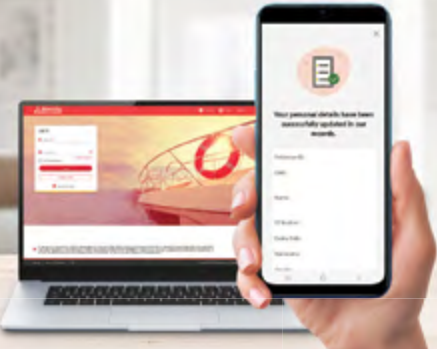




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Authorities tighten radiation checks amid regional tensions

Our Correspondent Muscat

Omani authorities have stepped up monitoring and emergency preparedness in response to regional concerns following Israeli strikes on key Iranian nuclear facilities last week.

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) held a high-level meeting in Musandam governorate on Tuesday to review and update response plans for hazardous materials incidents. The session, chaired by Major General Abdullah bin Ali al Harthy, focused on refining response strategies, enhancing inter-agency coordination and strengthening risk mitigation mechanisms.

Officials said that the measures are part of efforts to ensure rapid and effective action should any incident pose a threat to public safety or the environment.

CDAA reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening national risk management frameworks

Heavy damage at Natanz

Airstrikes on Natanz nuclear facility have disabled power systems crucial for uranium enrichment. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed the above-ground Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant was destroyed and that there is internal contamination.

Unclear impact at Isfahan

The IAEA said that four critical buildings were damaged at Isfahan nuclear complex, while Iranian officials claimed only minor damage and a fire in a storage shed. Satellite images show visible destruction to at least three structures.

Monday that radiation levels across Oman remained normal and that there was no sign of environmental contamination following the strikes on Iran's nuclear sites at Natanz and Isfahan. At Natanz, experts at the Institute for Space and International Security reported damage to the pilot fuel enrichment plant and an electrical substation.

The International Atomic En-

Centre of excellence for semiconductors planned

Our Correspondent Muscat

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) has invited bids for consultancy services to help develop a national semiconductor ecosystem in Oman, including plans for a Centre of Excellence for Semiconductors and Electronic Chips.

Specialised firms with experience in the semiconductor and electronic chip industry have been called to participate in the tender. The selected consultancy will advise on the creation of the centre and support wider efforts to position Oman as a regional player in this strategic sector.

MTCIT said companies must

demonstrate a strong track record in managing similar national and commercial projects in line with the scope outlined in the tender documents.

The Centre of Excellence is central to the ministry's plan to strengthen Oman's place in the global semiconductor value chain. It will work to attract investments, support advanced chip design and manufacturing, and create high-skilled jobs in design, testing and research.

The centre will also focus on technology transfer and localisation to build national capacity over the long term.

Interested firms can register and purchase documents through the Tender Board's eTendering portal.

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Pope Leo breaks from Papal dress code with baseball cap

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LINCOLN

New projects to boost ecotourism

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman is stepping up its efforts to develop ecotourism as part of a wider push to balance environmental protection with economic growth and job creation.

The sultanate is investing in its 31 nature reserves, which cover nearly 15,000sqkm - about 17% of its land area and 10% of its marine territory.

Authorities say these protected areas are central to supporting biodiversity, attracting tourists, and encouraging research on ecosystems and natural processes.

The Environment Authority (EA), in partnership with other agencies and civil society, is implementing management plans to conserve habitats while opening up investment opportunities.

New investment in ecotourism is expected to strengthen local economies, create jobs in nearby communities, and contribute to a sustainable green economy in line with Oman Vision 2040.

Royal decrees continue to protect endangered species and preserve the geological and ecological diversity of the reserves. Strict environmental rules have been set to ensure that conservation remains a priority even as tourism and related projects expand.



New investment in ecotourism is expected to strengthen local economies, create jobs and contribute to a sustainable green economy



In recent moves, the Environment Authority signed nine investment contracts worth more than RO44mn for projects in seven reserves. These include the development and management of sites such as Ras al Sha-

jar, turtle, oryx, and wetland reserves, parts of Jabal Samhan and Khor al Mughsail, as well as an eco-resort and star park in Al Hajar al Gharbi Starlight Reserve. Private sector partners are helping to build eco-friendly

Oman marks global desertification day with push for greener future

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman, represented by the Environment Authority (EA), joined the global community in observing the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, marked annually on June 17.

This year's theme, 'Restore the land. Unlock the opportunities', underscores the vital link between healthy ecosystems and sustainable development.

Oman's participation reflects its continued commitment to international efforts aimed at raising awareness about the pressing challenges of desertification and drought. It also reinforces national priorities focused on encouraging sustainable environmental practices, supporting conservation policies, and enhancing global cooperation to protect natural resources.

The observance highlights the role of ecosystem restoration in strengthening food and water security, generating employment, enabling climate adaptation, and



building resilient, green economies.

As part of its broader environmental strategy, the Environment Authority is leading several key initiatives and projects designed to promote sustainability, expand green spaces, and conserve biodiversity across the country.

Among the most notable is the national initiative for planting 10mn trees, launched in January 2020, which aims to restore degraded lands and combat desertification through large-scale afforestation. Another

major effort is the National Tree Cover Survey Project, which utilises remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and artificial intelligence to establish a comprehensive, accurate database of tree coverage across the sultanate.

Oman is also advancing mangrove reforestation projects, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency. This ambitious initiative targets the planting of one million mangrove seedlings to enhance marine biodiversity, increase carbon absorption, and promote ecotourism. Mangrove forests currently span over 1,030 hectares along Oman's coastlines.

Additionally, the authority regularly updates the National Plan to Combat Desertification every ten years, in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. Oman also actively engages in international forums, including the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, where it shares its national experiences and awareness campaigns.

MoE expands summer programme to nurture gifted students of Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Education, through the Directorate General of Education in Dakhliyah, has launched the 2025 edition of its Summer Programme for Gifted Students as part of the national Tharwa initiative, which supports the development of young talent across the sultanate.

Running until June 19, the programme hosts more than 80 students from different wilayats in Dakhliyah. It aims to foster creativity and strengthen essential skills through learning tracks that combine theory with practical



experience in literature, science, technology and the arts.

Ahmed bin Marhoon al-Busaidi, Senior Gifted Care Specialist, said the programme offers a well-rounded educational experience that builds confidence and broadens students' intellectual and creative horizons. He noted

that activities have been tailored to match the interests and abilities of participants, providing opportunities for innovation and exploration.

The programme includes four focus areas. In literature, students practise short story writing and study cultural symbols using mu-

seum collections. Scientific activities involve exploratory projects, field visits to specialised centres and a workshop on nanotechnology. In the arts, the workshop 'From Raw Material to Art' guides students in creating pieces from locally sourced materials. The technology track trains students in digital innovation and helps them turn ideas into prototypes using 3D printing.

Sessions are being held at several key sites in the governorate, including the Oman Across Ages Museum, the Science and Technology Centre and the Educational Training Centre in Dakhliyah.

Meeting explores better support for individuals with disabilities

Our Correspondent
Muscat

As part of its ongoing efforts to support and empower individuals with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Development held a consultative meeting on Tuesday with representatives from government, private and community-based rehabilitation centres.

The meeting aimed to highlight the ministry's role in enhancing services for persons with disabilities, while also addressing the main challenges facing rehabilitation centres and exploring ways to strengthen cooperation and unified action among all

stakeholders.

Discussions during the meeting focused on the various services and programmes provided by the Department of Persons with Disabilities. These include the issuance of disability identification cards, the provision of assistive devices and supportive equipment, and access to rehabilitation services at specialised centres.

Participants reviewed the key obstacles faced by rehabilitation centres and put forward a number of development proposals aimed at improving the quality of services offered. The discussions also emphasised the importance

of greater coordination to ensure more comprehensive support and care for individuals with disabilities across the country.

According to the ministry, a total of 119 rehabilitation centres comprising government, private and community-based institutions were operating in Oman by the end of 2024. Of these, 19 centres were newly established during that year. The number of beneficiaries reached 8,893 individuals. Additionally, the ministry distributed 10,795 assistive devices in 2024, while the number of individuals issued a 'Person with Disability' card stood at 64,087 till the end of the year.

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL
OF HEALTHSERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health - Directorate General of Health Service AL Dhahira Governorate of Health- invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tender: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Bid Submission /Closing Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable) Per set
2237/2025/MO H/DGHS DH-1	Transferring the medical store to administration building and maintenance of Diabetic building in Ibri Polyclinic in Governorate of Al Dhahirah	Sunday 29/ JUN /2025	Before 9 am on Thursday 24/ JULY /2025	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board -Grade Fourth	• SME:10 R.O • LO:25 R.O

Tenders should be submitted online on <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.

The DGHS is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

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MHT adopts new branding for Unesco-Isited Bahla Fort

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT), in cooperation with the Unesco Chair for World Heritage Management and Sustainable Tourism in the Arab Region, on Monday launched a new visual identity for Bahla Fort to reinforce its historical and cultural standing.

Bahla Fort is the first site in Oman to be inscribed on Unesco's World Heritage List in 1987 and remains a key cultural landmark attracting visitors from around the world.

The launch ceremony - held at the Oman Across Ages Museum in Manah - was attended by H E Ibrahim bin Said al Kharusi, Undersecretary for Heritage at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.



The event included a presentation on the fort's architectural features, its ancient mosque and other elements of historical significance.

Ali bin Ahmed al Shaqsi, General Manager of the Bahla Fort Management and Operation Project, said the fort symbolises Oman's enduring civilisation.

"Bahla Fort has always been a testament to the greatness of the Omani people. This new identity reflects a renewed vision and a balance of form and meaning."

Dr Hussein bin Suleiman al Salmi, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the German University of Technology in Oman, said the visual identity was selected through an international competition that attracted 31 participants from nine countries.

This is the first time a World Heritage Site in the GCC has adopted such an identity through an open contest. Salmi said Bahla Fort was recognised for its importance as one of the Middle Ages' main defensive fortresses, known for its mud-brick architecture and advanced irrigation and agricultural systems.

The new identity promotion aims to unify the visual elements used in projects, events and media linked to the fort, and to strengthen its presence in the tourism and cultural circles.

Mosquito control efforts stepped up in Dhofar ahead of khareef season

Our Correspondent
Salalah

Dhofar Municipality has reviewed its ongoing efforts to limit the spread of mosquitoes as the governorate prepares for the khareef season.

A meeting held on Monday assessed the progress in scientific research and field control strategies to curb the breeding of mosquitoes.

In a statement to the media, the municipality said the Committee for Innovative Solutions to Combat Seasonal Mosquitoes met under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmed bin Mohsen al Ghasani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality. Representatives from the government agencies responsible for public health and environmental protection attended the session.

The committee examined recent findings from a strategic re-

search programme studying the behaviour and distribution of mosquito species. The initiative aims to build a scientific database to support more effective prevention and control.

Officials discussed the executive plan for field operations during the monsoon period and stressed the need to continue these measures to protect public health, preserve the ecosystem and ensure a safe experience for the large number of visitors expected in the coming months.

The committee also reviewed new research proposals to strengthen vector control and considered the use of biological methods, drawing on international case studies and recent scientific developments to increase sustainability.

Members reaffirmed their commitment to integrating scientific innovation into public health planning.

Sultanate courts Belgian investors to boost trade ties

Our Correspondent
Muscat

As part of its global investment promotion efforts, Invest Oman - under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) - held the 'Advantage Oman-Kingdom of Belgium' Business Dialogue in Brussels on Monday.

Organised in cooperation with the Embassy of Oman in Belgium and the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce (ABLCC), the event was held to strengthen trade and economic

relations between Oman and Belgium. The forum brought together senior Belgian investors, business leaders and decision-makers to discuss investment opportunities in Oman, with a focus on sectors including renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, tourism and leisure.

The dialogue provided a platform for direct discussions between Omani and Belgian stakeholders to identify areas for cooperation and possible joint ventures. Pankaj Khimji, advisor for foreign trade and international cooperation at MoCIIP, said this was an important step in building long-term partnerships. "This dialogue is a strategic step toward strengthening our economic cooperation with Belgium. It introduces Oman's competitive edge and invites Belgian enterprises to grow within a future-ready market," he said.

H E Rua bint Issa al Zadjali, Oman's Ambassador to Belgium, said the initiative supports Oman's efforts to enhance economic diplomacy. "It is a timely platform to deepen ties with Belgium's business community," she said.



TENDER NOTICE

Port of Duqm Company SAOC., hereby announces the following Tender:

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ITC/T/003/2025	Provision of Cleaning and Housekeeping Services for Port of Duqm Company & Its Affiliated Companies	22 nd June 2025	02 nd July 2025	Only Specialized Companies	150/- Non-Refundable	Port of Duqm Company 3rd floor, Al Mushraq Building, Azaiba

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* All participating SME's holding Riyada card are exempted from tender fees.
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Yellow Horizon Trading LLC Confirms Departure of Senior Employee

Muscat, Oman - [17-June-2025] — [Yellow Horizon Trading LLC, CR No.1016336] wishes to officially announce that Mr. Ajaya Kumar Sahu, who held the position of General Manager/CEO, is no longer employed with the company as of 15-February-2025 onwards.

Yellow Horizon Trading LLC does not take any responsibility for any of his acts undertaken by him on behalf of the Company, while dealings with any of the Third Parties.



Yellow Horizon Trading LLC its commitment to upholding a professional, trans-

parent, and performance-driven work environment, and remains focused on its operational goals and serving its clients and stakeholders with excellence.

For official communication, please contact:
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BRIEFS

Fed's stance on rates still uncertain

With the US Federal Reserve's path forward on interest rates uncertain, world markets are holding their breath until Wednesday, when the next decision will come.

Whether the Fed will cut rates remains to be seen amid ongoing uncertainties over trade disputes.

Market expectations say the Fed will not cut rates until September. Experts with various views on the issue have tried to shed some light.

James Knightley, chief international analyst at the ING Group, told Anadolu that the Fed is expected to maintain its policy rate.

He said the US economy contracted 0.2% in the first quarter, employment growth cooled down, and inflation grew more moderate – all valid grounds for a rate cut. The weakness in economic activity was due to tariffs leading to a decline in imports, as companies were trying to avoid them, he said.

GCC economic growth projected at 4.4% despite trade tensions

Our Correspondent

Muscat

GCC economies are set for stronger-than-expected growth this year, despite rising global trade tensions and subdued oil prices, according to the latest ICAEW Economic Insight report for the second quarter, prepared by Oxford Economics.

The report highlights up-graded regional forecasts, with the GCC region's GDP now expected to expand by 4.4% in 2025, up from a previous estimate of 4.0%.

While global GDP growth has been downgraded to 2.4% – the slowest pace since 2020 – the GCC is bucking the trend. This resilience is being driven by a quicker rollback of OPEC+ production cuts, which has lifted oil sector growth forecasts from 3.2% in March to 4.5%.

