suit.

Pakistan silently developed its own nuclear capability in the 1980s, when it was an ally of the US in the first Afghan war against the crumbling Soviet Union.

Jerusalem - Families of Israeli hostages in Gaza have accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of abandoning their loved ones for his political survival. The criticism came after the army said on Tuesday that it had recovered the bodies of six hostages from the Palestinian enclave.

According to the Israeli public broadcaster KAN, the six hostages were alive when taken to Gaza on October 7, 2023. “He and all the hostages could have been brought back,” Mati Danczyg, whose father was among the dead hostages, told KAN.

“Netanyahu chose to sacrifice the hostages. Karma will judge him and he will pay for it, big time,” he said, accusing the Israeli premier of ‘choosing to abandon the hostages in order to survive’.

Shahar Mor, whose uncle was also killed in Gaza, said the Israeli government ‘wasted time and opportunities to save him’.

“The blood is on the hands of



the government. For Netanyahu's survival, my uncle died,” he told the local Radio 103FM.

In a statement, the families held Netanyahu's government responsible for the death of the hostages due to the delay in reaching a swap deal with Hamas to save the lives of the captives.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid also blamed Netanyahu for

retrieving the captives dead.

Sisi meets Blinken

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi warned on Tuesday of the risk of the Gaza war expanding regionally in a way ‘difficult to imagine’ during a meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in El-Alamein in northern Egypt. The two sides reviewed

mediation efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and swap prisoners, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

They also exchanged views about the results of the last round of Gaza ceasefire talks in Qatar and ways to achieve progress in a planned round of the talks in Cairo this week, it added.

Anadolu Agency

INDIA

Safety of medics: Apex court sets up task force to prepare action plan

New Delhi - The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the nation can't wait for another rape and murder for bringing changes on the ground and set up National Task Force (NTF) to prepare an action plan to prevent violence against medical professionals and providing safe working conditions.

"As more and more women join the work force, the nation cannot wait for another rape for things to change on the ground," the top court said.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra's observation came while hearing a suo motu cognisance of the rape and murder of a doctor in State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The top court questioned the West Bengal government for waiting three hours to register the FIR. The top court also pulled the WB government observing that the name and graphic images of the deceased have been widely circulated on social media without regard to her privacy or dignity.

On August 9, a thirty-one-year-old postgraduate doctor at RG Kar Medical College Hospital, Kolkata who was on a thirty-six-hour duty shift was murdered and allegedly raped inside the seminar room of the hospital.



Resident doctors stage a protest demanding justice for the victim of Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital tragedy, outside Nirman Bhawan, in New Delhi on Monday (ANI)

"As horrific details have emerged in the course of media reportage, the brutality of the sexual assault and the nature of the crime have shocked the conscience of the nation. The name and graphic images of the deceased have been widely circulated on social media without regard to her privacy or dignity," the top court said.

The top court noted that the lack of institutional safety norms at medical establishments against both violence and sexual violence against medical professionals is a matter of serious concern.

"While gendered violence is the source of the more malevolent manifestations of the structural deficiencies in public health institutions, the lack of safety is of concern to all medical professionals. Preserving safe conditions of work is central to realising equality of opportunity to every working professional. This is not just a matter of protecting doctors.

Their safety and well-being as health providers, it is a matter of national interest. As more and more women join the work force in cutting edge areas of knowledge and science, the nation has a vital stake in ensuring safe and dignified conditions of work. The constitutional value of equality demands nothing else and will not brook compromises on the health, well-being and safety of those who provide health care to others. The nation cannot await a rape or murder for real changes on the ground," the top court said.

The bench set up NTF to prepare action plan to prevent violence against medical professionals and providing safe working conditions.

The members of the NTF team includes heads of various medical institutions across the country - surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Dr M Srinivas, Dr Pratima Murthy, Dr Goverdhan Dutt Puri, Dr Saumitra Rawat, Professor Anita Saxena, Dr Pallavi Saple and Dr Padma Srivastava.

The top court also said that the Cabinet Secretary & Home secretary, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare secretary, the chairperson of National Medical Commission and the president, National Board of Examinations will be ex-officio members of the NTF.

ANI

India, Malaysia to elevate ties to comprehensive partnership

New Delhi - Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the ties between India and Malaysia will be elevated to a 'comprehensive strategic partnership'.

In a joint press statement with his Malaysian counterpart at Hyderabad House in Delhi, PM Modi said: "After becoming the PM, this is the first visit of Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim. India and Malaysia are completing a decade of partnership and in the last two years, with the support of PM Anwar Ibrahim, our partnership has gained a new momentum and energy."

Modi further said that the investment from Malaysia to India reached over US\$5bn last year.



PM Narendra Modi exchanges greetings with Malaysian PM Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Tuesday (ANI)

He said: "We discussed extensively all areas of mutual co-operation. We have seen that our bilateral trade is progressing steadily. Today we have decided that our partnership will be elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership."

Lauding the India-Malaysia relationship, the PM said that the two countries have 'more potential' when it comes to ties,

which is why the cooperation must be increased. He also announced that India's UPI will be collaborating with Malaysian Paynet, and the linkage of the two will be worked upon.

"We have more potential in our relationship. We must increase our cooperation in the field of New technology areas, such as fintech, semiconductor, AI and Quantum...We will be working on linking India's UPI and Malaysian Paynet," he said.

India and Malaysia exchanged MoUs and agreements in the presence of the PMs at the Hyderabad House here in the national capital after holding a bilateral meeting.

ANI

Why is PM Modi visiting Ukraine after Russia?

Kyiv is due to welcome Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 23, on the eve of Ukrainian Independence Day, and just over a month after Modi visited Moscow.

His visit is sure to evoke mixed feelings among his Ukrainian hosts. India has persevered in maintaining close ties to Russia despite the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, at the cost of significant irritation to Kyiv and its allies.

While Modi has called for peace, he has also refused to directly hold the Kremlin responsible for the war.

This was also illustrated during Modi's trip to Russia in July and his meeting with President Vladimir Putin, which coincided with Moscow's deadly attack on a Ukrainian children's hospital.

The Indian prime minister responded with a carefully worded comment.

"When innocent children are killed, the heart bleeds and that pain is very terrifying," Modi said at the time.



While PM Narendra Modi has called for peace, he has also refused to directly hold the Kremlin responsible for the war

leader to Ukraine for about 30 years.

