



TANKER LINKED TO ISRAELI COMPANY SEIZED NEAR YEMEN

Gulf of Aden, Yemen - Attackers seized a tanker linked to an Israeli-affiliated company off the coast of Aden, Yemen, on Sunday, authorities said. While no group immediately claimed responsibility, it comes after another maritime attack on Friday that has been linked to the Israel-Hamas war.

The attackers seized the *Central Park*, managed by Zodiac Maritime, in the Gulf of Aden, the company and private security firm Ambrey said. Zodiac called the attack 'a suspected piracy incident'.

'Our priority is the safety of our 22 crew onboard,' Zodiac said in a statement. 'The Turkish-captained vessel has a multinational crew consisting of a crew of Russian, Vietnamese, Bulgarian, Indian, Georgian and Filipino nationals. The vessel is carrying a full cargo of phosphoric acid.'

Zodiac described the vessel as being owned by Clumvez Shipping Inc, though other records directly linked Zodiac as the owner.

04



Oman's economic growth expected to slow to 1.4%

'13.5% penalty on late SPF payments unfair'

Businesses burdened by high fine of 13.5% per month on delayed social insurance payments

Our Correspondent Muscat

Despite the Omani government's efforts to protect local businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), private company owners are expressing concern over the steep fines imposed for delayed payment of employer's contribution to the Social Protection Fund (SPF).

Business owners are finding the 13.5% per month penalty for delayed monthly insurance contributions burdensome. Article 14 of the Insurance Law mandates that employers pay these contributions within 15 days following the due month. A failure to do so results in a 13.5% surcharge on the owed amount.

The law also requires employers to notify the SPF of any salary adjustments for insured employees in the month they are applied. Delay in reporting these changes attracts an additional



Photo for illustrative purpose

13.5% fine for delays is excessive and impacts private sector investments. I hope the authorities reconsider

NASSER AL HOSNI

charge of 13.5% on the increased salary amount.

Nasser al Hosni, a businessman and SME owner, shared with *Muscat Daily* his pain. "Our business struggled to pay the employees' insurance during the pandemic, leading to fines that significantly strained our finances. The 13.5% monthly fine for any delay is excessive and is impacting private sector investments. I hope the authorities would reconsider these penalties and perhaps would have the gov-

ernment cover insurance contributions for SMEs with Riyada cards."

Another company owner highlighted the challenges he faced due to economic strains from COVID-19 and fluctuating oil prices, leading to delayed payments and consequent hefty fines. "We pay more than RO2,000 as employees' contribution. Being charged 13.5% fine on late payments is unfair and unprecedented for government services globally," he said, adding

that the annual cumulative fine runs to about 162% of the actual dues. He suggested that reducing the fine to about 2% could better support SMEs, stimulate the economy, and attract more private sector investors.

According to SPF, the purpose of the Social Insurance System is to create a secure working environment under its umbrella, offering protection against old age, disability, death, work injuries, and occupational diseases. Registering Omani workers for social insurance is crucial to ensure their entitlements. Employers are obligated to register all workers to preserve their rights, encourage private sector employment, and foster a healthy employer-employee relationship.

Oil and gas sector receives \$5.8bn investment in H1

Our Correspondent Muscat

Oman's oil and gas sector witnessed US\$5.84bn in total investments in exploration, production, and development of projects during the first half of this year, according to a senior official from the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM).

Of the total investments, nearly 62% were capital expenditures in activities such as geological surveys, drilling, facilities development, etc, while the remaining 38% were operating expenses, said Dr Saleh bin Ali al Anbouri, Director General of Oil and Gas Exploration and Production at MEM, in a statement to Oman News Agency.

Anbouri mentioned that, during the current year, oil companies operating in Oman drilled many exploration wells in various oil and gas concession areas targeting different reserves and depths. He added that oil companies in Oman are increasing the number of exploration wells through continuous supervision and follow-up by the ministry.

"The initial results from the drilling campaigns indicate that some wells are promising and will be confirmed through long-term testing that may extend for several months or more, while others need further study and testing. This will contribute to maintaining stable levels of pro-



Dr Saleh al Anbouri

duction and reserves."