However, the ICAEW report noted that with Brent crude expected to average \$67.30 per barrel in 2025, the GCC faces increasing fiscal pressures. Only Qatar and the UAE are projected to maintain fiscal surpluses in 2025, underscoring the challenge of balancing growth ambitions with budget constraints.

The report also stated that the impact of the 10% US tariff on imports from GCC countries is expected to be limited, given the region's relatively low export exposure to the US and the exemption of energy products.

'Non-oil sectors in the GCC



ICAEW's Economic Insight Report noted that the impact of the 10% US tariff on imports from GCC countries is expected to be limited, given the region's relatively low export exposure to the US and the exemption of energy products

silience and laying the groundwork for long-term growth."

Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Adviser and Chief Economist and Managing Director at Oxford Economics Middle East, added, "We have up-graded our GCC forecast due to faster OPEC+ output increases and sustained non-oil momentum in key economies like Saudi Arabia and the UAE. While uncertainty and trade shifts may place pressure on fiscal policy, the region's two leading economies are expected to continue progressing towards economic diversification and

attracting global capital at an accelerated pace."

Saudi Arabia's oil economy is now forecast to grow by 5.2% in 2025, up sharply from 1.9% projected in March, reflecting increased oil output and economic momentum. Production is averaging 9.7mn barrels per day, while non-oil sectors – led by construction and trade – continue to expand.

The UAE economy is projected to grow by 5.1% in 2025, driven by a recovery in oil output, a 4.7% rise in non-oil GDP, deepening trade ties, and improved market access.

IEA cuts oil demand growth forecasts for 2025, 2026

Paris, France - The International Energy Agency (IEA) has reduced its global oil demand growth forecast for this year to 720,000 barrels per day, down from the previous estimate of 740,000 barrels per day.

In its monthly report issued on Tuesday, the IEA also lowered its 2025 demand growth forecast to 740,000 barrels per day, compared to the earlier projection of 760,000 barrels per day.

The agency attributed these adjustments to anticipated economic challenges in the medium term.

Conversely, the IEA raised its global oil supply forecast, expecting an increase of 1.8mn barrels per day this year, up from the previous estimate of 1.6mn barrels per day. The International Energy Agency's monthly report indicates that oil supply will remain adequate in global markets this year, provided there are no major disruptions.

ONA

Riyadh jumps 60 spots to 23rd in global startup ecosystem

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – Saudi Arabia has achieved a new milestone in entrepreneurship, with its capital, Riyadh, rising 60 places over the past three years to rank 23rd among the top 100 emerging startup ecosystems globally. This achievement was featured in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2025, published by Startup Genome in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network.

The kingdom's remarkable progress underscores its rapid development in the entrepreneurial environment, particularly evident in robust venture capital indicators, advanced infrastructure, and increasing levels of innovation and investment in emerging technologies.

This success is largely sup-



ported by strong government backing, notably from the Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monsha'at). Monsha'at plays a key role in building an integrated entrepreneurial ecosystem through initiatives and programmes that support startup growth and expansion. These efforts aim to increase the sector's contribution to GDP, in line with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.

SPA

SalamAir selects StandardAero for engine maintenance, repair and overhaul support

Our Correspondent

Muscat

StandardAero, a leading provider of aerospace engine aftermarket services, has announced its selection by SalamAir, Oman's low-cost carrier, to provide maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) support for the CFM International LEAP-1A turbofan engines powering its fleet of Airbus A320neo family narrowbody aircraft.

In a press release, Adrian Hamilton-Manns, SalamAir CEO said, "At SalamAir, safety, operational reliability and cost-efficiency remain at the core of our strategy as we continue to expand and modernise our fleet. Partnering with StandardAero for LEAP-1A engine MRO support marks a significant step in ensuring the long-term performance and availability of our air-



craft.

"We are confident in StandardAero's proven capabilities and technical expertise, and we look forward to a strong partnership that supports our growth and commitment to delivering dependable and affordable travel for our passengers across the region."

Olivier Ruffet, Vice President Sales EMEA and Lessors for StandardAero's Airlines and Fleet business unit, said, "StandardAero is delighted to add SalamAir to the ever-growing list of operators around the world who have selected us to support their LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engine support requirements. SalamAir joins LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B operators and asset managers from across North America, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region who now rely on

also industrialising new engine component repairs for the LEAP family through its CRS team's network of locations, and its Repair Development Center of Excellence. To date, StandardAero's CRS team has industrialised more than 300 component repairs for the LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B.

StandardAero also continues to grow its team of LEAP technicians through its in-house Aviation Mechanic Training Program, located at its San Antonio site's Training Academy.

SalamAir currently operates a fleet of 13 Airbus A320/321 aircraft, with over 80 daily flights. In 2025, the airline will expand its fleet with two new aircraft scheduled for delivery in July 2025. SalamAir announced a 10-aircraft order in February 2025, aiming to grow its fleet to 25 aircraft by 2028.

Equal National Opportunities Initiative launched to empower Omani SMEs

Our Correspondent

Muscat

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) launched the fourth edition of the 'Equal National Opportunities' initiative in the presence of H E Sheikh Dr Ali bin Masoud al Sunaidy, Chairman of OPAZ. The initiative comes along the lines of ongoing efforts to support Omani projects and products, encourage entrepreneurs and business owners, and enhance a nurturing environment for local industries.

Speaking at the event, Dr

Ayman bin Abdullah al Fudhaili, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy, highlighted Madayn's strategic approach in empowering the SMEs through its enabling arms, particularly the Industrial Innovation Academy.

"Over recent years, the Academy has played a vital role in delivering technical support, capacity-building programmes, and linking the SMEs to industrial partnerships and investment opportunities, contributing to their sustainability and competitiveness," he said.

"The market value of some SMEs that have benefited from the Academy's initiatives over the past years is now estimated



in the millions of Rials, reflecting the impact of support on their growth and expansion in both local and international markets," he added.

Fudhaili further emphasised the Academy's direct support for the SMEs through a range of initiatives, including: 'Makers Oman', which offers diagnostic, guidance, consultancy, and prototyping services to small factories, and 'Intaj Suhar', which provides high value R&D and manufacturing services, reverse engineering services, precision components manufacturing, mould manufacturing, and spare parts production for diverse industrial companies. Another initiative is the 'Business

Accelerator', launched by the Rising Omani Startups Programme in cooperation with Madayn, represented by the Industrial Innovation Academy. The programme aims at empowering innovative entrepreneurs, and helps establishing startups and connecting them to business and investment opportunities at local, regional and global levels.

Moreover, Fudhaili highlighted that the Industrial Innovation Academy has identified a range of high-potential investment opportunities for the SMEs within Madayn's industrial cities. These opportunities lie in the provision of essential support

services that are in constant demand by existing factories, including maintenance and cleaning, financial and legal services, insurance, public relations, packaging, marketing, and certification.

He noted that the total estimated value of these services exceeds RO6.7mn, based on the projected needs of 200 factories. This represents a strategic opportunity to further integrate SMEs into industrial supply chains, enhance their contribution to the national economy, and create a more resilient and diversified supply ecosystem across Madayn's network of industrial cities.

Aviation shake-up: Airbus overtakes Boeing

Dirk Kaufmann

Air travel is widely recognised as the safest way to cover long distances. Statistically, the journey to the airport is more dangerous than the flight itself.

However, in the wake of a crash – such as that of Air India Flight 171 on June 12 – statistics offer little comfort. The tragedy claimed more than 270 lives, including 241 of the 242 people on board.

As devastating as such incidents are, their repercussions also extend into the economic sphere. Alongside efficiency and environmental compatibility, operational safety remains the single most critical selling point for any passenger aircraft.

Airbus takes the lead

For decades, Boeing held the top spot in global commercial aviation. But in recent years, the US-based firm, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia and employing 170,000 people, has faced significant challenges, regularly posting losses.

In 2024, the company reported an operating loss of nearly \$11.8bn on revenue of \$66.5bn. It delivered just 348 commercial passenger aircraft – a steep drop from the 528 delivered in 2023. This decline has been attributed to several setbacks, including a mid-air door plug blowout in January, a machinists’ strike in the autumn, and persistent supply chain issues.

By contrast, Airbus, employing approximately 160,000 people, delivered 766 aircraft during the same period. It posted an operating profit of around 5bn euro on revenue of 69.2bn euro.

Still, production and sales of commercial aircraft are only part of the picture. Both companies are active in the space and defence sectors, making direct



For decades, Boeing held the top spot in global commercial aviation ahead of Airbus

Boeing once reigned supreme in the commercial passenger aircraft market, but it has now lost its crown as the world’s largest planemaker to Airbus – and for all the wrong reasons. In recent years, the US-based firm has faced significant challenges, regularly posting losses

comparisons more complicated.

Misfortunes and missteps

The Air India crash is merely the latest blow to Boeing’s safety record. In recent years, the American company has lurched from one mishap to another, repeatedly grappling with technical faults and production delays.

One telling sign of Boeing’s ongoing difficulties – particularly when contrasted with Airbus – is how each firm managed its largest aircraft.

For Airbus, that was the

A380: the largest passenger aircraft ever built. Airports worldwide had to update infrastructure, including terminals and gates, to handle the double-decker giant.

However, production of the A380 ended in 2021 after it became clear that the aircraft was too large and costly for many airlines to operate.

With four engines and seating for between 500 and 850 passengers, the A380 proved difficult to fill and expensive to maintain – making it an economic risk.

From Dreamliner to nightmare

Boeing pursued a different strategy. After phasing out the iconic but ageing 747 Jumbo Jet, it introduced the 787 Dreamliner, an updated design based on the 767, intended to rival the A380 with greater efficiency.

While Airbus quietly retired the A380, Boeing became mired in controversy. The Dreamliner suffered from issues with new composite materials, supplier coordination failures, cancelled test flights, and missed delivery deadlines.

Worse still, safety concerns emerged. In 2013, shortly after entering service, two separate incidents involving battery fires led to the Dreamliner being grounded globally.

Disputes over subsidies

The rivalry between Airbus and Boeing has simmered since Airbus’s formal foundation in 2000 as the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS). Their battle for market dominance has even drawn in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the governments of the United States and Europe.

At the core of the conflict is the question of subsidies – who receives more, and whether those subsidies are justified.

It’s a nearly impossible question to answer. The United States has a single federal government,

while in Europe, multiple stakeholders – including the UK, France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and the European Commission – are involved.

Adding to the complexity, both companies operate in the space and defence sectors. While neither leads the global rankings in defence contracting, Boeing ranks sixth worldwide, far ahead of Airbus at number 13. Nevertheless, both are major players in the field.

Government contracts fund not only research and development but also make up a significant proportion of their customer base, making it difficult to quantify subsidies or assign them to specific business segments.

New challenger emerges

Brazil’s Embraer continues to focus on smaller regional aircraft,

while Canada’s Bombardier, based in Montreal, has shifted its attention entirely to business jets.

That leaves China, one of the world’s largest aviation markets, with a new homegrown competitor: the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac).

Founded in Shanghai in 2008 with government backing, Comac introduced its first model, the C919, in 2015 – a twin-engine passenger aircraft assembled entirely in China.

In collaboration with Russia’s United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), Comac plans to develop a long-range version, the C929, by 2028.

At least until then, the market for wide-body commercial aircraft is likely to remain dominated by the two giants from the United States and Europe.

DW

Trump says EU is not offering fair trade deal to United States

Washington, US – US President Trump said on Tuesday that Japan was being “tough” in trade talks and the European Union has failed to offer a fair deal.

Speaking after leaving the G-7 summit in Canada early, the US President told reporters aboard Air Force One that the EU had been tough with the US.

“We’re talking, but I don’t feel that they’re offering a fair deal yet,” Trump said. “They’re either going to make a good deal or they’ll just pay whatever we say they have to pay.”

Trump also said Japan would soon receive a letter.

“They’re tough, the Japanese are tough, but ultimately you have to understand we’re just going to send a letter saying ‘this is what you’re going to pay,’” he said. Trump also added that pharmaceutical tariffs will be “coming very soon.”

An agreement on trade was reached between Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, as both leaders signed the trade deal agreed to last month at the G7 summit in Canada.

Trump said the US’s relationship with Britain was “just fantastic,” as he stood to Starmer.

“We signed it and it’s done,” he added.

US trade talks with Canada are also in focus this week.

Trump said on the first day of the G7 gathering that a trade deal with Canada was possible.

“We have different concepts. I have a tariff concept. Mark has a different concept,” Trump said.



We are talking, but I don't feel that they[EU] are offering a fair deal yet. They are either going to make a good deal or they will just pay whatever we say they have to pay

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



EU gas demand on track to drop 7% by 2030: Ember

London, UK – EU countries’ national energy plans show that gas consumption is set to fall by 7% across the European Union over the next five years, according to a new report by London-based energy think tank Ember.

“The EU is set to reduce its total gas demand by 7% in 2030 compared with 2023, from 326 billion cubic meters (bcm) to 302bcm,” Ember said in its report, based on data from EU Member States’ National Energy and Climate Plans.

The projected decline reflects a broader trend across the EU, where natural gas demand declined by 19% between 2021 and 2023, dropping from 404bcm to 326bcm.

However, this long-term decline in EU gas demand contrasts with recent proposals to boost liquefied natural gas (LNG) import capacity by 54% by 2030.

“Gas is set for a decline, showing that plans to expand EU gas infrastructure may result in stranded assets,” the report said.

Meanwhile, alongside the projected decline in gas demand, national targets indicate that renewable energy will continue to grow across the EU.

Renewables have surged across Europe in recent years, rising from 34% of EU electricity

Projected decline reflects a broader trend across the EU countries, where natural gas demand declined by 19% between 2021 and 2023

projected to rise from 23% today to 30% by 2030, according to the report, indicating that member states plan to meet future energy needs with more clean electricity and less fossil gas.

“Plans to increase electrification across the bloc signal that the EU is at the beginning of a new phase of its energy transition where the whole system is backed by clean electricity,” it added.

Commenting on the report, Ember’s electricity transition analyst, Tomos Harrison noted that the EU’s national targets send a strong signal.

“The EU is ditching fossil gas for good,” Harrison added. “This gas decline is already in progress, and 2030 targets show another strong fall to come.”

“An electrified economy is where the EU is definitively heading, and any rush to over-build gas infrastructure will inevitably end in costly stranded assets,” he added.

Anadolu Agency



OCI, MoE celebrate graduation of second edition of ‘Kids in STEM’

Oman Cables Industry (OCI), the leading cable solutions provider in the Sultanate of Oman, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), celebrated the graduation of the 2nd edition of the ‘Kids in STEM’ initiative.