"India has substantive and independent ties with both Russia and Ukraine and these partnerships stand on their own," Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West) at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) told reporters during a media briefing on Monday.

India wants peace talks

Experts say that this visit is a balancing act for India, which also gives New Delhi a chance to urge peace negotiations.

But Indian diplomacy has to maintain a difficult balance.

"Russia is a long-term traditional ally and Ukraine also has had very friendly relations with India. It is a difficult task to manage this, especially because

Ukraine has received strong support from the West, with which India also has good relations," Rajiv Bhatia, former Indian ambassador, and a distinguished fellow at the Gateway House think tank, told DW.

"India wants to expand, consolidate and maintain its ties with Russia," he said, adding that New Delhi was not concerned that the Kyiv visit could jeopardise India's relations with Moscow.

Tiptoeing between US, Russia, China

Military, trade and diplomatic ties between Russia and India already run deep.

India purchases over 40 per cent of its oil and 60 per cent of its armaments from Russia, and also imports significant amounts of coal, fertilizer, vegetable oil and precious metals.

The fact that Russia is being shunned by the West over the Ukraine invasion is working in India's favour, as it motivates Moscow to pursue even closer ties. Also, New Delhi is wary that alienating Moscow could push Russia closer to China, which is India's major rival in Asia.

Complicating the geopolitical calculation even further, the US and other Western countries are irritated by Modi's Russia-friendly stance and by his meeting with Putin.

However, the West also doesn't want India to lose this influence in Moscow, as India could serve as a counterbalance to China when trying to sway the Kremlin.

DW

HEAVY DOWNPOUR IN CAPITAL CITY



Severe traffic congestion was witnessed in several parts of Delhi after a heavy downpour on Tuesday (ANI)

EC issues notification for J-K polls

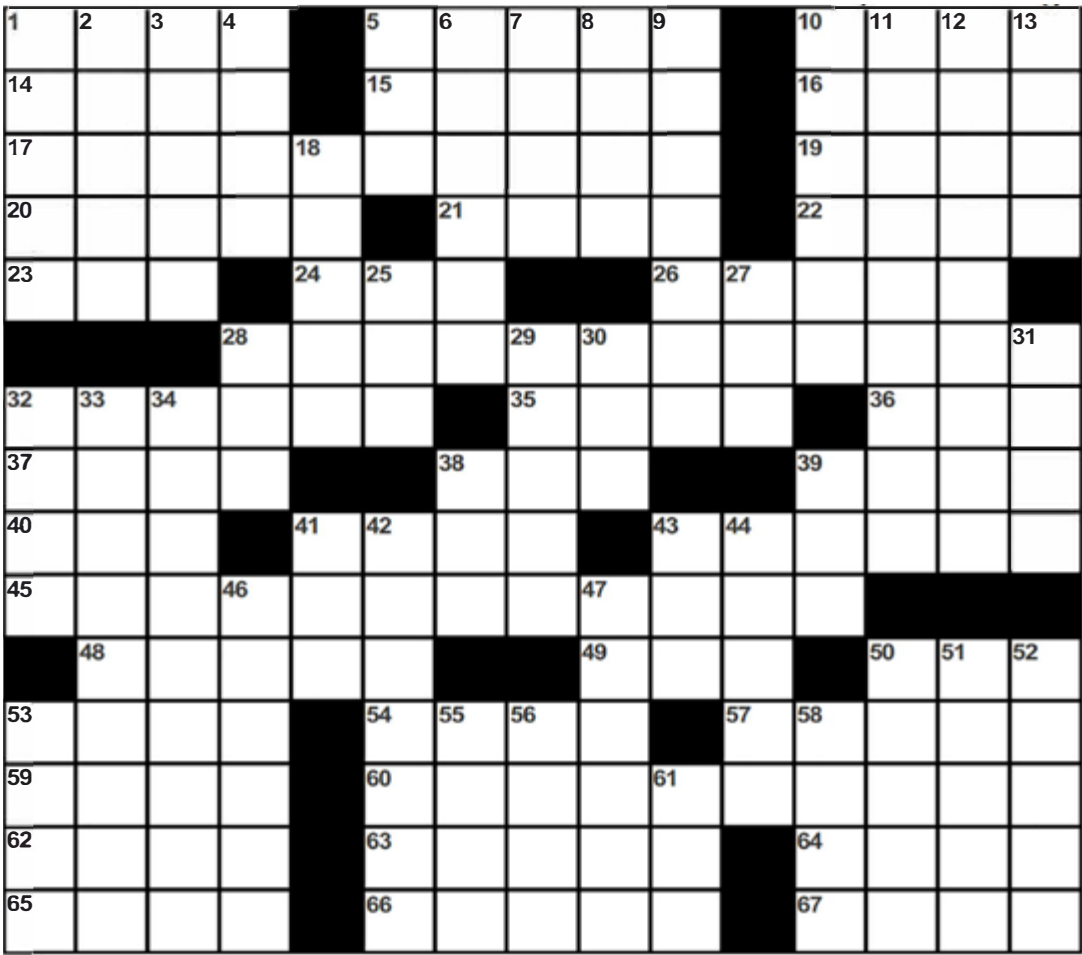
Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir - The Election Commission on Tuesday issued the notification for the first phase of the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, marking the start of the nomination process.

Voting will be held on 24 seats in the Union Territory, including Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, D H Pora and Kulgam, in the first phase of the election on September 18.

The last date for filing nominations for the first phase of assembly polls is August 27 while the scrutiny will take place on August 28. The last date for the withdrawal of candidature is August 30.