The graduation ceremony, held recently, was attended by Dr Maya bint Saeed bin Khamis al Azriya, advisor to the Minister of Education for Scientific Inno-

Contributing towards the goals of Oman’s Vision 2040, the 2nd ‘Kids in STEM’ initiative celebrated the graduation of 280 students, continuing its impactful presence

vation, and Erkan Aydo du, CEO of Oman Cables Industry, alongside school management, students, and teachers, a press release said.

Contributing towards the goals of Oman’s Vision 2040, the second edition of the ‘Kids in STEM’ initiative celebrated the graduation of 280 students, con-

tinuing its impactful presence at Al Tafawok Basic Education School, where students from Grades 1 to 4 participated throughout the academic year.

This edition was also expanded to include Al Shamaail Basic Education School, where both students and teachers took part in a comprehensive, year-long STEM education program. The ceremony celebrated the students’ achievements and rec-

ognized the dedicated efforts of their teachers.

Zakia al Muqaimiya, head of the Scientific Innovation Department at the Ministry of Education, said, The ‘Kids in STEM’ initiative reflects the efforts of the Ministry of Education in collaboration with private sector for empowering a generation of creative thinkers and future innovators. By integrating STEM education from an early age, we

are opening doors to opportunity, knowledge, and sustainable economic growth. Investing in local human capital is key to building an innovation-driven economy and achieving long-term national development.”

Aydo du added, “We are committed and determined to invest in the future by fostering education, encouraging learning, and supporting the growth of young talent. We continue to

embrace our responsible role in this journey, investing in our children and equipping them with the essential tools and knowledge, nurturing the next generation of innovators. Contributing significantly to Oman’s Vision 2040, the initiative reflects our commitment to strengthening the education sector by actively engaging students and teachers while promoting creativity, critical thinking, and innovation.”

TOD Studios announces Turkish drama ‘Breathless’

TOD Studios (which brings premium sports and entertainment content to viewers across the MENA region) has officially announced the start of production for its latest Turkish drama series, ‘Breathless’, a highly anticipated project already generating buzz for its haunting premise and A-list cast.

With a gripping storyline and high production values, the series promises to deliver an emotionally charged and visually striking viewing experience, a press release said.

Breathless boasts an all-star cast led by Ekin Koç and Ayça Ay in Turan, alongside notable talents such as Cansel Elçin, Feyza Sevil Güngör, Tansel Öngel, Emre Aslan, Cemal Tokta, Mehmet Bozdo an, and Bülent Düzgüno lu.

Produced by ARC Film and executive produced by Fatih Enes Ömero lu, the series is directed by Devrim Yalçın and written by acclaimed screen-



writer Levent Cantek. With its strong creative team and poignant themes, *Breathless* is already being hailed as one of the season’s most ambitious productions.

Set against the polished yet unforgiving world of high finance,

Breathless reveals the emotional toll of ambition, exposing fractured identities, lost moral compasses, and a love that lingers in the shadows.

As the show’s tagline suggests, ‘True love sometimes lives only in one person’s memory.’

NBO, INJAZ Oman host financial literacy for school students

The National Bank of Oman (NBO) hosted a closing event at its Head Office in Muscat to mark the successful conclusion of the current school semester’s cycle of the More Than Money Programme, delivered in collaboration with INJAZ Oman.

The event featured an interactive student workshop, alongside inspiring remarks from NBO and INJAZ Oman representatives. This milestone marked the conclusion of a semester-long initiative that positively impacted 1,568 students across Muscat and Dakhliyah governorates, a press release said.

Delivered in alignment with the Ministry of Education’s academic guidelines, the programme supports the nationwide efforts to prepare the youth for a better future by equipping school students with essential financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills—empowering them to make the best financial decisions and contribute



productively to Oman’s growing economy.

Moreover, the programme complements NBO’s broader support with INJAZ Oman, which involved supporting two of the latter’s flagship programmes - the More than Money Pro-

gramme and the Company’s Programme and Competition. Through these initiatives, NBO contributes to nurturing the next generation’s financial acumen and entrepreneurial capabilities.

By supporting these programmes, NBO invests in youth

empowerment and helps bridge the gap between academic education and real world skills. The partnership advances NBO’s broader strategy to promote financial inclusion and support national capacity-building through impactful community initiatives.

BankDhofar redefines fund management

In the intricate web of modern finance, banks—whether conventional or Islamic—serve a fundamental and enduring purpose: the effective stewardship of customer funds.

From individuals and SMEs to large corporates and institutions, customers entrust banks with their capital, expecting not only safety but also value appreciation. This sacred responsibility has evolved far beyond the basic provision of deposit accounts and simple interest returns, a press release said.

Traditionally, banks have placed client funds in a variety of time-tested instruments: fixed deposits, savings accounts, treasury bills, and government bonds, to name a few. These options offer dependable returns and capital protection, providing



a solid foundation for conservative investors. Islamic banks, meanwhile, channel customer funds into Sharia-compliant instruments such as Mudarabah or Wakala-based placements, emphasizing ethical profit-sharing and risk mitigation.

As markets become more dynamic and customer expecta-

tions more sophisticated, banks in Oman and across the region have, however, embraced innovative strategies to maximise the value of their customers’ funds. Today, the banking experience is no longer just about security—it’s about strategic growth.

In Oman, where total deposits in the banking system continue to climb year on year, this relationship-based approach has never been more vital. It is not enough to hold funds—it is about making them work harder and smarter for the customer.

BankDhofar, one of the largest and most progressive banks in the sultanate, exemplifies this philosophy in action. With a clear customer-first ethos, BankDhofar has gone beyond traditional fund management to offer a bespoke advisory experience.

Through dedicated Relationship Managers and Customer Champions, the bank ensures clients receive the best possible financial guidance—whether for short-term liquidity management, long-term investment planning, or Sharia-compliant wealth structuring.

The bank’s diverse range of instruments, both conventional and Islamic, are tailored to match the unique needs and goals of its varied customer base. From secure deposit products and foreign currency solutions to tailored investment opportunities, BankDhofar is committed to helping clients grow their wealth prudently and sustainably.

In managing customer funds, BankDhofar does not merely offer a service—it fulfills a stewardship.

ahlibank opens Rusayl branch

In line with its strategic agenda to broaden its nationwide footprint and strengthen its presence across key areas, Ahlibank recently inaugurated its newest branch in Rusayl.

This achievement embodies the bank’s commitment to enhancing access to its services and products, while offering financial solutions that meet the growing needs of individuals and enterprises alike. As part of a wider network expansion initiative, the Rusayl branch reinforces Ahlibank’s mandate to serve high-potential locations while further advancing the bank’s customer-centric growth trajectory, a press release said.

Muneer al Balushi, AGM head of Retail Distribution in Ahlibank, stated, “Rusayl is a dynamic industrial enclave, home to a di-



verse cluster of companies that form a vital part of Oman’s economic backbone. The rationale behind selecting Rusayl for our latest branch stems not only from its strategic commercial significance, but also from the growing appetite for principled, value-centric banking solutions among both individuals and businesses in the area.

“At Ahlibank, we believe that easy access to banking services and products is a catalyst for building comprehensive financial systems in which economic development is in harmony with the needs of society. By establishing our presence in Rusayl, we are also affirming our role in supporting regions that fuel national development.”

Alizz Islamic partners with Bustan App

Alizz Islamic Bank recently partnered with the Bustan App to empower children to learn Omani and Islamic values and traditions.

The agreement was signed by Lina al Abdulsalaam, head of Marketing and Communications of Alizz Islamic Bank on behalf of the bank and by Ammar al Saqri, GM of Digital Dimensions on behalf of Bustan App, a press release said.

The Bustan App is a safe educational and entertainment digital platform that aims to instill Omani and Islamic values amongst children through interactive content that combines smart games, videos, meaningful stories, Quranic learning and fun and safe educational solutions.

This partnership comes as part of Alizz Islamic Bank's commitment to enrich the young and empower them with the right skills and knowledge. The bank believes it is essential to promote authentic Omani values among children through purposeful interactive content that promotes



belonging and national identity, in line with the country's vision.

Alizz Islamic Bank continues to extend its strategic partnerships to help associations accelerate progress towards impactful goals and objectives.

Saqri said, "We are proud to

present our first Omani application dedicated to children, developed by young Omani programmers and developers from our company, Digital Dimension. The Bustan platform aims to protect children from content that violates our Islamic

values and morals. It also enables parents to have complete control over their children's use of the platform. The platform includes several diverse sections, including: games, animations, interactive games, songs and the Holy Quran. The platform is constantly updated with new content, making it the first choice for Arabian & Muslim children."

Lina added, "We are honoured to be the first bank to partner with Al Bustan App a digital interactive platform for children. At Alizz Islamic Bank we believe

that such initiatives can be a powerful tool to meet children in the digital space and turn learning into an entertaining and engagement driven experience. Under the 'Alizz Cares' education umbrella, we strive to make a positive and lasting difference."

Suzuki Oman announces winners of raffle draw

Suzuki Oman, represented by Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan and Co, announced the winners of its much-anticipated Ramadan campaign Raffle Draw, which concluded with an overwhelming response from customers across the sultanate.

In a celebratory moment that captured the spirit of Ramadan and Suzuki's commitment to rewarding its customers, the first prize – a brand-new Suzuki Swift – was awarded to the lucky winner Rafeequ Malayil Moidu while the second prize – a trip to Turkey for two – went to Amur Salim Khalfan al Shehimi offering them an unforgettable travel experience, a press release said.

The campaign, which ran throughout Ramadan and was extended until May 2025, offered customers not only exceptional benefits such as free registration, insurance, and service but also the chance to win life-changing prizes through a grand raffle draw.

Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, marketing manager at Suzuki Oman, said, "We are thrilled to announce the winners of this exciting campaign. At Suzuki Oman, we believe in creating not just customers but happy memories. The opportunity to gift someone a brand-new car and a dream vacation is a reflection of our brand's commitment to rewarding trust and loyalty."

GMC Oman announces winners of its grand raffle draw

In a thrilling conclusion to one of the most exciting seasonal campaigns in the automotive market, GMC Oman, represented by Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan and Co, has officially announced the winners of its grand raffle draw.

The campaign, launched earlier this year under the theme The Rewards Continue with GMC Oman, offered customers premium benefits with every purchase and the chance to win incredible prizes, a press release said.

The first prize, a brand-new GMC Terrain, was awarded to Hisham Abdul Aziz Mohammed



al Balushi, while the second prize, a dream trip to Paris for two, was claimed by Hilal Salim Saif al Qarwashi. Both winners

were selected in a live raffle draw event.

Throughout the campaign period, GMC Oman offered nine

compelling reasons to drive home a GMC, including an Apple iPad with every purchase, a 6-year unlimited-kilometre

warranty, a 3-year/60,000km service package, first-year insurance and registration, VAT-inclusive pricing, and more. The campaign generated massive customer engagement and showroom footfall, reflecting the growing trust and loyalty towards the GMC brand in Oman.

Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, marketing manager at GMC Oman, stated, "We are delighted to announce the winners of this season's raffle and thank all our valued customers for their overwhelming response. At GMC Oman, we aim to offer more than just a vehicle — we offer a premium experience that

reflects the spirit of professionalism and trust. This campaign was designed to reward our customers and make every purchase memorable. Whether it's driving home in a powerful GMC Terrain or heading to Paris for a well-deserved vacation, these moments are what we strive to create."

GMC, a brand long associated with strength, refinement, and advanced engineering, continues to deliver on its promise of 'Professional Grade' with every model — from the rugged Sierra and spacious Yukon to the versatile Acadia, dynamic Canyon, and compact Terrain.

Abu Dhabi Festival opens

Submissions are now open for the inaugural Abu Dhabi International Competition for Composition, launched by the Abu Dhabi Festival and organised by the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF).

The new global platform - created to amplify rising voices in contemporary music - aims to nurture creative talent, elevate young composers and champion innovation that will shape the future of music on the world stage, a press release said.

Open to emerging and established composers up to the age of 50 from around the world, submissions for the inaugural competition are now open until 15 September. Finalists will be announced on 15 December,



with the first-place winner receiving AED130,000, a professional recording opportunity, and a world premiere performance with world-renowned partner orchestras at the 23rd edition of Abu Dhabi Festival in April 2026.

The second-place winner will receive AED50,000, along with a performance opportunity,

global recognition and mentorship. The third-place winner will be awarded AED25,000 and access to mentorship.

ADICC welcomes submissions from composers worldwide who must anonymously submit original, unpublished and unperformed works for consideration.

Audi Open Haus begins in Abu Dhabi

Ali & Sons Audi, the exclusive Audi dealer in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, announced the start of Audi Open Haus, a five-day exclusive retail experience taking place from June 18 to 22.

Hosted at the Ali and Sons Audi showrooms in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, this exclusive sales event provides visitors the chance to explore Audi's latest models and benefit from a range of limited-time, special vehicle offers available only in the store, a press release said.

From the entry-level A3 to the flagship RS Q8, every model will be featured at this unique event with guided walk-throughs and Audi specialists on hand to help customers discover the perfect Audi for their lifestyle. Attendees



can access tailored sales offers that include promotional pricing, complimentary servicing, attractive finance and leasing options, and other benefits, tailored to the needs of each customer.

This private, invitation-only sales event gives guests access

to exceptional deals, with exclusive offers and savings of up to AED 80,000 available for this limited period of time.

Scott Shears, General Manager of Audi Abu Dhabi, said, "Audi Open Haus represents our commitment to bringing the

complete Audi experience directly to our customers. Whether they're discovering Audi for the first time or have been part of our community for years, this event week offers an unparalleled opportunity to meet our Audi Sales Team."

Al Mouj Muscat attains double win at Real Estate Asia Awards 2025

Al Mouj Muscat has been recognised with two prestigious awards at the Real Estate Asia Awards 2025, securing international acclaim for excellence in master planning and mixed-use development.

The ceremony held recently at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Singapore, brought together the region's leading developments in a celebration of innovation and urban transformation, a press release said.

Al Mouj Muscat was recognised as 'Masterplan Development of the Year - Oman,' highlighting its role as 'Oman's First Integrated, Mixed-Use Waterfront Community,' and

'Mixed-Use Development of the Year - Oman' for its landmark Quayside development. As the only Omani development to be honoured across multiple categories, the achievement reinforces Al Mouj Muscat's competitive standing and innovative approach within the Asia-wide real estate industry.

The Real Estate Asia Awards are judged by a distinguished panel of international real estate leaders and industry experts, recognising outstanding projects and developers that set new benchmarks in urban development.

Nasser al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said, "We are immensely proud to receive these



The Real Estate Asia Awards are judged by a distinguished panel of international real estate leaders and industry experts, recognising top projects

awards, which endorses our commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainable urban development. Al Mouj Muscat continues to be an inspiring benchmark of integrated communities, and these honors further motivate us to elevate our

standards, delivering exceptional lifestyle experience for our residents, visitors and broader community."

Quayside has been honoured for its visionary integration of retail, lifestyle, and community amenities. Its thoughtful design creates a vibrant and welcoming environment, leveraging advanced architectural solutions to maintain outdoor comfort year-round, effectively enhancing community engagement and the overall urban experience.

The award for 'Masterplan Development of the Year' celebrates Al Mouj Muscat's success in creating a cohesive and sustainable waterfront community.

Nearly 40 per cent of Earth’s land surface classified as degraded

Istanbul, Turkey - The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was marked on Tuesday with a grim reminder that one million square kilometres of productive land become degraded due to desertification every year and nearly 40% of the Earth’s land surface is classified as degraded.

Observed annually with a different theme, the UN officially designated June 17 as ‘Desertification and Drought Day’ in 1994 to raise awareness and mobilise action to combat desertification, land degradation, and drought to



confront the global crisis, according to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. This year, the day was marked under the theme ‘Restore the land; Unlock the opportunities’ in a bid to highlight land restoration and catalyse a trillion-dollar restoration economy by 2030, beginning in 2025.

Today, nearly 40% of the Earth’s land surface is classified as degraded, directly affecting over three billion people and causing dire effects on the climate, biodiversity, and livelihoods across the globe.

The combined economic losses from land degradation, desertification, and drought, according to the UNCCD, are estimated at US\$878bn annually, underscoring the urgent need for global intervention.

According to the UNCCD Global Mechanism, halting and reversing land degradation will require a sustained global investment of US\$1bn per day between 2025 and 2030.

The overarching global target is to restore 15mn square kilometres of degraded land by 2030, aligning with the Sustain-

able Development Goals and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

“I urge governments, businesses, and communities to answer the call and accelerate action on our shared global commitments on sustainable land use. We must reverse degradation and boost finance for restoration - including by unlocking private investment,” said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a message published on June 10 ahead of World Desertification and Drought Day.

Anadolu Agency



French President Emmanuel Macron and British PM Keir Starmer

UK, France agree to boost cooperation on defence, migration

London, UK - British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to closer bilateral cooperation on defence and migration during a meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Canada.

According to a statement from the UK Prime Minister’s Office, the leaders discussed the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and emphasised the need to pursue peace through diplomacy and dialogue.

They agreed this should remain a central focus for G7 partners during the summit.

Looking ahead to the upcoming UK-France summit on July 11, both leaders called for ‘high-ambition outcomes’ that deliver tangible benefits to both the British and French people.

Migration was highlighted as a priority area, with both sides acknowledging the worsening conditions in the English Channel and

expressing the need for innovative and coordinated responses with international partners.

Defence and security cooperation was also on the agenda. The statement said both leaders viewed the G7 as an opportunity to deepen existing ties in these areas.

On Ukraine, the two leaders reaffirmed their enduring support for securing ‘a just and lasting peace’ and maintaining pressure on Russia.

Macron echoed similar sentiments on X, calling for a ceasefire in Ukraine and Gaza and urging renewed negotiations on Iran’s nuclear programme.

“We reviewed the many positions France and the United Kingdom share on major global challenges and conflicts,” Macron said, adding that the joint work will continue at the UK-France summit in London next month.

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Large-scale Russian attack kills 15 people in Ukraine

Kyiv/Moscow - Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that 15 people have been killed and 75 people have been injured following a large-scale Russian attack.

“Kyiv has faced one of the most horrific attacks. Also, overnight, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv and Kyiv regions were attacked,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

The president said there were ongoing efforts to rescue an unknown number of people trapped beneath the rubble of a residential building in the capital.

Ukraine’s military said that more than 440 drones and 32 missiles were used in the overnight bombardment.

The Kyiv City Military Administration said in a statement on Tuesday that ‘the nature of the damage is direct hits on residential buildings. Rockets - from the upper floors to the basement’.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said that a US citizen had been killed in the attack after being struck by shrapnel.

Klymenko told reporters at the scene that thirty apartments were destroyed in a single residential block after it was hit by a missile. “We have 27 locations that were attacked by the enemy.



Residents react after a Russian missile hit an apartment in Kyiv

Kyiv has faced one of the most horrific attacks. Also, overnight, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv and Kyiv regions were attacked

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY

We currently have over 2,000 people working there, rescuers, police, municipal services and doctors,” Klymenko said of one of the attacks.

Global powers ‘turn a blind eye’

Zelenskyy, who is in Canada for one-on-one talks with world leaders at the G7 summit, said the Russian attacks on Ukraine ‘are pure terrorism’. Zelenskyy

said ‘the whole world, the United States, and Europe must finally respond as a civilised society responds to terrorists’.

“Putin does this solely because he can afford to continue the war. He wants the war to go on,” Zelenskyy said on X.

“It is wrong when the powerful of this world turn a blind eye to it. We are in contact with all partners at every possible level to ensure an appropriate response. It

is the terrorists who must feel the pain, not innocent peaceful people,” the Ukrainian leader said.

Top Russian security official in N Korea

State media in Russia has reported that Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu is in North Korea for talks with leader Kim Jong Un.

Russia’s Tass news agency said Shoigu was on an unspecified ‘special’ mission from Russia’s president. Shoigu, ‘arrived in Pyongyang on special orders from Russian President Vladimir

Putin to exchange with North Korean officials in the framework of putting in place the agreements reached during his last visit on June 4’, a council statement was quoted as saying.

North Korea has supplied Russia with thousands of soldiers as Moscow continues its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The countries have strengthened military cooperation with a sweeping military deal signed last year which included a mutual defence clause when Putin made a rare visit to the reclusive regime.

DW

G7 SUMMIT IN CANADA

The Group of Seven (G7) and European Union leaders including British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, European Council President Antonio Costa, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and US President Donald Trump pose for a family photo as they attend the G7 Summit in the Kananaskis mountain lodge in Canada

Typhoon Wutip leaves seven dead in Vietnam

Hanoi, Vietnam - Heavy rains and flooding triggered by Typhoon Wutip have left seven people dead and caused extensive agricultural and property damage in central Vietnam, the Vietnam News Agency reported

on Tuesday.

Four deaths were reported in Quang Binh province and three in Quang Tri province, while one person was injured in Quang Tri, according to the Department of Dike Management and Natural

Disaster Prevention.

According to reports, floods have submerged more than 33,000 hectares of rice fields, along with thousands of hectares of aquaculture ponds, while eight ships have been sunk or dam-

aged. Local authorities have visited affected families and mobilised emergency forces to support recovery efforts and help residents resume normal life, the report said.

Xinhua

Kenya deputy police chief resigns after blogger’s death

Nairobi, Kenya - A Kenyan deputy police chief has resigned amid an investigation into the death of a blogger in police custody. Deputy Inspector General Eliud Lagat said on Monday that he was stepping down as investigations continue into the death of Albert Ojwang.

Ojwang was found dead in his cell after being arrested over social media posts accusing Lagat of corruption.

His death has sparked protests in Nairobi, with demonstrators calling for Lagat’s resignation.

On Friday, Kenyan President William Ruto stated that his government would ‘protect citizens from rogue police officers’, and called for a thorough investigation into Ojwang’s death.

What did Lagat say?

Lagat said he has ‘opted to step aside... pending completion of investigations’ into Ojwang’s death.

“I undertake to provide any support that may be required of me during the investigations of the unfortunate incident,” he said in a statement.

Ojwang was arrested on June



People protesting against ‘custodial death’ of Kenyan blogger Albert Ojwang

The death in custody of blogger Albert Ojwang had triggered protests calling for the resignation of deputy police chief Eliud Lagat

6 for publishing ‘false information’ on social media. He was then transported 400km (248 miles) to Nairobi. Two days later, he was found dead at the Central Police Station.

Police claimed he died after ‘hitting his head against the cell wall’, but a pathology report indicated he had sustained ‘head injury, neck compression, and other injuries spread all over the body that are pointing toward assault’.

Two officers were arrested last week in connection with the death, but the investigation is still ongoing.

The outrage over Ojwang’s death coincides with the anniversary of large-scale youth-led anti-government protests, during which scores were killed in nationwide violence.

DW

Iran vows even further ‘massive attacks’ after strikes on Israel

Tehran/Tel Aviv - A wave of so-called kamikaze drone attacks by Iran on Israel on Tuesday will soon be stepped up even further, a senior Iranian army commander has said.

General Kiumars Heydari claimed that tens of drones had successfully hit targets in Israel.

“The enemy should know that a new wave of massive attacks by the (Iranian) armed forces ... with new and advanced weapons has begun and will intensify in the coming hours,” the state-run news agency IRNA quoted Heydari as saying. Heydari, who commands Iran’s ground forces, claimed that Iranian drones had already successfully hit several targets in Israel.

Meanwhile, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Tuesday that it launched strikes targeting key Israeli intelligence facilities in Tel Aviv, including the military’s Aman intelligence directorate and the Mossad agency.

In a statement, the IRGC said its Aerospace Force fighters conducted ‘an effective operation’ in the early hours of the day, despite what it called Israel’s ‘highly advanced air defence systems’, as reported by Iranian media.

According to the IRGC, the strikes specifically targeted the Israeli army’s Aman headquarters and a facility used for planning assassination operations attributed to the Mossad.

There was no immediate confirmation from Israel on the reported targets.

Explosions heard across Israel

Air raid sirens sounded in the Is-



The enemy should know that a new wave of massive attacks by (Iranian) armed forces ... with new and advanced weapons has begun and will intensify in the coming hours

KIUMARS HEYDARI

Iranian missiles led to a number of explosions across Israel, including in Herzliya

statement on the Telegram messaging app that ‘missiles and shrapnel fell in the Tel Aviv area, causing material damage but no injuries’.

Killed Iran’s top general: Israel

Israel said on Tuesday that it had killed a high-ranking Iranian military figure whom it has described as Iran’s top general.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said General Ali Shadmani, who had just been named as the head of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters - part of

the IRGC - had died in a strike on Tehran. Iran did not immediately acknowledge the reported death, which, if confirmed, would add to a growing list of leading Iranian military figures killed in Israeli strikes.

Israel’s military said it conducted ‘several extensive strikes’ on military targets in western Iran overnight to Tuesday.

“During the strikes, dozens of surface-to-surface missile storage and launch infrastructure were struck,” the military said in a statement on X.

“In addition, surface-to-air

missile launchers and UAV storage sites were struck in western Iran,” it added.

The statement included a video seeming to show hits on surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missile launchers.

Israel also carried out attacks on the Iranian capital, Tehran, with Iranian media reporting explosions and heavy air defence fire in the city early on Tuesday.

Iranian media said there were also Israeli strikes in Iran’s southern provinces on the shores of the Persian Gulf overnight.

Agencies

Trump wants a ‘complete give-up’ by Iran

Washington, D.C., US - US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he wanted a ‘real end’ to the conflict between Israel and Iran, and not just a ceasefire, in remarks made in seeming response to a statement by French President Emmanuel Macron, who said the US had initiated a ceasefire proposal.

“I’m not looking for a ceasefire; we’re looking at better than a ceasefire,” Trump told reporters shortly after arriving back in the US from a G7 summit in Canada. The president added that he wanted a ‘complete give-up’ by Iran.

He also rejected the idea that he was seeking peace talks to resolve the Israel-Iran conflict. “I have not reached out to Iran for ‘peace talks’ in any way, shape, or form. This is just more highly fabricated, fake news! If they want to talk, they know how to reach me. They should have taken the deal that was on the table - would have saved a lot of lives!!!,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

His remarks come amid the recent repositioning of US warships and military aircraft in the region. Any further active US participation would, however, contradict promises made by Trump on the campaign trail last year to keep the US out of foreign wars.

DW

‘Forcing regime change in Iran would be a mistake’

Alberta, Canada - French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday warned that attempting to change Iran’s regime by force would be a ‘strategic mistake’ and called for an immediate end to strikes targeting civilians in both Iran and Israel.

Speaking to reporters at the G7 summit in Canada, Macron cautioned against external military interventions, saying such actions have consistently failed to bring stability. “Those who believe that bombing from the outside can save a country despite



French President Macron called for an immediate end to strikes targeting civilians in both Iran and Israel

itself and against itself have always been wrong,” he said.

Macron also strongly condemned attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure. “It is absolutely essential that all strikes carried out on both sides, against energy, administrative, and cultural infrastructure, and especially against civilians, must stop. Nothing justifies them and they are absolutely intolerable.”

G7 joint statement blames Iran

Meanwhile, leaders at the Group

of Seven (G7) meeting in Canada have come up with a statement supporting Israel’s right to self-defence while agreeing that Iran ‘can never have a nuclear weapon’. “We affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself. We have been consistently clear that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon,” the statement read.

The agreement on the statement was reached on Monday evening, shortly after the White House announced that US President Donald Trump would leave the meeting early amid the esca-

lating conflict between Israel and Iran. The statement called Iran ‘the principal source of regional instability and terror’ and said the leaders hoped for a ‘broader de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza’.

The statement also said that the G7 would continue to monitor international energy markets closely and is prepared to take coordinated measures ‘with like-minded partners, to safeguard market stability’.

Agencies



UN experts urge to enforce arms embargo on Sudan

Geneva, Switzerland - The civil war in Sudan is intensifying with devastating consequences for civilians, the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan warned on Tuesday, urging the international community to enforce an arms embargo and hold perpetrators of serious human rights violations accountable.

“Let us be clear: the conflict in Sudan is far from over,” Mohamed Chande Othman, chair of the mission, said in a statement. “The scale of human suffering continues to deepen. The fragmentation of governance, the militarisation of society, and the involvement of foreign actors are fuelling an ever-deadlier crisis.”

The war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which erupted in April 2023, has killed tens of thousands, displaced over 13mn, and devastated health facilities, homes, and markets.

The mission said it has documented ‘increased use of heavy weaponry in populated

areas and a sharp rise in sexual and gender-based violence’, as well as systematic attacks on hospitals and aid operations.

“What began as a political and security crisis has become a grave human rights and protection emergency, marked by international crimes that stain all involved,” said Mona Rishmawi, a member of the mission. “Civilians continue to bear the brunt of escalating violence and hostilities.”

The RSF and SAF have both escalated retaliatory attacks, including mass killings, torture, and executions, the mission said. Humanitarian access is also being ‘weaponised’, leading to famine in areas like Darfur. “Accountability is not a luxury; it is the cornerstone of sustainable peace,” said mission member Joy Ngozi Ezeilo. “Justice must be demanded and actively integrated into peace agreements.”

Othman stressed: “We urge all States to honour their legal duties - starting with full enforcement of the arms embargo under Security Council Resolution 1556.”

WHO warns Gaza health system ‘at a breaking point’ as fuel, supplies run out; 63 more killed

Geneva/ Gaza City - Gaza’s health system is ‘at a breaking point’, the World Health Organization warned on Tuesday, as military operations, mass displacement, and blocked humanitarian access push medical services across the strip toward collapse.