ANI

DAILY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1) Petty quarrel
 - 5) Throw, as mud
 - 10) Tooth point
 - 14) Korea's continent
 - 15) Tea sweetener
 - 16) Sui of fashion
 - 17) Muslim palace area open only during the third month?
 - 19) Stick around
 - 20) Pale-looking
 - 21) It often follows a noun
 - 22) Irritates
 - 23) Take steps
 - 24) "Lenore" poet
 - 26) Golfer Palmer, to pals
 - 28) Musical group doing parody songs?
 - 32) Stymlie
 - 35) Apollo org.
 - 36) Prefix with "life" or "wife"
 - 37) Jockey's handful
 - 38) High peak
 - 39) Fancy party
 - 40) Busts and such
 - 41) Barnyard bundle
 - 43) Comments in parentheses
 - 45) Potato in a still-life painting?
 - 48) "All_ in favor ..."
 - 49) According to
 - 50) One walking on foot, for short
 - 53) Chicago mayor Emanuel
 - 54) Pitching whizzes
 - 57) Ballerina's rail
 - 59) Arizona's_ Fria National Monument
 - 60) Look from a mesmerized cinema patron?
 - 62) Mannerly guy
 - 63) Flabbergast
 - 64) Aroma
 - 65) Regarding
 - 66) Comic strip segment
 - 67) Apt word spelled by the added letters of 17-, 28-, 45- and 60 - Across
- DOWN**
- 1) Outback Bowl city
 - 2) Sci-fi's Asimov
 - 3) Winning position
 - 4) Almanac tidbit
 - 5) "Zip your lip!"
 - 6) Bakery units
 - 7) Regarding
 - 8) At no time, to poets
 - 9) Duffels carried to workouts, say
 - 10) Place for high rollers
 - 11) In need of clipping, as hedges
 - 12) Rattler hazard
 - 13) Ponies up
 - 18) Really keyed up
 - 25) Stable morsel
 - 27) HDTV brand
 - 28) Bronze-hued
 - 29) Coastal arm
 - 30) Catch a few Zs
 - 31) Uplifting poems
 - 32) Fairway hazard
 - 33) Legacies
 - 34) Unjustified persecution
 - 38) Bristol brew
 - 39) Pine relative
 - 41) One of Greyhound's fleet
 - 42) Guide for a walking tour
 - 43) "Honest" U.S. prez
 - 44) Croats' neighbors
 - 46) Part of BLT
 - 47) Expand, as a business
 - 50) Madrid museum
 - 51) Typo, for one
 - 52) Name on a tractor
 - 53) Shankar song, often
 - 55) Very deep sleep
 - 56) "... Almighty" (2007 movie)
 - 58) Quark's place
 - 61) Wiggly fish

NOTE PAD

FLAK ZAGS LISPS
LONE OVAL ENNUI
YETI DIRE SPORT
BILLIARDSTABLE
LIAR TAI
MOTORCYCLETRACK
OHARA OER SULU
MIR SUBMENU RAM
MOOT SAT TIARA
AUTOMATEDTELLER
PEI EARL
YOU CAN BANK ON IT
EPSON OBIE EROS
NADAL GURU SAGE
SLATY STOP SNOW

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Circumstances beyond your control could cause you to feel a bit of stress today, so you'll have to get some perspective. Think about it this way: if these things are beyond your control, then what can you really do about it anyway? Accept what you can't change and stop beating your head against the wall. Your attitude about the day and your attitude about what happens today will be mismatched. There is some disappointment in the air.

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Why are you resisting taking the advice that people in your family have been giving you? Do you think it's a sign of failure to do something that they suggest you do? Nonsense! They love you and want you to be happy, and they think they know how that can happen. Sure, they might be wrong, but your plans might be wrong too. And going along with their plans will help you at least gain a fresh perspective on the issues you're struggling with. What have you got to lose?

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Self-control has never been your strong suit, but then again you've never really wanted it to be. You much prefer taking every experience to the absolute nth degree, pushing every envelope just as far as it can possibly be pushed, and seeing just how much fun you can actually stand, which is usually quite a bit, truth be told. That's going to go double now, so lay in a decent supply of antacids, aspirin, and very strong coffee.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Which of these won the Grammy Award for Record of the Year in 2008?

A. Beat It by Michael Jackson
B. Rehab by Amy Winehouse
C. Hotel California by The Eagles
D. Killing Me Softly with His Song by Roberta Flack

2. Football athlete, broadcaster and actor, O.J. Simpson, ran in the Torch Relay for which Olympic Games?

A. 1976 Winter Olympics
B. 1986 Winter Olympics
C. 1996 Summer Olympics
D. 1984 Summer Olympics

3. Who were the Persians defeated by in the sea battle at Salamis in 480BC?

A. Phoenicians
B. Rome
C. Greece
D. Venice

Answers: 1. B 2. D 3. C

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Go out of your way to do something new, even in a small way. Take a different way to the office kitchen (who knew that there was a cute new hire in the east corner?), or go somewhere different for lunch (sushi is a nice change from the usual burrito). If you make an effort, there are a thousand different ways you could shed a little light and brighten up your day. It might just spill over into all kinds of unexpected areas too.

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

It's easy to teach an old dog new tricks when the dog wants to learn them, so if you're looking to pick up a new skill or get rid of a bad habit, make sure you have the honest desire to do so. If you don't feel that strongly about change, you're just wasting your time trying to make it happen. Are you letting other people's expectations drive your goals? Make sure that your ambitions are your own or they're never going to inspire you.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

You've never been fond of secrets. When they're kept from you, you feel as if you're not in the loop, which just won't do. After all, you wrote the book on that very same loop. It's no better on the other side either. When you're keeping information from someone, you feel guilty, even if there's a really good reason for it. That said, better prepare to deal with it for a day or so, because there's something going on that's just not fit for public consumption yet.

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

You might need to step up and get everyone on the same page. Recenter the group. Luckily, your leadership energy is at an all-time high. Focus on getting all the different personalities in sync with the same goal. Make a plan that everyone can stick to. And if someone complains, don't take it personally. Listen to your dissatisfied group members just as closely as you listen to the ones who fawn all over you, doling out praise. In fact, you can often learn more from the dissenters.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

The course of your day could be difficult to pin down. Even if you think you have everything scheduled down to the minute, you could find yourself revising plans once or twice. But don't worry. These changes will be fun, and they'll probably make you very happy. Sometimes commitments are made to be broken, and people understand that. If you need to cancel or reschedule something with a friend or coworker, don't worry. They won't get mad.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Okay, so you're not famous for being the type of person who conjures up greeting card sentiments every time your mouth opens. You have other redeeming qualities, among them the ability to call a spade a spade. At the moment, however, you'll be amazed by just how poetically you'll describe that same spade. If you are embarrassed easily and you can't stand the thought of someone remembering you in this verbal condition, better swear off the conversation entirely for at least a couple of days.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Your creativity has always been a big part of your intelligence, but never more so than right now. The tasks you're working through require the kinds of smarts that you have in abundance. This is a very exciting time for you, full of unique people who are helping you see things in a new light. There might be a frustrating person in the mix, but even though they might rub you the wrong way from time to time, the sensation they leave you with is always positive.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You're an expert at focus, which some folks might actually call "obsession," and you love nothing more than that feeling of concentration. It translates into infatuation in your book, and it's all good. You're feeling it now, but don't worry about being there alone. The object of your attention is not only on the same page, they've actually begun to read ahead of the assignment. Be sure you want to end up in the same place before you keep going.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

A casual conversation could turn toward emotional topics, and you'll be thrilled about it, mostly because your conversation partner is someone you're curious about. This is a great chance for you to get to know how they think, why they think what they think, and maybe even what they think of you. Don't be afraid to steer the topic back to the deeper stuff if they start to back off. You can't let this opportunity go to waste. Share your emotions.