“As global attention shifts to escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, Gaza continues to be decimated - largely out of sight, but not out of danger,” Richard Peeperkorn, WHO representative in the occupied Palestinian territory, told a UN briefing in Geneva.

Only 17 of Gaza’s 36 hospitals are currently partially functional, with just four, including Nasser Medical Complex, serving as referral facilities.

“The health system simply can’t afford the loss of Nasser hospital,” Peeperkorn said. Located within an evacuation zone



announced last week, the hospital is ‘currently the sole provider of ICU and neurosurgery services in Khan Younis’ and its dialysis unit ‘is currently serving more than 200 patients’, he said.

In Gaza City, Al-Shifa Hospital is operating at a ‘200% bed occupancy rate’, he said, while Al-

Amal Hospital in Khan Younis ‘is currently completely inaccessible due to ongoing military operations in the vicinity and is unable to admit new cases, hence non-functional’.

Fuel and medical supply shortages are severely impacting care. “More than 50% of WHO’s

medical stocks in Gaza are depleted, and 33 WHO trucks await at Al Arish and 15 in the West Bank,” he said. “Seventeen hospitals, seven field hospitals, and 43 primary health centres - barely running on minimum daily fuel - will soon have none left.” Medical evacuations have

nearly halted. “Since March 18, 2025, only 6 medical evacuations have taken place, while over 10,000 people need medical evacuation outside Gaza.”

‘Without fuel’, Peeperkorn warned: “All levels of care will cease, leading to more preventable deaths and suffering.”

63 more killed in Gaza

At least 63 Palestinians were killed, including many people trying to reach food, and hundreds more were wounded in fresh Israeli attacks across Gaza on Tuesday, medics said.

The Health Ministry said 51 people lost their lives and over 200 others were injured when Israeli forces opened fire on civilians who gathered to get humanitarian aid at the Al-Tahlia Roundabout in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

Anadolu Agency

Is Bangladesh ready for a ‘credible’ election?

The interim government had been saying it needed time for reforms

Dhaka, Bangladesh - Bangladesh’s interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, recently met the leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which is expected to be the frontrunner in elections next year.

Tarique Rahman, who has lived in exile in the United Kingdom for over 15 years, is the acting chairman of the BNP, a major party which his mother, ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, led for decades.

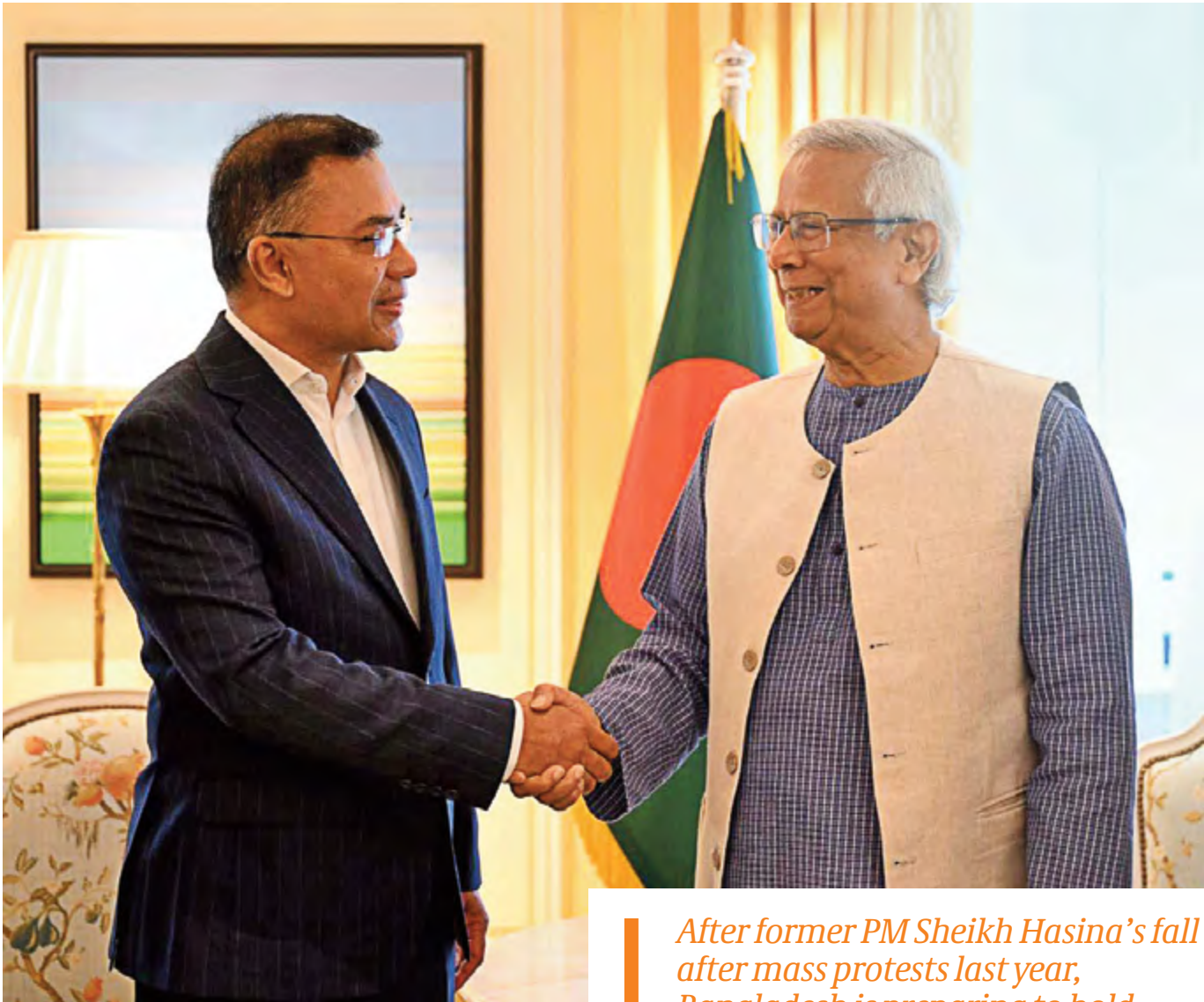
The meeting in the UK capital London was held amid rising tensions in Bangladesh, which has been locked in a tense political limbo since an uprising culminated in former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s resignation in August 2024.

Reforms needed before elections

The BNP wanted an election by December 2025, while the interim government had been aiming for April 2026, saying it needs time to implement a host of reforms. Yunus and Rahman have now agreed that polls could be held in February - if sufficient progress on reforms is made.

These include constitutional reforms, changes to the electoral process and boosting judicial independence and press freedoms.

Authorities also need to deliver justice for the victims of last year’s mass protests, in which



BNP’s Tarique Rahman (left) and Muhammad Yunus has agreed to hold elections in February, 2026

hundreds were killed, mostly by the security forces loyal to Hasina and her Awami League.

Tasnim Jara, a leader of the National Citizen Party (NCP), newly formed by the student leaders of last year’s protests, thinks that while the government has taken initial steps for an election, ‘institutional readiness remains uneven’.

“Key election infrastructure, such as an impartial election commission, a neutral civil administration, and an independent

judiciary, requires urgent reform. A credible election will depend on whether the political parties can agree on a reform package soon and whether that package is visibly implemented in time,” she told DW.

While the agreement between the BNP and Yunus is a welcome development for many observers, they say that the restoration of law and order to allow for a credible election that includes all major parties remains a priority.

Saimum Parvez, a special as-

After former PM Sheikh Hasina’s fall after mass protests last year, Bangladesh is preparing to hold elections. The interim government promises a credible poll, however law and order remain a concern

sistant to the BNP Chairman, thinks that ‘the dismal law and order situation, unchecked unruly mobs, and encouragement of depoliticisation’ are the obstacles. “However, as common people of Bangladesh are usually enthusiastic about participating and engaging in electoral campaigns, it is possible to overcome these obstacles with community support,” he told DW.

The Dhaka-based political historiographer Mohiuddin Ahmed, however, was less optimistic. “Bangladeshi political parties don’t behave peacefully during elections. They tend to use force whenever possible to control polling centres. Maintaining an orderly situation during the polls will be challenging if the administrations and police forces don’t work properly,” he told DW.

Former government and security officials face criminal charges

A UN fact-finding mission this year found that officials from Bangladesh’s former government and security apparatus had systematically committed serious human rights violations against protesters last summer and that crimes against humanity may have been carried out.

Hundreds of cases have been filed against Hasina and her allies since she fled to India on August 5, 2024. Her Awami League party claims that the cases are politically motivated.

Observers say that the country’s security forces have lost credibility since last year’s crack-down, which has contributed to the deteriorating security situation. Naomi Hossain, a political sociologist and a professor at London’s SOAS University, said that Bangladesh was tough to govern and that order had always been ‘difficult to achieve’.

“It is one reason why people put up with Sheikh Hasina so long - at least she wielded the power to maintain some semblance of order, violent and repressive though it was for anyone who wanted to dissent,” Hossain told DW.

She added that given the political vacuum since Hasina’s ouster, it was ‘no surprise’ that law and order was currently ‘a problem’.

“I think that the army is probably feeling the need to act with caution given the human rights violations they allegedly participated in last year. That means not being too heavy-handed with the mobs and Islamist gangs we see news reports about,” she said.

Maintaining law and order

Bangladesh’s interim government has empowered army offi-

cers with the rank of captain or higher to help police maintain law and order in the country.

However, Tasnim Jara, a former doctor who is now a politician, told DW that the army’s deployment had not resolved the crisis and only ‘exposed deeper issues’.

“State-sanctioned violence and repression over the past 16 years deeply undermined public trust and destabilised the foundations of governance,” Jara said, calling for that legacy to be addressed.

“Lasting stability will only come through institutional reform of the police and security agencies. We have yet to see these reforms,” she added.

Ban on Awami League

The Awami League was banned last month pending trials by a special tribunal into the party and its leaders for alleged crimes against humanity and human rights violations.

But observers, including Hossain, think Bangladesh’s oldest party should be allowed to participate in the upcoming polls because it still enjoys broad support, despite the fact that many of its leaders are ‘credibly accused of numerous crimes’.

“The party is a huge national body and still seems to command a lot of support across the country, perhaps particularly in rural areas and among minority groups and women. Banning them serves no good purpose,” Hossain told DW.

She warned that such a move would likely lead to ‘a super-majority landslide’ for the BNP, ‘who will then be empowered to behave exactly as the Awami League did when it won its super-majority back in 2008’.

DW



Anti-Muslim attacks in Germany hit record high in 2024

Berlin, Germany - Anti-Muslim attacks and incidents of discrimination reached an alarming new record in Germany in 2024, with more than 3,000 documented cases, rights group CLAIM announced on Tuesday.

The organisation documented 3,080 anti-Muslim incidents in 2024, representing a dramatic 60% increase from the 1,926 cases reported in 2023. The incidents averaged more than eight cases per day throughout the year.

The annual report revealed an alarming escalation in the severity of attacks, including two homicides, 198 cases of physical assault - three of which were classified as attempted murder - 122 cases of property damage, four arsons, and 259 other offenses, including robbery and extortion.

“Anti-Muslim racism is not a marginal phenomenon. It extends from the streets to classrooms, from waiting rooms to city halls. It operates in government offices, in the housing market, in comment sections - and it’s becoming more brutal,” CLAIM experts said in their report.

Women were disproportionately targeted, accounting for 71% of individual victims. The report highlighted that visibly Muslim women face particularly frequent racist violence. Children have also been subjected to both verbal and physical attacks.

The documented incidents range from verbal abuse and physical assaults to discrimination and attacks on religious institutions, with more than 70 reported attacks on mosques. Muslim markets and restaurants also became targets of threats and attacks.

The surge in anti-Muslim racism coincided with heightened Middle East tensions, the report noted. Similar spikes were observed following terrorist incidents in Germany, as public discourse often portrayed Muslims as security threats, fostering an environment of suspicion and discrimination.

The report highlighted how media coverage and political debates centred on security concerns, have led to concrete consequences for the safety of Muslim individuals in Germany.

Anadolu Agency

UAE rescues 24 from burning oil tanker

Dubai, UAE - The crew from an oil tanker was rescued on Tuesday following a collision involving two such vessels near the Strait of Hormuz.

The United Arab Emirates National Guard said the evacuation took place on Tuesday after the crude oil tanker, *Adalynn*, struck another ship - understood to be the *Front Eagle* oil tanker - managed by the Anglo Eastern shipping firm which is headquartered in Hong Kong.

The *Adalynn* was bound for Egypt’s Suez Canal at the time of the incident in the Gulf of Oman.



The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world’s key maritime thoroughfares

“The ship’s crew was evacuated from the incident site, located 24 nautical miles off the country’s coast, to the Port of Khor Fakkan using search and rescue boats,” the Emirati National Guard said in a post on X.

Collision not security related - British maritime intelligence

British maritime security firm Ambrey said the cause of an incident, 22 nautical miles east of Khor Fakkan, was not security-related.

Shipping company Frontline said its oil tanker *Front Eagle* had been involved in a collision and

described the event as a navigational incident that was not related to the ongoing regional conflict between Israel and Iran.

“Following the incident immediate action was taken to extinguish a fire on deck of the *Front Eagle*. We are aware of reports of a fire onboard the *Adalynn* following the collision,” a Frontline statement said. The company went on to say that it was ‘closely monitoring the situation and is cooperating fully with the relevant authorities as emergency response efforts continue.”

DW

Air India Delhi-Paris flight cancelled after pre-flight checks

New Delhi, India - Paris-bound Air India flight 143 from Delhi was cancelled on Tuesday afternoon after pre-flight checks identified an issue, which was currently being addressed, an Air India spokesperson confirmed.

The AI143 has been cancelled because the flight is subject to restrictions on night operations at Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG) airport.

“We regret the inconvenience caused to our passengers and are making alternative arrangements to fly them to their destination at the earliest. We are providing hotel accommodation and also offering full refunds on cancellations or complimentary rescheduling if opted by the passengers,” an Air India spokesperson said.

Consequently, flight AI142 from Paris to Delhi on Tuesday also stands cancelled.

Meanwhile, an Air India flight from San Francisco to Mumbai, with a scheduled stop in Kolkata,



An Air India flight operating from San Francisco to Mumbai, with a scheduled stop in Kolkata, undergoing a mandatory post-landing inspection upon arrival, in Kolkata, India on Tuesday (ANI)

was grounded on Tuesday after a technical issue was suspected during a routine post-landing inspection. All passengers were safely deplaned, and some have been accommodated in a hotel in Kolkata.

Earlier in the day, an IndiGo flight 6E 2706, which was travel-

ling from Muscat to Delhi with a layover at Kochi, made an emergency landing at Nagpur airport on Tuesday after a bomb threat was received. According to Lohit Matani, DCP Nagpur, all passengers have been safely deboarded, and an investigation is currently underway. Preliminary checks

have not found anything suspicious so far, officials said.

Further investigation into the incident is underway.