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

F	T	H	M
G	E	Qu	M
E	A	D	E
U	S	I	A

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

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

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

FOX IN THE BOX AT IT AGAIN

Veteran Jamie Vardy’s goal earns Leicester City point against Tottenham Hotspur

Leicester, England - Veteran striker Jamie Vardy earned newly-promoted Leicester City a 1-1 draw with a profligate Tottenham Hotspur in their Premier League season opener on Monday.

Spurs dominated the first half but Pedro Porro’s opener in the 29th minute was the only time they could make one of a host of good chances count.

More clear-cut opportunities came and went after the break,

Leicester scored, the crowd lifted and we lost our composure. It was an issue we had last year as well, we need to keep working hard and be a bit more ruthless in front of goal. At times we made poor decisions.

“It’s not our football or effort. To get results you need to be a lot more ruthless in the final third. If we don’t we won’t get the rewards our football deserves.”

Spurs’ evening went from bad to worse when midfielder Ro-

I see age as just a number. As long as I keep looking after myself and my legs keep feeling great, then I will carry on for as long as is physically possible.

JAMIE VARDY

with the visitors’ wastefulness proving costly when Leicester skipper Vardy headed an equaliser into the net with 57 minutes gone.

Brazilian Richarlison missed a golden opening to win it at the death and Spurs had to settle for one point in a match they really should have taken all three from.

“Disappointing night for us,” Spurs boss Ange Postecoglou told Sky Sports. “First half excellent and controlled the game but wasteful in front of goal. Second half was the same.

“We started off well and once

drigo Bentancur was carried off on a stretcher after an eight-minute stoppage in the second half, following a nasty collision.

The Uruguayan was given oxygen as he was surrounded by medical staff but was later reported to be recovering.

A poor end to last season saw Spurs miss out on a top-four finish in Australian Postecoglou’s first year in charge.

The north London club have invested in several new signings in the close season to challenge for the Champions League qualification places once again, with



Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy celebrates after scoring against Tottenham Hotspur on Monday

striker Dominic Solanke the biggest outlay.

The former Bournemouth forward, playing Premier League football again after a year back in the second tier, should have opened his Spurs account in the first half at the King Power Stadium.

Some wayward finishing from Solanke ensured Leicester were let off the hook early on, before Porro arrived on the end of a James Maddison cross to guide home the opening goal. The second half appeared to be a matter of how many Spurs would score, with Solanke again guilty of wasting gilt-edged opportunities.

Vardy, however, made no mistake when presented with his chance to snatch a point for Leicester and the 37-year-old collected the eighth Premier League opening-day goal of his career, a tally bettered only by Liverpool’s Mohamed Salah.

Vardy’s goal was his 137th in 308 Premier League appearances, with 103 of those strikes coming since he turned 30. He has explained the sense of responsibility that he feels to his team-mates in making himself available and staying as fit as possible.

“I see age as just a number,” Vardy said. “As long as I keep looking after myself and my legs keep feeling great, then I will carry on for as long as is physically possible.

“I wouldn’t say I am doing anything differently playing-wise. Probably adapted a bit by dropping in but I think the main thing is I am looking after myself recovery-wise to the maximum.”



Georginio Rutter

Brighton sign Rutter from Leeds

Brighton and Hove, England - Brighton & Hove Albion have signed forward Georginio Rutter from Championship side Leeds United on a five-year contract, both clubs said on Monday.

While the financial details were not disclosed, English media reported the Premier League side had paid a club record transfer fee of 40 million pounds (\$51 million) for the 22-year-old Frenchman.

Rutter joined Leeds from German side Hoffenheim in 2023 in a then-club record deal worth up to 36 million pounds (\$46 million).

He made 66 appearances and scored eight goals over an 18-month spell at the club.

Brighton manager Fabian Hürzeler said Rutter would excite the fans.

“Georginio is a player who has the capabilities to get fans off their seats and really showed what he can do in English football with Leeds last season - but I have known about him since he played in Germany for Hoffenheim,” he said in a statement.

Leeds said they had been unable to persuade Rutter to stay. “Every effort was made to keep Georginio at Elland Road despite his exit clause being activated, but he was persistent and adamant in his desire to leave and we respect his decision,” Leeds said.

Brighton host Manchester United in their next Premier League match on Saturday after making an impressive start to their campaign with a 3-0 win at Everton in their season opener.

Cooper: We'll use Vardy as much as we can but we still need signings

Leicester, England - Steve Cooper is keen to keep 37-year-old striker Jamie Vardy fit and use him as much as possible, but the Leicester City manager remains anxious to sign reinforcements up front.

Cooper sprung a surprise in his first match in charge of the Foxes, stating on Friday that Vardy would miss Monday’s match against Tottenham Hotspur with a knee injury, but then naming him in his starting lineup three days later.

Sure enough, Vardy proved to be Leicester’s hero, scoring with the Foxes’ first attempt on target as they came from 1-0 down to earn a 1-1 draw. But Cooper is aware he cannot rely on his veteran striker’s fitness.



Steve Cooper

“If the game was on Sunday or certainly Saturday then there’s no way he would have played,” said Cooper.

“He’d been out for a while, [since the] second week of pre-season, and [Patson] Daka got injured last week at Lens. He’s had an operation and is going to be out for a few months.

“It was just grinding on [Jamie] a little bit that we were

going back into the Premier League and we didn’t have a fit senior striker. He came to see me two days ago and just said, ‘I’m available to play,’ so we picked him.

“We definitely need to strengthen areas of the team, and I would say the top end of the pitch is where we’re looking to go.

“But while he’s available to play what he can then we’re

We definitely need to strengthen areas of the team, and I would say the top end of the pitch is where we’re looking to go.

STEVE COOPER

going to use him, because when we get enough good ball around the opponents’ box and when we get enough good territory and in good numbers, he’s the guy that will find the space. He’s the guy

that will get on the end of something that nobody else is expecting.

“So let’s wrap him up, let’s work with him. He has to have a view as well on what’s right for him in preparation. I trust him. I believe that he’s trusting me as well, and how we’re going to treat him, and if we can get what we got tonight out of him, after two days’ training, then let’s continue that way.”



Oliver Skipp

Leicester sign midfielder Skipp from Tottenham

Leicester, England - Leicester City have signed midfielder Oliver Skipp from Tottenham Hotspur on a five-year contract, the promoted Premier League club said on Monday.

Financial details were not disclosed by either club, but British media reported the deal was worth in excess of 20m pounds. The 23-year-old Skipp made 106 appearances for Spurs. He has represented England at various youth levels.

“I’m really excited to sign... I’m sure that we’ve got a squad capable of challenging in every game,” Skipp said in a statement.

Ipswich sign midfielder Cajuste on season-long loan deal from Napoli

Ipswich, England - Ipswich Town have signed midfielder Jens Cajuste from Napoli on a season-long loan deal, the newly promoted Premier League club announced late on Monday.

The 25-year-old, who has earned 23 caps for Sweden, has made 26 appearances for Serie A side Napoli after joining from French club Stade Reims last

year.

Cajuste, who won the Danish Superliga title with Midtjylland before moving to France, was glad to complete the move.

“It took a little while with the negotiations but I’m finally here and I’m very excited,” he said in a statement.

Ipswich manager Kieran McKenna said Cajuste’s arrival

boosted his options in the middle of the park.

“He gives us another different profile to our midfield and puts us in a strong position in that department,” McKenna said.

Ipswich face Manchester City in their next Premier League match on Saturday, after suffering a 2-0 home defeat by Liverpool in their season opener.



Jens Cajuste

MOTTA'S JUVENTUS START WITH WIN

Turin side ease past Serie A debutants Como in opening match

Turin, Italy - New coach Thiago Motta led Juventus to a comfortable 3-0 win over newly-promoted Como in their Serie A opener at a sold-out Allianz Stadium on Monday, sparking turnaround hopes at the Turin-based club.

Forward Samuel Mbangula and winger Timothy Weah netted inside the first half, both scoring their first goals for Juve in Serie A, before Andrea Cambiaso added the third from a distance in stoppage time.

Rejuvenated Juventus start a new chapter under Motta, who led Bologna to the Champions League last season and will now hope to bring the Serie A title back to Turin for the first time in four years.

It was a harsh night for visitors Como, who challenged Juve for possession but lacked the quality to create clear chances on their return to the Italian top flight after 21 years.

Como, coached by former Arsenal, Barcelona and Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas, sealed promotion to Serie A after finishing second in Italy's second tier last season, three points behind Serie B champions Parma.

Juventus appeared confident from the off and Dusan Vlahovic threatened Como's goal in the 20th minute when his header went just wide, before Mbangula put them in front in the 23rd with a solo effort.



Samuel Mbangula (L) of Juventus celebrates with Andrea Cambiaso after scoring against Como

The 20-year-old struck low from the edge of the box, sending the ball into the bottom corner on his first-team debut following a season with Juve's reserves.

Mbangula also became the

youngest Belgian goalscorer in the history of Serie A and the first Belgian player to score in the Italian top flight for Juve.

Juventus extended their lead in first-half stoppage time

through Weah, who fired home a Kenan Yildiz cross and saw the ball bounce in off the inside of the bar. The hosts restarted on the front foot and Vlahovic thought he had made it 3-0 just after the

break, nodding home a Juan Cabal cross - but the goal was ruled out for offside.

Cambiaso, however, added the third goal in the dying minutes.



Juventus striker Dusan Vlahovic hit the woodwork twice and had a goal ruled out for offside

Dusan had a great game with and without the ball, says Motta

Turin, Italy - Juventus coach Thiago Motta appeared well pleased with his new team after they strolled to a 3-0 home win against Como on Monday.

Juve pulled off a confident performance as they beat newly-promoted Como with Samuel Mbangula, Timothy Weah and Andrea Cambiaso all on target in the first game of the season at the Allianz Stadium.

"I was satisfied with the performance but above all with the result. We deserved to win," Motta told a press conference. "Today I liked the defensive phase, understanding the moment to press, re-compose, the willingness of the attackers, of Dusan (Vlahovic) to start the first pressing.

"I'm satisfied. We can improve there too and we'll try to

do it in everything. I think this team should and can do it."

"Humility is always needed," Motta said. "Like that of Dusan today in dropping back to consolidate the team... we played well against a very good team that was coming with great enthusiasm.

"We faced them with great respect, in the right way: defending ourselves together; when we have the ball we have players of great quality, with a great understanding of the moment and the game and we did very well."

Motta, 41, had more words of praise for Serbian Vlahovic, who had a series of chances and a goal ruled out for offside.

"Dusan had a great game with and without the ball, for us he is an important player who definitely needs the team," said Motta.



Atletico Madrid's Alexander Sorloth scores against Villarreal

ATLETICO RALLY TO HOLD VILLARREAL

Villarreal, Spain - Atletico Madrid fought back twice to earn a point from an entertaining 2-2 draw at Villarreal in their LaLiga season opener on Monday.

Diego Simeone's Atleti started well and had a Reinildo Mandava goal ruled out for offside, then created a couple of chances with Samuel Lino who was denied by inspired Villarreal goalkeeper Diego Alcao.

However, it was the locals who scored first when forward Arnaut Danjuma beat defender Axel Witsel to collect a long pass from Alcao and netted from close range in the 18th minute.

Atletico hit back quickly on the counter-attack two minutes later when Marcos Llorente sped unmarked into the box and unleashed an unstoppable strike into the top corner of the net.

Lino hit the post in the 35th minute and Villarreal took advantage of a mistake by Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak in the 37th minute and the ball deflected off the back of Atletico captain Koke and into the net. Forward Alexander Sorloth, making his debut for Atletico after an outstanding

season for Villarreal as their top scorer, found the equaliser with a towering header six minutes into first-half added time from a Pablo Barrios cross from the right touchline.

In fierce, summer temperatures at La Ceramica on the east coast of Spain, both sides took it easier in the second half

In fierce, summer temperatures at La Ceramica on the east coast of Spain, both sides took it easier in the second half

and the match lost the relentless intensity it had seen early on.