Similarly, on Monday, officials informed that Lufthansa flight LH752, which was flying from Frankfurt to Hyderabad, was forced to return to Germany after

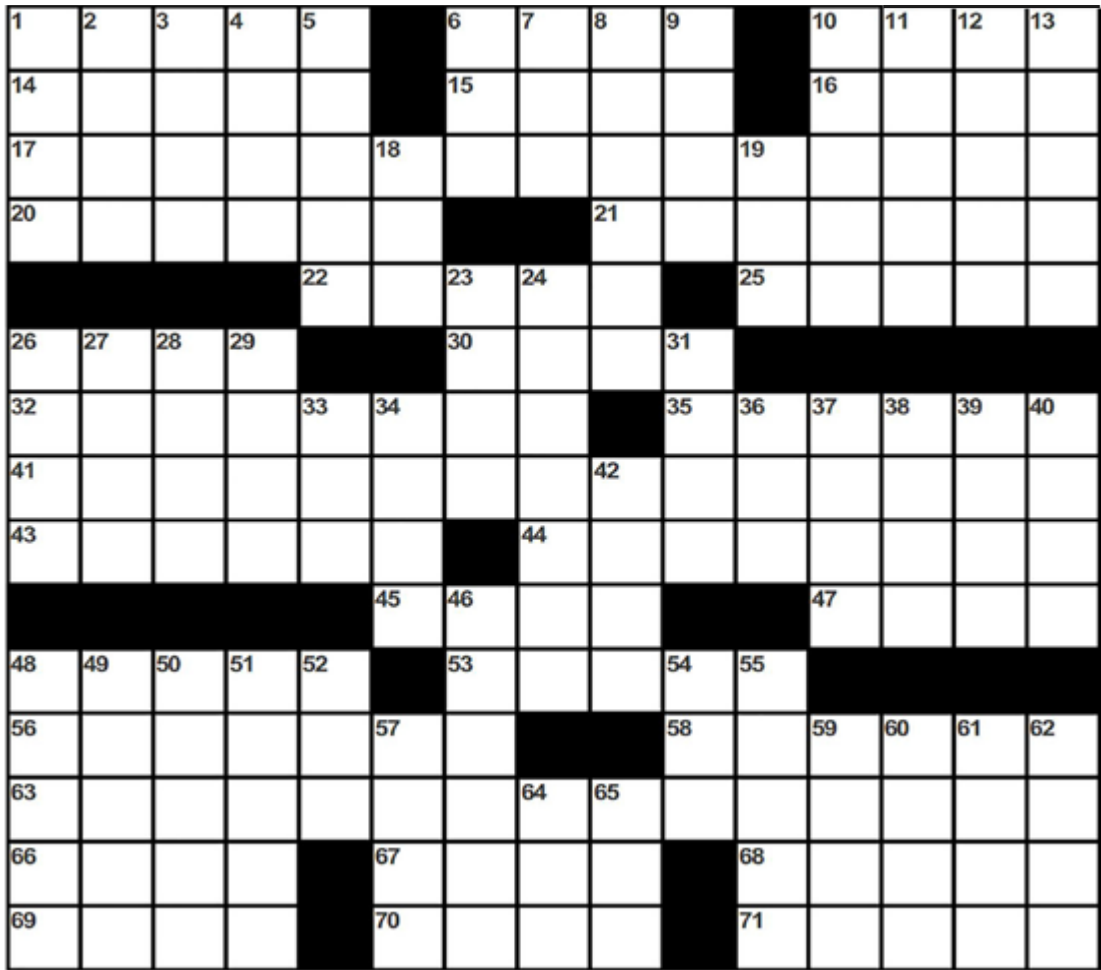
An IndiGo flight from Muscat to Delhi with a layover at Kochi, made an emergency landing at Nagpur airport after a bomb threat was received

a bomb threat was received. A committee has been formed to assess the threat as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Meanwhile, Harsh Sanghavi, the Home Minister of Indian state of Gujarat confirmed that the DNA samples of 144 victims in the Air India plane crash has been successfully matched as of 12pm on Tuesday. The testing is being done by teams from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU).

ANI

DAILY CROSSWORD

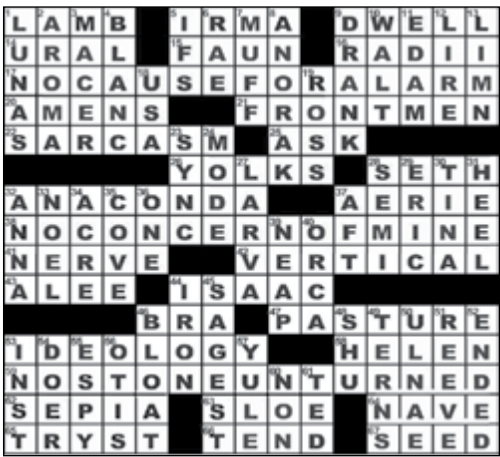


- ACROSS**
- 1) Eyeball-bending images
 - 6) Bear's order, on Wall Street
 - 10) Hardly well-thought-out
 - 14) " _ and Juliet"
 - 15) 14-Across, for one
 - 16) Like sore muscles
 - 17) Obey an octagonal sign
 - 20) Articulated
 - 21) Itching for action
 - 22) Place of pilgrimage
 - 25) Copenhagen residents
 - 26) Heron cousin
 - 30) Santa _ Calif.
 - 32) One with a will
 - 35) Classroom spinners
 - 41) Had one's bubble burst
 - 43) John or Angelica of Hollywood
 - 44) Small statue
 - 45) Cheerfulness
 - 47) Coral and Yell ow
 - 48) Heroic narratives
 - 53) Annex
 - 56) Creature comfort
 - 58) New Guinea native
 - 63) Did not quit
 - 66) Genesis grandson
 - 67) Dickerson of the Pro

- DOWN**
- 1) Dungeons & Dragons creatures
 - 2) Palindromic ship deck
 - 3) BBs, e.g.
 - 4) Stink to high heaven
 - 5) Native American pole
 - 6) Health resort
 - 7) Fairy-tale night worker
 - 8) Dem and Bush
 - 9) Country singer Lovett
 - 10) Certain dreadlocks wearer, infonnally
 - 11)_ good faith
 - 12) Rudely push
 - 13) Pumps up, as in adver-tising
 - 18) The loneliest number
 - 19) Psychedelic drug, for short
 - 23) Meal for the shamed?
 - 24) Like some cattle
 - 26) Cast-wearer's problem
 - 27) Boyfriend

- 28) "Real" and "alcohol" endings
- 29) "Don't change this!"
- 31) All aflutter
- 33) Word in a Shake-speare comedy title
- 34) Chinese secret society
- 36) Romanian currency
- 37) Boating pair
- 38) Camembert's kin
- 39) Erupter of 1992
- 40) Opposite of he's
- 42) With an even score
- 46) All-weather wear
- 48) Did a carpenter's chore
- 49) Improve upon
- 50) Columbus' home town
- 51) On pins and needles
- 52) Canine command
- 54) Photo_ (camera sessions)
- 55) Well-groomed
- 57) "With this ring, I _ wed"
- 59) "Trooper" attachment
- 60) ICU word
- 61) Point of perfection
- 62) Costner's role in "The Untouchables"
- 64) Appetizer selection
- 65) Like winter roads

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19
Before answering that call, remember the big project you're so wrapped up in right now. If your caller is the kind of person who either can't let you get off the phone easily or may have an equally involved pro-ject they desperately need your help with, you can let it go to voicemail or find a way to distract them. Caller ID is your best friend today.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Even when one's children (yours, maybe) start behaving more like short, ruthless dictators than divinely perfect darlings, they're still lovable. If your kids or your partner's kids or adults who are acting like kids are acting up now, there's just one thing to do: call a babysitter. Put some distance between you and that sweet little cherub or chorus of angels. Even if all you do is sit in a parking lot listening to music, you're sure to reclaim your cool.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
You're entrusted with a secret, and not just by one person either. At least two confidants feel the need to connect with you about the same issue, which puts you in a rather difficult position. You're usually up for a bit of intrigue, so expect some fun. Make sure there isn't too much on your plate. You need some down time soon if you want to decompress!



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 01. In 2010, who became the first person to win the Women's Singles title at the Australian Open tennis tournament 5 times?**
- A. Maria Sharapova
 - B. Martina Hingis
 - C. Serena Williams
 - D. Justine Henin
- 02. The Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods, about 252 to 66 million years ago, are collectively known as what era?**
- A. Mesozoic
 - B. Quaternary
 - C. Cenozoic
 - D. Mesoproterozoic
- 03. Apart from the name's being linked to advertising campaigns, what are gi-tanes?**
- A. Gypsies
 - B. Bike riders
 - C. Smokers
 - D. Influencers

Answers: 1.C 2.A 3.A



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20
You've been doing some serious thinking lately, and you've got plenty to say, all of it quite intense! In fact, you may also be up for a bit of detective work, especially when it comes to an intimate relationship. That doesn't mean that anyone has you right where they want you, necessarily. As is so often the case, you're the one in the perfect position. If you want to play fair, you may want to mention that up front.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
For now, it's all about secrets and deciding whether or not to let them out of the bag. Your mission is to be sure you know all the facts before you even think about opening your mouth. Once you do, you may not be able to close it as quickly as you'd like, and you definitely can't take back anything said today, so proceed with your typical caution.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19
You know quite well just how to make rules, follow them and delegate authority when need be. That goes double for rules that have already been tried out and found to be workable. A good example is 'honesty is the best policy,' which you usually find beyond reproach. Still, now and then it's better to keep things un-der wraps. This might be one of those times especially since your energy is working on something deeply private.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21
You love puzzles, but you also love intensity, depth, and drama, and maybe even melodrama on occasion. This is one of those times, especially as it pertains to your closest relationships. If someone tries to get your feelings out of you, you may just give them a few unimportant details that lead them to think they've got it. It's amazing how easy it is to direct the herd if you've got a good leader!



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
You may be torn between keeping one hundred percent silent and letting every pertinent fact become common knowledge. Your real dilemma, though, is deciding whether it's more important to maintain your own authority or please the one just above on the ladder. Once you've figured it all out, don't waffle. Let the rest of the world play games. It should be fun to watch!



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18
Someone close has recently come to you for a favor, and being the local expert when it comes to friend-ship, your first impulse is to go for it. If you harbor even one tiny doubt about their motives, you need to get to the bottom of the matter quickly. This doesn't mean you need to reconsider whatever it is they've asked you to do, or your friendship, just that some due diligence is essential.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22
A coworker or friend pulls you aside with a worried look on their face. They probably need your advice, counsel, and benefit of your wisdom, not to mention one of your world-famous hugs! You can do an aw-ful lot of good by sharing your experience. Once that's done, however, don't forget that you have a life of your own, complete with someone who wants to share a much bigger part of it.

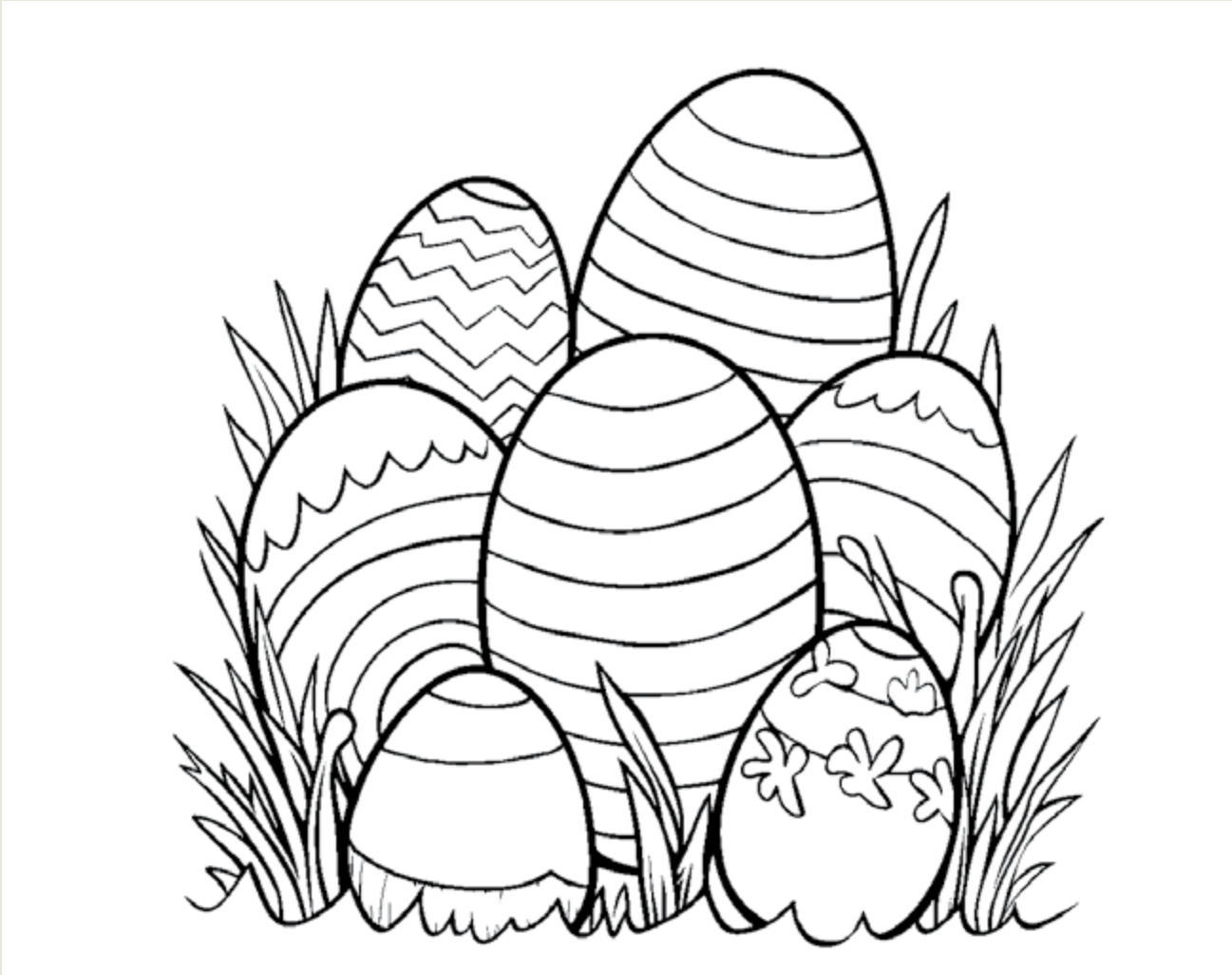


SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
You thought you were all done hearing confessions from your friends since you've let them know that nothing can surprise you anymore. Suddenly, though, someone calls to reveal something new they feel guilty about, and now that you know, you may feel a little guilty too. Trust your instincts, which have never let you down when things have started to get weird.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20
There's just one person who can give you the advice you need now, especially since it's such an intimate, private matter! Track them down or at least give them a call. If you're not sure what to do, especially if it involves your reputation, don't hesitate to ask for help. Think of how many times and how many ways you've helped them in the past without ever being asked. Karma works on your behalf once again!

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

V	K	A	B
S	O	R	S
V	E	R	O
Y	I	T	O

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

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

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

FIRE AND ICE

Gill’s captaincy a blend of Kohli’s aggression and Rohit’s calmness, says England’s Buttler

London, England - Shubman Gill’s style of captaincy blends the fire of Virat Kohli with the ice-cool composure of Rohit Sharma but India’s new test skipper will carve out his own identity as he leads them in the upcoming Test series in England, Jos Buttler said on Tuesday.

India named Gill as their new Test captain in May, picking the 25-year-old top-order batter over pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah after Rohit quit the format.

India have long recognised Gill’s leadership qualities, previously naming him vice-captain in both white-ball formats, while he also had two seasons as skipper of IPL side Gujarat Titans.

“He’s a really impressive player and an impressive young man...,” Buttler, who played under

Gill at Gujarat, said on the ‘For the Love of Cricket’ podcast. “He’s calm and measured when he speaks, but [it’s] interesting, I feel like on the field he’s got a bit of fight about him; a bit of intensity, quite passionate. I think he’ll be a mix of Kohli and Rohit.

“Kohli [was] that sort of real aggressive [character], really transformed the Indian team, in your face, up for the contest. Rohit [was] a bit on the other side, a bit more laid back, very cool, calm, collected customer, but with that sort of fight. I feel like, from my time knowing Shubman so far, he’ll be a bit in the middle. He’s obviously learned from those two guys... but he’ll be very much his own man.”

Buttler has spent more time in India than any other England



Shubman Gill will be in the spotlight when India play England in a five-match Test series starting on Friday

He (Gill) talked about compartmentalising batting and captaining; so when he’s batting he just wants to be a batter, and then he will try and work on his captaincy

JOS BUTTLER



player of his era, and said it is hard for English fans to comprehend the “stardom” of India’s best players. He predicted that one of Gill’s biggest challenges will be to ensure that he does not let the captaincy affect his batting - as happened with Buttler towards the end of his England’s white-ball captaincy.

“He talked about compartmentalising batting and captaining; so when he’s batting he just wants to be a batter, and then he will try and work on his captaincy and try and separate the two roles,” Buttler said. “When you’re doing such a big job as being captain of the Indian cricket team, he’ll have to try and do that well and have some good people supporting him.

“I don’t think we can quite understand the level of interest and the stardom that these guys have. You see it around the IPL, you’re aware of it, but actually living that yourself... I think they say the Indian Test captain is like the third or fourth-most influential person in India, behind the Prime Minister etc. - so you really are put up on that pedestal.

India play England in a five-match Test series starting on Friday at Headingley, and Buttler said Gill will be in the spotlight.

“It’s going to be a huge job for him. He’s obviously captained two seasons of IPL, which is a big, pressurised job. Kohli is the king, Shubman is the prince: that’s the narrative that they spin out there, and I feel that he’s the coming man.

Netherlands beat Nepal after first ever T20 triple Super Over

Glasgow, Scotland - The Netherlands beat Nepal but needed a record-breaking three Super Overs to clinch victory in their Twenty20 tri-series match in Glasgow on Monday, the first time a triple Super Over has been seen in T20 or limited-overs cricket.

The Dutch posted 152 for seven and appeared set for the win as Nepal required 16 runs from the final over, but Nandan Yadav scored a boundary on the last ball to force a Super Over.

Nepal made 19 runs which the Dutch matched thanks to Max O’Dowd hitting a six on the final ball, and a second Super Over was needed for only the second time in men’s international cricket, after India and Afghanistan last year.

The Netherlands, batting first, hit 17 runs and Nepal again stayed in the match after Dipendra Singh Airee hit a six on the last ball to mark the first instance of a third Super Over.

It failed to live up to the drama of the previous two with Nepal failing to score a single run and with the Dutch needing just one run, Michael Levitt smashed a six to finally seal the win for the Netherlands.

McLaren want drivers to race each other, says team principal

Montreal, Canada - McLaren will continue to let Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris race freely for the Formula One title but there will be some tough talks back at the factory after Sunday’s collision in Canada.

Norris accepted the blame after hitting the rear of his championship-leading Australian teammate’s car while trying to overtake in a battle for fourth place three laps from the finish.

The incident between the title frontrunners, with Piastri extending his lead to 22 points while Norris failed to score, was the talk

of the paddock at Montreal’s Circuit Gilles Villeneuve and had been long predicted.

McLaren principal Andrea Stella said the team would discuss once the dust had settled how to prevent it from happening again.

“Definitely there will be good conversations, but they will happen once we are all rested and calm,” the Italian told reporters.

He said the team would seek to “preserve our parity and equality in terms of how we go racing at McLaren between our two drivers.

“The being free to race and the being clear as to how we go racing is a value of racing,” he added.

“It is a value of racing that we want to try and exercise and respect as much as we can, rather than every time we have a proximity between the two cars then having control from the pit wall.

“We want to give Lando and Oscar opportunities to race and opportunities to be at the end of the season in the position that they deserve to be in.”

Stella said the points should reflect the drivers’ performance rather than any team orders.

“This is not necessarily a simple and straight exercise but we want to try and do it as best as we can,” he said. “So I don’t foresee that today’s episode will change our approach from this point of view.

“If anything it will reinforce and it will strengthen that the principles we have require more caution by our drivers.”

Stella said the incident was a simple misjudgement of distance rather than an aggressive statement of intent and he appreciated Norris’ ownership of responsibility.



Oscar Piastri (R) and Lando Norris

Contrasting wins for Medvedev and Tsitsipas at Halle Open

Halle, Germany - Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev eased past home hope Daniel Altmaier 6-3 6-3 at Germany’s Halle Open on Monday, looking to find form in his Wimbledon tune-up after early round losses at the Australian Open and French Open.

Bouncing back after a quarter-final exit in Den Bosch last week, the former U.S. Open winner and 2022 Halle finalist needed just an hour to beat the German, converting three of six break point opportunities and saving both break points he faced.

Altmaier saved two match points on Medvedev’s serve but was ultimately beaten on the third, as the twice Wimbledon semi-finalist closed out his opening Halle match and inched closer in his chase for a first grass-court title since Mallorca in 2021.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, unseeded at an event for the first time since 2018 ATP Masters 1000 in



Daniil Medvedev

Cincinnati, edged past Italy’s Luciano Darderi 6-4 3-6 7-6(5) in a gruelling first-round battle.

Alexander Bublik, Halle 2023 winner, dispatched France’s Alexandre Muller 6-4 6-4. The Kazakh broke late in the first set and struck early in the second, dominating on serve to wrap up

the match in exactly one hour.

Bublik, who reached the French Open quarter-finals two weeks ago before losing to eventual runner-up Jannik Sinner of Italy, will next face either Halle defending champion Sinner or Germany’s Yannick Hanfmann, who play on Tuesday.

Last year’s runner-up Hubert Hurkacz of Poland withdrew from the event due to injury, with Dutchman Jesper de Jong taking his place in the main draw.

Evans stuns Tiafoe

Briton Dan Evans upset American seventh seed Frances Tiafoe 7-5 6-2 on Monday to book his place in the last 16 at the Queen’s Club Championships.

The 35-year-old was handed a wildcard and responded with his first win over a top-20 player since 2023, earning a standing ovation from the crowd when he wrapped up victory in straight sets.

Lucky loser Jabeur powers through at Berlin Open

Berlin, Germany - Lucky loser Ons Jabeur, beaten on Sunday in the last qualifying round, made the most of her unexpected chance with a 7-6 6-1 win over American Caroline Dolehide in the Berlin Open on Monday.

Jabeur, a two-time Wimbledon finalist, looked comfortable on grass ahead of the season’s third Grand Slam in London starting on June 30.

The Tunisian, who has slipped to 61st in the world, earned a win for only the second time in her last five tournaments, and will come up against fourth seed Jasmine Paolini.

Poland’s Magdalena Frech came from a set down to battle past world number seven Mirra Andreeva of Russia 2-6 7-5 6-0, booking a place in the round of 16 and staging the upset of the tournament. The 18-year-old sixth seed looked to be cruising to victory when she bagged the first set with an audacious backhand slice dropshot on her fourth set point against Frech.

The world number 25, how-



Ons Jabeur

ever, was far from finished, breaking at the start of the second set with Andreeva losing her calm and hitting a ball high out of the court.

With Andreeva’s composure rapidly eroding and her unforced error count shooting up, Frech levelled when the Russian teenager’s slice forehand sailed long. The Pole then powered past Andreeva with a bagel in the third, sealing her win when Andreeva sent another forehand wide.

World number nine Emma Navarro also advanced, with a comfortable 6-2 6-3 win over Ukraine’s Marta Kostyuk. She will next play eighth seed Paula Badosa in the round of 16 after the Spaniard dispatched local hope Eva Lys 6-1 6-3 in 61 minutes.

Swiss underdog Rebeka Masarova also caused a minor upset, eliminating former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin of the US 6-3 6-2 in just over an hour to set up a clash against world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the round of 16.



Angel Di Maria

Argentine passion on show in Miami but Boca settle for draw

Miami, US - After Lionel Messi lit up the Club World Cup opener, Miami's Hard Rock Stadium was awash in Argentine passion again as Boca Juniors fans turned it into a little Buenos Aires for their team's 2-2 draw with Benfica on Monday.

A day after draping the shores of Miami Beach in blue and gold on the eve of their team's debut, the Boca fans chanted their way into the arena and through the game, which put them in second place in Group C behind Bayern Munich.

Both teams finished with 10 men after Benfica's Andrea Bellotti and Boca's Nicolas Figal picked up straight red cards in a heated contest that saw the Portuguese team cancel out a two-goal deficit.

After a scrappy opening 20 minutes, the stands trembled when Boca went ahead in the 21st as Lautaro Blanco's low cross was met by Miguel Merentiel, triggering wild celebrations.

Six minutes later, the Argentine side doubled the tally with a Rodrigo Battaglia header, stunning Benfica, who had been dominating from the onset.

Nicolas Otamendi was then brought down in the box and Benfica earned a penalty following a VAR review and Angel Di Maria coolly sent the goalkeeper the wrong way to cut the goal deficit down to one at the stroke of halftime.

Benfica were down to 10 in the 70th after Bellotti was shown a straight red card for a high kick in the back of the head of Ayrton Costa.

The Portuguese side, however, levelled six minutes from time when Otamendi found the back of the net with a powerful header.

BLUES MARCH ON

Neto, Fernández on target as Chelsea see off Los Angeles in their Club World Cup opener



Chelsea's Pedro Neto spectacularly loses Ryan Hollingshead of Los Angeles before scoring past Hugo Lloris in their Club World Cup match on Monday

Atlanta, US- Pedro Neto scored in the first half and Enzo Fernández in the 79th minute to give Chelsea a 2-0 win over Los Angeles FC in Group D's Club World Cup opener on Monday.

Chelsea put pressure on LAFC goalkeeper Hugo Lloris early in the match. Neto scored in the 34th minute, picking up a pass from Nicolas Jackson and cutting onto his left foot for a near-post finish.

The Black and Gold had positive sparks of energy and possession throughout the first half but struggled to find any real opportunities in front of the goal.

LAFC almost got one back just before the 60-minute mark, but Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sánchez came up with a save to keep Denis Bouanga off the scoresheet. The Black and Gold aimed to get some more experience on the pitch at the half, bringing on former Chelsea man Olivier Giroud. Giroud made a stir as he subbed on when he had to wait on the sidelines for a match-day shirt with his name and number. The mix-up led to a delay in the start of the second half.

Coming in off the bench, Fernández made no mistake finishing Liam Delap's cross, adding an insurance goal for The Blues.

Chelsea's day was made even more positive by the debut of Delap, a promising 22-year-old English striker signed from Ipswich Town.

While Chelsea are the favourites to top Group D, LAFC's next two matches become essential to moving on to the knockout rounds. LAFC vs. Flamengo will prove to be an entertaining game, with the two sides most likely battling it out for the group's second spot.

"It's a high level against a quality team. If you give them a moment, they'll punish you. They had two chances, and they punished us," Marky Delgado, LAFC midfielder, said after the game.

There were 22,137 fans in attendance at the 71,000-capacity Mercedes-Benz Stadium, many of them backing LAFC.

'Strange environment'

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca said the atmosphere at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta was "a bit strange" as his side began their campaign in front of swathes of empty seats.

Atlanta is over 2,000 miles (3,220 km) away from Los Angeles, where Major League Soccer club LAFC are based.

"It was a good match, a good performance," Maresca told reporters. "I think the environment was a bit strange. The stadium was almost empty. Not full."

The Italian expected more fans to be in attendance when they take on Brazilian side Flamengo at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on Friday.

Boca still in the hunt but draw a big blow

Miami, US - Boca Juniors are still in the hunt for a place in the Club World Cup knockout rounds after their 2-2 draw with Benfica on Monday but their task would have been so much easier had they not squandered a two-goal lead against the Portuguese side.

Boca next face Group C favourites Bayern Munich, and the race to finish second behind the German champions could come down to goal difference.

While Boca were competitive and showed they deserve to share the stage with a strong side like Benfica coach Miguel Angel Russo believes there is still a gap between South American and European teams.

Thousands of hardcore Boca Juniors fans are bringing extreme passion to the tournament and should the team exit before the knockout stages it would deal a heavy blow to the atmosphere at the event.

On Monday, Boca Juniors fans turned the Hard Rock Stadium into a sea of blue and gold. Boca Juniors captain Miguel Merentiel said: "It's a



Boca Juniors captain Miguel Merentiel celebrates with his teammates after scoring against Benfica on Monday

strange feeling, to be honest. It leaves a bit of a bitter taste, and now it's about moving forward. Now, we'll focus on believing in ourselves.

Flamengo get the better of Tunisia's Esperance

Philadelphia, US - Flamengo began their Club World Cup campaign with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Esperance de Tunis in their Group D opener in Philadelphia on Monday thanks to goals from Giorgian de Arrascaeta and Luiz Araujo.

The Brazilian side dominated from start to finish on a chilly evening at a half-empty Lincoln Financial Field, with Esperance managing only two attempts on goal.

Flamengo opened the scoring in the 17th minute when Guillermo Varela surged down the right and delivered a pinpoint cross to Luiz Araujo, who cushioned the ball into the path of Arrascaeta to fire home.

Esperance struggled to get a foothold on the match, with Flamengo enjoying 80% possession. Flamengo silenced the lively Tunisian support behind the south goal and in the 70th minute they doubled their lead through Araujo.