Neither side got a shot on target after the break, with Villarreal substitute Nicolas Pepe having the best chance from a free kick and hitting the crossbar in the 82nd minute.

Argentina forward Julian Alvarez came off the bench to play the last 15 minutes but had little time to show why Atletico paid Man City more than 75 million euros.

Argentina leave Injured Messi out of World Cup qualifiers

Buenos Aires, Argentina - Injured Argentina captain Lionel Messi was left out of the squad announced on Monday by the Argentine FA for next month's South American World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Colombia. The 37-year-old Messi was not included in the 28-man squad following an ankle injury sustained during last month's Copa America final in the United States.

The Inter Miami player is currently recovering at his club.

River Plate goalkeeper Franco Armani was also left out of the squad, as was striker Angel Di Maria, who announced his retirement from the national team after the Copa America.

Coach Lionel Scaloni named midfielder Ezequiel Fernandez and striker Valentin Castellanos for the first time, along with young players including Alejandro Garnacho, Valentin Carboni, Valentin Barco and Matias Soule.

Argentina host Chile in Buenos Aires on Sept. 5 before facing Colombia five days later in Barranquilla.



Lionel Messi

I saw good things, says Atletico manager Simeone after disappointing start

Villarreal, Spain - Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone said he spotted good points in his side's performance despite the disappointing 2-2 draw at Villarreal that kicked off their LaLiga season on Monday.

Atletico had to fight back twice in the first half to rescue a point at Villarreal, who made the most of their rivals' mistakes in defence.

Arnaut Danjuma beat Atletico defender Axel Witsel to score Villarreal's opener and a bad mistake by goalkeeper Jan Oblak led to an own goal from Atleti captain Koke 19 minutes later. "We played a good game. We had individual situations that we have to improve but as a collective effort the team played well, but we conceded goals we could have avoided," Simeone said.

"(The) thing is, in the few chances they had in attack we were toothless and conceded two goals in isolated plays. But I saw good things and details that make the difference throughout the year."



Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone is happy with the debut performance of his blockbuster signing Julian Alvarez

Simeone said he was satisfied with the debut of Julian Alvarez, who came off the bench to play the final 15 minutes of the game but had little impact.

Argentine Alvarez joined Atletico only a week ago after Manchester City agreed a deal of more than 75 million euros (\$83.13 million).

Ilkay Gundogan announces international retirement

Barcelona, Spain - German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan has retired from international soccer, the 33-year-old said on Monday.

Gundogan, who joined Barcelona from Manchester City last year, made his debut for Germany in 2011 and scored 19 goals in 82 appearances for the national side.

"After a few weeks of consideration, I have come to the conclusion that it is time to end my national team career," Gundogan posted on social media.

"I look back with great pride

on 82 international matches for my home country -- a number I could never have dreamed of when I made my debut for the senior national team in 2011."

Gundogan featured in all five games for Germany at Euro 2024 and his last international appearance came in



Ilkay Gundogan

"But even before the tourna-

ment, I felt a certain tiredness in my body and also in my head, which got me thinking. And the games at club and national level are not getting any less."

Gundogan could leave Barca

Manchester City are among the clubs exploring the possibility of signing Gundogan amid doubts over his Barcelona future.

Clubs in Saudi Arabia, including Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr, are also interested in the midfielder, who could leave

Barcelona after just one season.

A source has told ESPN that Barcelona coach Hansi Flick wants the 33-year-old to stay, but club bosses are willing to let him leave if the right offer arrives.

Gundogan, who made 51 appearances last season for the Catalan club, has two years left on the contract he signed when he left City on a free transfer last summer.

City are considering signing another midfielder after allowing Calvin Phillips to join Ipswich Town in a season-long loan deal.



Aryna Sabalenka celebrates with the trophy

Sabalenka subdues Pegula to win title

Cincinnati, US - Aryna Sabalenka harnessed her powerful serve to subdue American Jessica Pegula 6-3 7-5 and win the Cincinnati Open on Monday, sending a message ahead of the year's final major in New York.

The twice Australian Open champion dropped only nine points on serve and hit 10 aces as she overcame some jitters late in the second set in an otherwise confident performance to pick up her sixth WTA 1000 title.

Pegula had appeared to be in good form after she retained her title in Toronto earlier this month but she struggled with her serve, with five double faults, as her nine-match unbeaten run came to an end.

Sabalenka got the break in the fourth game after Pegula whacked a forehand into the net and the Belarusian built on the momentum with a hold to love in the fifth, closing out the first set with an unreturnable serve.

She sent over a barrage of powerful forehands to get another break in the opening game of the second set but helped Pegula to get her lone break point with a double fault and a pair of unforced errors in the 10th game.

Sabalenka broke back immediately, however, and blew kisses to the crowd after she forced her opponent into an error on match point. She will move up one spot to number two in the rankings ahead of the U.S. Open, which starts next week.

The performance removed any possible doubt that Sabalenka is one of the hot favourites in Flushing, despite a shoulder injury earlier this season that forced her to miss Wimbledon.

She cruised through Cincinnati without dropping a set -- including against the world number one Iga Swiatek -- and will be out for revenge in New York after finishing runner-up last year.

"I want to thank my team - we've been through a lot but we never stopped working, never

I want to thank my team - we've been through a lot but we never stopped working, never stopped improving ourselves

ARYNA SABALENKA

stopped improving ourselves and I'm really happy to have you by my side," Sabalenka said in on-court remarks.

Pegula had mistakenly used the name "Serena" instead of "Aryna" when talking about the Belarusian in an on-court interview after her semi-final, and she joked on Monday that the mix-up with the 23-times Grand Slam winner was fitting.

SINNER REIGNS IN CINCINNATI

World number one beats Tiafoe in title clash

Cincinnati, US - World number one Jannik Sinner beat Frances Tiafoe 7-6(4) 6-2 at the Cincinnati Open final on Monday, showing that despite recent health struggles he will still be the man to beat at the upcoming U.S. Open in New York.

The 23-year-old, who has been struggling over the last couple of months with a hip issue and who missed the Paris Olympics due to tonsillitis, was error-prone to start the contest and came up limping after several points in the tight first set.

But he found his game in the tiebreak, absorbing the American's powerful serve on set point. Tiafoe's next shot sailed long as the Italian grabbed the opener.

Tiafoe, who has struggled to find momentum and wins this season, could not take advantage of his three break point opportunities in the first set and fell into a 2-0 hole to start the second from which he was never able to recover. Sinner rifled a forehand winner up the line for a 4-1 lead in the second and completed the win with an unreturnable serve on match point.

Sinner's triumph at the Masters 1000 event follows his



Jannik Sinner celebrates with the Cincinnati Open trophy

Grand Slam breakthrough at the Australian Open in January and is his fifth title of the year and first at the tournament in Ohio.

Critically, Sinner has now shown that he can win even when not 100% healthy, an attribute he may need to utilize at Flushing Meadows where defending champion Novak Djokovic and world number three Carlos Alcaraz are the other hot favourites.

Sinner escapes ban

Sinner has been cleared of any wrongdoing by an independent tribunal after failing two drug tests in March, the International Tennis Integrity Authority said on Tuesday.

The tribunal accepted Sinner's explanation that the anabolic agent clostebol entered his system from a member of his support team through massages and sports therapy, the ITIA said in a

I'm very happy about today's match. It was tough mentally... We both felt a lot of tension, but I'm very glad about the level I played, especially in the important moments.

JANNIK SINNER

statement.

The team member had applied an over-the-counter spray containing clostebol to their own skin to treat a small wound, the ITIA added. "After each positive test, a provisional suspension was applied. On both occasions, Sinner successfully appealed the provisional suspension and so has been able to continue play-

ing," it said.

"However, in line with the WADC (World Anti-Doping Code) and TADP (Tennis Anti-Doping Programme), Sinner's results, prize money and ranking points from the ATP Masters 1000 event at Indian Wells, where the player tested positive in competition for clostebol, are disqualified."

Samoa's Visser smashes 39 in an over to break T20I record

Samoa - Darius Visser hit 39 runs in a single over to set a men's Twenty20 International record and help Samoa to a 10-run victory over Vanuatu in a 2026 World Cup regional qualifier on Tuesday.

Visser, who scored 132 off 62 balls, was on 46 when Vanuatu's Nalin Nipiko stepped up to bowl the 15th over, in which the Samoa batter cleared the ropes on six occasions and faced three no balls.

Nipiko bowled a dot ball for the fifth delivery of the over but

followed it up with two no balls, with 28-year-old Visser hitting the second of them for a six.

Visser finished with 14 sixes and five fours.

The previous record for the most runs in a T20I over was 36, with India's Yuvraj Singh, West Indies' Kieron Pollard and Nepal all-rounder Dipendra Singh Airee all having struck six sixes in an over.

Yuvraj hit England's Stuart Broad for six sixes in an over in a 2007 T20 World Cup match, Pollard meted out the same



Darius Visser

treatment to Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya in 2021, with Airee becoming the third batsman to achieve the feat in April.

The record in one-day internationals is 36, scored by South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs and U.S. batsman Jaskaran Malhotra.

Visser, who also took the wicket of Vanuatu batter Ronald Tari, powered Samoa to a total of 174, which they were able to defend to claim their second victory in the East Asia-Pacific qualifying tournament.

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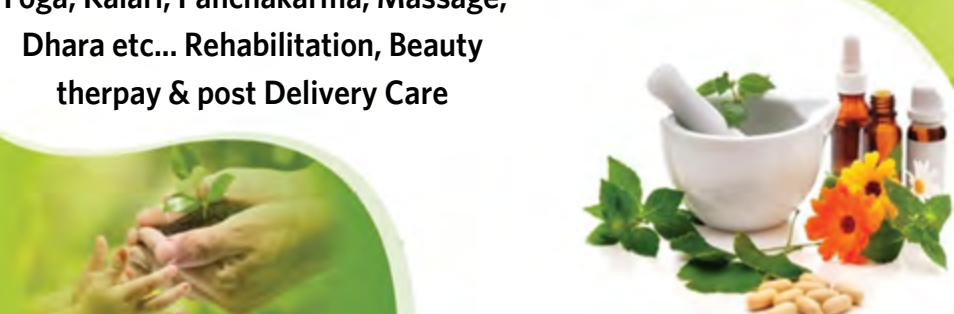
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FLIRTING WITH

SHIRTS & SKIRTS

ASHLEY GRAHAM'S SHIRT SKIRT CASUAL LOOK INDICATES THE RETURN OF DIY FASHION



Thom Brown experimented with shirts-turned-skirts in his Fall-Winter 2023 collection

What's the difference between a men's shirt and a women's skirt? According to Ashley Graham, they're interchangeable.

The model, presenter and body activist was spotted in New York City on Monday in a pinstriped outfit that called for a double-take. Graham's asymmetrical ensemble appeared as if the wind had blown a Oxford-style shirt to cling to her waist, backwards, with two sleeves flapping as she walked.

In fact, the look was hot off the summer runway. Designed by British luxury streetwear brand Charles Jeffrey Loverboy, as part of its latest menswear line, the dress shirt came deliberately entangled with the frock.

The post-punk-inspired collection pushed the humble cotton twill textile to its limits, blurring the line between office wear and pajamas, with scalloped-edged boxer shorts and striped shirts fashioned into office-style pencil skirts.

At the show in London in June, models walked out with their hair standing on end, lipstick smeared and their eyes lined with heavy black.

On Graham, the shirt-dress was styled decidedly more straightforward - though it still emanated a DIY vibe that has been experiencing a fashion revival on social media, particularly when it comes to repurposed menswear.

Creative TikTok users have guided viewers on how to transform an oversized button-down into a puffball skirt - much like the Schiaparelli number Sienna Miller wore at last fall's Vogue World event to announce her pregnancy. For a quirky maxi skirt, another user suggests buttoning two shirts together and adding a belt under the collars to give the appearance of a tie.

Even Thom Browne - one of the most established and recognisable menswear designers working today - has embraced this subversive approach within his trademark tailoring. For the brand's first couture show in 2022, Browne fashioned structured wool coats into calf-length skirts, the square shoulder padding giving models a sharp hourglass

silhouette.

In his Fall-Winter 2023 collection, Browne was more haphazard with his businesswear - deconstructing it with a childlike wonder as he buttoned together office shirts and blazers to make a voluminous skirt, clashing several stripe designs and finishing it off with a real tie.

And Graham isn't the first celebrity to take note of the trend. During her Glastonbury performance, Dua Lipa wore a custom Acne Studios set that looked more like a feat of bedroom DIY than a luxury pop star get-up. Her embellished tank top was folded up for a more extreme crop, while her skirt was a repurposed oversized T-shirt — with the crew neckline on full display.