Flamengo's Luiz Araujo celebrates after scoring against Esperance de Tunis

Club World Cup off to buzzing start, but quality gap shows

Miami, US - The expanded Club World Cup has kicked off with healthy crowds, "Messi mania" and a festival atmosphere in Miami, giving an early vindication to world football body FIFA after fears of empty stands and global disinterest.

FIFA controversially awarded Lionel Messi's Inter Miami a backdoor route into the tournament, ensuring the sport's biggest name would be there after he propelled soccer to new heights in a country often ambivalent to the world's most popular game.

Some 61,000 fans packed the Hard Rock Stadium on Saturday to watch the Argentine and

teammates play Egyptian giants Al-Ahly in a goalless draw.

Another strong crowd turned out on Sunday for the clash between Paris St Germain and Atletico Madrid, which ended in a one-sided 4-0 win for the Champions League winners.

However, Bayern Munich's 10-0 demolition of semi-professional Auckland City underscored the worrying gulf in quality between some of the competing clubs.

But the opening weekend largely delivered what FIFA had hoped for: vibrant crowds and global representation. South American supporters made their presence especially felt.



Auckland City's Conor Tracey (R), a semi-professional, had to take time off his day job to face Bayern Munich's Manuel Neuer, who is one of the game's greats in their opening match

Boca and Real games were among the top early ticket sellers, according to FIFA, which said that top markets after the US were Brazil, Argentina and Mexico

More than 1,000 Boca Juniors fans in blue and gold turned Miami Beach into a party strip on Sunday ahead of their opening match, singing club anthems and waving flags in

scenes reminiscent of a World Cup carnival.

Boca and Real Madrid games were among the top early ticket sellers, according to FIFA, which said that top markets after the U.S. were Brazil, Argentina and Mexico.

Talk of empty stands was at least provisionally dismissed as well as heightened anxiety in the immigrant-heavy Miami area following recent federal immigration raids.

At the heart of the opening weekend buzz was Messi, whose presence has elevated Inter Miami's profile and guaranteed global glamour for the tournament.



Aryna Sabalenka (R) with Coco Gauff

Sabalenka apologised to Gauff after French Open final comments

World number one Aryna Sabalenka said she has apologised to Coco Gauff after dismissing the American's maiden French Open triumph, adding that she regrets the comments she made about the 21-year-old after the final.

Sabalenka had been poised for victory after claiming the opening set in a tiebreak, only to watch Gauff orchestrate a stunning 6-7(5) 6-2 6-4 comeback to claim her second Grand Slam title.

Sabalenka made 70 unforced errors in the final and later said at a press conference that Gauff won "not because she played incredible, (but) because I made all of those mistakes" -- comments she has since regretted making.

"It was just totally unprofessional of me, I let my emotions get the better of me. I absolutely regret what I said back then," Sabalenka told Eurosport.

"We all make mistakes. I'm only human and I'm still learning in life. We all have those days when we lose control.

"The difference with me is that the world watches me do it, I get a lot more hate afterwards for what I did than other people."

Sabalenka said she had reached out to Gauff personally afterwards to apologise.

"I wanted to apologise and make sure that she knows that she absolutely deserved to win the tournament and that I respect her."

'WE ARE LIKE A FAMILY'

English playmaker Foden on unique Man City bond, Guardiola and Maradona

Miami, US - Phil Foden is Manchester City through and through. A preciously talented youngster who joined the club aged four, he has gone on to become a symbol of the club's greatest era.

This hometown hero has played an integral role as Pep Guardiola's side have established themselves as one of the premier forces in world football. An intelligent, decisive and technically supreme playmaker, the 25-year-old has made more than 300 City appearances and is just three goals away from hitting the century mark for his boyhood team.

It is distinctly possible, then, that he could reach that milestone at the groundbreaking FIFA Club World Cup 2025. Foden is part of the City squad who will kick off their campaign against Moroccan giants Wydad AC in Philadelphia on Wednesday. They will then travel to Atlanta to face Al Ain FC before concluding their Group G fixtures with an all-European showdown with Juventus FC in Orlando.

With anticipation ramping up ahead of City's global title tilt, Foden discussed his targets in the USA, what makes coach Guardiola special, and the family environment which has helped underpin the club's success.

FIFA: How much are you looking forward to the Club World Cup and what are your goals at the tournament?

Phil Foden: I'm very excited. It's going to be something new for us, something we've not experienced before. It will be the best teams from all around the world. Obviously, we want to win it, but my personal goal is to enjoy it, compete against the best players and try to perform to the best of my ability.



Phil Foden

He could tell you to move half a yard one way, and it makes a massive difference in creating a chance or scoring.

PHIL FODEN

What type of atmosphere do you think we will get at the competition?

I hope the atmosphere is amazing, and I'm sure it will be. I'm looking forward to playing at the different venues. Seeing those stadiums, the fans, playing against the best teams... that's what you want to do. It's about experiencing different things in life.

You will be coming up against sides you may not have faced before. How will you approach that?

I'm looking forward to meeting

new teams and seeing what they are about. I'm sure it will be entertaining for the fans to see those teams too. Everyone has their own style and what they believe in. I'm looking forward to the challenge.

You have the opportunity to win the first edition of this competition. How big a motivation is that?

We've spoken about that - being the first (name) on the trophy would be nice. That's definitely the aim and, with the quality that we have in the team, I am sure we're more than capable of doing it.

You've been with City since you were a kid. How would you describe the connection you have the club?

Unique, I think. It's not very often that a player comes through the full academy (system) and stays in the first team for a number of

years and wins loads of trophies. We are like a family. I think we've built that (feeling) now, playing at the Etihad. It's like one family and we're all together.

One other academy graduate who has shone this season is 20-year-old Nico O'Reilly. What makes him such an exciting prospect?

He's got a very good attitude. He's a very humble guy, he never gets ahead of himself. He is someone I look at in training and it's really good to see how much he wants to learn and improve. He's looking at the older players, at how professional they are, and taking bits from that. Managers don't play people unless they deserve it, so he's definitely deserved his opportunity. He has a very good physical presence on the pitch. He's played left-back, which is not his natural position (O'Reilly is a midfielder by

trade), but when you see how well he has done, it just shows how hard he's worked. He's a top player.

Pep Guardiola is known for being an incredible tactician. What has stood out to you about him in that respect?

His attention to detail is always spot on. He could tell you to move half a yard one way, and it makes a massive difference in creating a chance or scoring. Just those small details, he gets it right every time.

Finally, if you could play with one footballer in the history of the sport, who would it be?

Probably Diego Maradona. When I watch his highlights on YouTube, you see how the ball just sticks to his foot, and all the goals he scored in the World Cup. I'd love to just see him in training and see what he's about.

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PAPAL DRESS CODE

Pope Leo XIV, a Chicago native and the first American pope, wore a White Sox baseball cap during a public appearance at the Vatican, making him the first pope to make such a casual pairing with his white cassocks.

Leo, born Robert Provost, was photographed on Wednesday smiling in the cap during his weekly general audience. During the appearance, he met with newly wedded couples — breaking both, traditional papal and wedding attire codes.

Leo’s love for the sport was noted immediately upon his election on May 8, but the question remained - Cubs or White Sox? His brother, John, quickly spoke to the press to confirm his White Sox allegiance — and footage has even revealed his attendance at the 2005 World Series, which broke the team’s 88-year drought when they won the title.

His devotion to the White Sox was just one of many aspects of Pope Leo’s life that quickly pieced together an image of a pontiff-next-door. After he was elected, following two days of secretive deliberation, the memes came swiftly.

He was dubbed ‘Da Pope’ by the Chicago Sun-Times and quickly pictured in edited or AI images posing with Chicago-style hot dogs and bottles of a local brew. Graduates of Villanova University, where he attended undergraduate school, were also eager to claim him, sharing AI images of Leo in full Villanova garb.

It’s not the first time a pope has become the fervid subject of memes; his predecessor, Pope Francis, famously went viral in an AI-generated image of the pontiff outfitted in a Balenciaga-coded white puffer jacket in 2023.

Though Francis’ most iconic sartorial moment wasn’t real, his tenure saw broader enthusiasm for evidence of a more contemporary and relaxed papal authority. The Argentinian pope departed from archaic and ornate accessories favoured by Pope Benedict XVI — including his bright red leather loafers — opting for humble, simple robes and sensible black shoes with an orthopaedic sole.

In response, The Cut declared Francis the world’s ‘normcore pope’ in 2015, and he was also honoured by Esquire as 2013’s ‘Best-Dressed Man.’ And though he never donned a jersey (in public), Francis was also a noted sports fan with a love for soccer, specifically his hometown club, San Lorenzo de Almagro.

A month in, Pope Leo’s own style has flown under the radar until now, but the statement-making look of the White Sox cap could be a sign of things to come. A new mural in Rome of the pontiff in a twist on the Chicago Bulls jersey may be a harbinger — and, after all, is a classic papal shade of red.

CHICAGO'S COOL CAP

POPE LEO BREAKS FROM PAPAL DRESS CODES, WITH A WHITE SOX BASEBALL CAP... AND IT ISN'T AI



Pope Leo in liturgical vestments



PAPAL ATTIRE

White signifies the holiness of the papal office and sets the pope apart as the highest-ranking cleric in the Catholic Church. Before white was in papal style, red used to be the distinctive papal colour.

Zucchetto is the name for the white skullcap that the pope wears atop his head. This hat signifies his authority but also his humility and consecration. The pope can wear his zucchetto during Mass, but removes it during the Liturgy of the Eucharist from the Sanctus to the Our Father.

The term ‘zucchetto’ means ‘little pumpkin’ in Italian, and its real purpose is practical - to keep the pope’s head warm (particularly back when the clergy had tonsure haircuts).

The White Papal Cassock is the pope’s day-to-day outfit. The White Papal Cassock has long sleeves, falls to ankle-length, and traditionally has 33 buttons down the front to represent Christ’s 33 years of life on earth.

White became the standard colour for papal dress during the thirteenth century, primarily because various Dominicans had been elected pope and chose to continue wearing the white of their order. The white cassock is made primarily of wool to signify the innocence, holiness, and charity of the pope’s role.

A White Fascia is the shiny, wide sash the pope wears above the waist over his cassock. The remaining length of both

ends extends down on the left, and the bottom edges of the fascia have a gold fringe. This sash represents the pope’s devotion, dedication, and submission to Jesus Christ’s call to serve and look after his Church. The fascia is a symbol of readiness to minister to the people of God.

The Pellegrina is the white shoulder cape attached to the pope’s cassock and covering the pope’s shoulders. It is called a ‘pellegrina’ because it looks like the capes that pilgrims used to wear. You might see the pellegrina billow or flap upwards because of the wind when the Holy Father is outdoors.

The Pallium, a Latin word that means mantle or cloak, is a white band symbolising the Pope’s full episcopal authority. It rests around the pope’s shoulders and extends down the front and back with two pendants.

Newly-appointed metropolitan archbishops receive a pallium from the pope that signifies their share in his authority, and these palliums are traditionally made with wool that comes from lambs blessed on the feast of St Agnes. The pallium is woven with six crosses (on the papal pallium these are red, but on an archbishop’s are black), and three of the crosses (on the front, back, and left shoulder) of the pope’s pallium contain a little pin (a spinula - a small spine or thorn in Latin) to represent Christ’s wounds.



Diana's favourite pink hat



Princess Diana pictured wearing the floral Bellville Sassoon gown, which is estimated to fetch up to US\$300,000, to a polo match in 1988. Diana wore the floral silk gown so often that the British press "grew frustrated ... because it confused people if the images were new or being reused



A navy wool pinstripe double-breasted coatdress, designed by Catherine Walker

THE LADY'S LOT

Royal regalia

Princess Diana gowns star in 'largest' auction of late royal's fashion

Princess Diana's ski suit, a Dior handbag given to her by France's first lady and the floral dress she wore to visit children in hospital are among dozens of items from the late royal's wardrobe headed to auction this month.

Featuring over 100 pieces belonging to the former Princess of Wales — including hats, handbags and shoes, as well as sketches and handwritten letters — the sale has been described by Julien's Auctions the 'largest collection' of the royal's fashion ever to go under the hammer.

Titled 'Princess Diana's Style and A Royal Collection', the auction is accepting online bids ahead of a live sale at The Peninsula in Beverly Hills, California later this month.

The highest estimates belong to two dresses - A floral number Diana sported on several occasions between 1988 and 1992, including during an official visit to Spain, and a cream silk Catherine Walker evening gown the Princess of Wales wore during her 1986 tour of the Gulf. Both are expected to fetch between US\$200,000 and US\$300,000, according to the auction house.

Dubbed her 'caring dress', Diana wore the floral silk gown so often that the British press grew frustrated ... because it confused people if the images were new or being reused, said Julien's Auctions' sale listing.

The former dress was designed by the

high-end British salon Bellville Sassoon, whose owner David Sassoon later revealed the princess referred to it as her caring dress, because its bright colours put sick children at ease during hospital visits.

Other big-ticket dresses include a yellow floral Bruce Oldfield two-piece, a blue sleeveless shift dress by her close friend Gianni Versace and a black taffeta evening gown that she wore to an event in London in 1981 - her first official ap-

pearance since the announcement of her engagement to then - Prince Charles.

The latter gown's designer Elizabeth Emanuel, who went on to co-create Diana's wedding gown, said in a press release that she offered up archival items and sketches so they could be "loved and appreciated once again by those who will never forget those golden days when Diana was our Queen of Hearts."

Other notable lots include a lambskin Dior handbag given to Diana by former

French first lady, Bernadette Chirac, and the peach-coloured straw archer hat she wore for her honeymoon send-off in 1981.

While many of items were worn on formal occasions, others demonstrate Diana's quintessential take on casual '80s and '90s style, including a scarlet nylon ski suit and an oversized sweatshirt bearing the logo of the British Lung Foundation (with top estimates of US\$50,000 and US\$20,000, respectively).

Diana's fashion has frequently commanded large sums at auction — even during her lifetime. In 1997, she put almost 80 dresses up for sale via Christie's, raising over US\$3.2mn for cancer and AIDS research. The current auction record for a one of her outfits was set at Julien's Auctions in 2023, when the black-and-blue Jacques Azagury gown she wore to at least two public engagements in the mid-1980s sold for US\$1.14mn.

As well as private viewings in New York, London and Los Angeles, a selection of Diana's wardrobe items from this month's sale are currently being exhibited at the Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge, Ireland.

The auction also includes items belonging to members of the British Royal Family, including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Queen Elizabeth II and the Queen Mother, with some of the pieces dating from the 19th century. A portion of the auction's proceeds will go to the British charity Muscular Dystrophy UK, the auction house said.

"Princess Diana's legacy lives on not only through her humanitarian work but also in the timeless elegance of her style, which continues to inspire the world," said Julien's Auctions' co-founder and executive director, Martin Nolan, in a press release.

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A selection of the late royal's shoes and handbags