Julia Fox, too, is no stranger to the power of upcycling, particularly in the pursuit of grabbing headlines - whether it be a top made from neckties, or as was the case last weekend, a low-rise maxi skirt made from 11 pairs of men's boxer shorts.

Love it or loathe it, this type of scrappy recycling has long been the entry point for early career designers and fashion fans. And in an increasingly costly economic landscape, the return of the DIY aesthetic feels more inclusive than any of the luxury logomania that came before. While there aren't many celebrity outfits that can be easily recreated at home, those who feel inspired by Graham's topsy-turvy skirt are, for once, in luck.

(Courtesy: cnnstyle.com)

Graham, who is styled by Emily Evans, wore a shirt-turned-skirt from Charles Jeffrey Loverboy

TIPS FOR MATCHING SKIRTS AND SHIRTS

Like salt and pepper, some things just aren't complete without their natural complement. Skirts and shirts definitely fall into this category. That said, they can be surprisingly tricky to match for two articles of clothing that are only one letter apart.

- Choosing which shirt to wear with which skirt starts with easy considerations like colour or matching details, but it quickly evolves into a proportions game.
- If you struggle with how to wear shirts with skirts, it may be because you're placing your skirts too low. Try situating a skirt's waistband at your natural waist and tucking a fitted shirt into the waistband.
- A skirt and shirt should have some aesthetic quality in common when worn together - same main colour/accent colour or same texture. For example, pair a studded denim skirt with jewelled shirt buttons.
- Create a standout silhouette by choosing the opposite volume for your shirt that you chose for your skirt. For example, pair a wide and flowy skirt with a tight top or a hip-hugging pencil skirt.
- Choose a bold printed midi skirt and an asymmetrical shirt to add interest, and don't forget the chunky statement belt. Adding a belt unites the two parts of the outfit.
- For fall and winter, try a tight long-sleeved shirt with a wide and flowy skirt. These skirts tend to look best when worn at the natural waist. If you have a favourite pair of statement boots, go for a high-low flowy skirt to show them off.





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SHANGRI-LA AL HUSN

CASTLE of love and exoticism

'AS A THOROUGH ROMANTIC, THE ALLURE OF A CASTLE GAZING AT THE DASHING WILD WAVES HAS ALWAYS FANTASISED MY IMAGINATION,' SAYS **ANIRBAN RAY** WHO COMES AWAY AWESTRUCK BY A DREAM STAYCATION AT AL HUSN

Castles are the epitome of protection and possessiveness - qualities that Shangri-La Al Husn embodies with grace and grandeur. Translating to 'The Castle' in Arabic, Al Husn is more than just a name, it's an experience!

Staying at Shangri-La Al Husn is like claiming your very own cliff-top fortress overseeing the Sea of Oman, where a single night feels like a lifetime of cherished dreams. Here, the glittering sands, the low murmurs of crabs ashore, and the moon's soft glow all play their part in accentuating Al Husn's romantic ambience.

Just a short, captivating drive from downtown Muscat, the resort is nestled in the lap of the amber, rugged contours of the Hajar mountains and flourished with the glittering turquoise waters of the Arabian Sea playing into the golden shores.

Shangri-La Al Husn is a sanctuary of luxury designed for couples, honeymooners, and newlyweds seeking an intimate escape. The gentle chirping of birds, the vibrant flowers in bloom, the fresh aroma of seafood emanating from four exotic restaurants, and the sight of a wide infinity pool complete with a Jacuzzi - these elements come together to create an atmosphere of exoticism in complete privacy.

Each of the resort's 180 rooms and suites is a sanctuary of comfort and elegance, featuring king-sized beds, private tubs, and balconies that offer breathtaking views of the beach and the secluded rocks below. As day turns to night, the magic of the place intensifies. The sky, studded with stars, seems

closer than ever, and if you're lucky, you might even catch a glimpse of a 'falling star' or even imagine a mermaid dancing along the glittering seafloor.

The resort's architecture is a masterpiece of Omani design, with its grand arches, intricate carvings, and majestic courtyards provide a striking contrast to the surrounding landscape.

Walking through the resort feels like stepping into a royal palace. The courtyard, with its elegant fountains and colourful oryx sculptures, leads to a serene infinity pool that beckons one to unwind. This dramatic setting, combined with a private beach, makes Al Husn an ideal backdrop for relaxation.



At Shangri-La Al Husn, the staff exhibit exceptional attentiveness, ensuring every guest's needs are met with genuine care. Buggy services are available at any time, making it convenient to explore the vast resort. The warmth and positivity of the barista, waiter, chef, receptionist, room service boy, all create an atmosphere filled with joy. Every interaction feels personal and the pampering makes one feel elevated. It's a level of service that's rare and enriching, allowing visitors to indulge in not only the luxurious surroundings but also the sincere hospitality.

In a world where love often fades under the pressures of modern life, Shangri-La Al Husn stands as a beacon of romance and elegance. The resort understands, respects, and celebrates the human emotion. Here, love is not just rekindled - it flourishes, evolves and matures under the beauty of the resort.

At Shangri-La Al Husn, it's not just couples who fall in love...here, love, indeed, secures a safe haven for itself, to entrap the unsuspecting into its embrace.

A swim in the tranquil waters is complemented by the delightful offerings of Al Muheet Restaurant, where you can enjoy quick bites and refreshing mocktails between leisurely laps.

The resort's attention to detail extends to its many complimentary offerings. Guests (all over 16 years) are welcomed with thoughtful amenities and treated to daily afternoon high tea, pre-dinner drinks, and a minibar that's replenished once a day.

The Al Husn private beach - Mahhara beach - is a secluded haven, offering a peaceful retreat, while the broader Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah complex provides additional dining, leisure, and wellness facilities. The private beach is surrounded by beach chairs and if one wishes, one can kayak in the low tide (either alone or with a partner). Just a few levels above, one can also enjoy the view from the Cliff-top arena which overlooks the majestic ocean and sunset.

A special mention has to be about Sultanah, one of the resort's signature restaurants, where guests can enjoy a culinary journey inspired by the Mediterranean, with dishes crafted from locally sourced ingredients. The restaurant's nautical design, inspired by Oman's most famous cruise liner, adds to the unique dining experience.





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