He revealed that unoccupied oil and gas concession areas in Oman will be open for investment, adding, "the ministry welcomes any investor who wishes to negotiate these concessions, as it promotes them through bidding rounds."

Speaking about the oil blocks bidding round launched at the beginning of 2023 for Blocks 15, 36, and 54, Anbouri said the ministry received great interest from several local and international companies for these offered blocks. He added that the ministry is currently evaluating the offers from the companies, and these blocks 'will be awarded soon'.

Regarding Oman's oil production cuts under the OPEC+ agreement, Anbouri confirmed that the sultanate is currently committed to its agreement with the OPEC+ alliance to reduce its production of crude oil. Earlier in May, Oman had announced its voluntary reduction of 40,000 barrels per day of crude oil.

MUSCAT DAILY
YOUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD



RO24
1 YEAR
(Print edition)

RO15
6 MONTHS
(Print edition)

RO15
1 YEAR
(Online edition)

Name

Flat No:

Building / Villa No:

Way No:

Area:

Landmark:

Mobile No:

Email:

Print edition only ☐

print+Online edition ☐

Online edition only ☐

SUBSCRIBE
TO MUSCAT DAILY

www.muscatdaily.com

For more details

PLEASE CALL 80076000

E-mail: subscription@apexmedia.co.om

Or call Shamshad on 99104345

Muscat Daily actual annual subscription rate: RO 52

Fill up the form and send it to WhatsApp no: 99104345



FOR SAFER ROADS

CA Nikhil Raj
Internal Audit Manager

Linking traffic violations electronically among the GCC states is a good idea because it can make enforcing traffic rules better, keep roads safer, and discourage people from breaking traffic laws. This means that information about violations can be easily shared between countries, helping to deal with repeat offenders and making roads overall safer. To make roads even safer, GCC countries should do things like telling the public about traffic rules, educating drivers better, improving roads, using technology to monitor traffic, studying data on accidents, and working closely together with law enforcement. This way, they can have a regional plan to make the roads safer and deal with challenges related to road safety.

Manish Solanki
Club Manager

The GCC countries have taken a positive step by linking traffic violations between states, but more needs to be done to reduce traffic accidents. By investing in public transportation, driver training, road safety education, and enforcement of traffic laws, the region can work together to make roads safer and reduce the number of traffic-related deaths and injuries.

Maanoj Agarwala
General Manager

This is another positive step towards GCC integration and will strengthen seamless travel/movement within the GCC. It will greatly help manage, monitor, and improve compliance, reduce non-compliance, and enable timely action, especially with regard to heavy commercial vehicles of transport operators. Gulf countries need to create more rest stops/rest areas/service areas/travel



In a landmark decision, interior ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have agreed to electronically link traffic violations across member states, a move aimed at enhancing road safety and law enforcement. This decision reflects a growing recognition of the importance of regional cooperation in addressing traffic-related challenges. But what more can be done to further reduce traffic accidents in the region? *Muscat Daily* readers shared their insights and suggestions:

plazas, which will encourage motorists to break their journey before fatigue creeps in. Laying rumble strips (sleeper lines/alert strips) as opposed to only yellow lines is also a good preventive measure. Strict monitoring and implementation of speed limits is non-negotiable. Illuminated/reflective/well-

positioned road signs that can be read from a distance are a must.

Nasser al Adawi
Brand Manager

This project is considered one of the initiatives

that will contribute to achieving some traffic safety goals, and citizens of all GCC countries will benefit from the new system because it will unify the provision of a wide range of traffic-related services. This would enhance the unification and exchange of procedures among traffic agencies, and according to

mechanisms that work and contribute to reducing the occurrence of accidents and violations of traffic rules in the GCC countries.

Mohamed Abdul Hafeez
Private sector employee

Yes, this is a must, along with the construction of flyovers, underground crossings, tunnel ways, road doubling, proper lighting, and signboards. Additionally, ensure 100% vigilance of traffic flow and increase the number of check posts on the highways.

Syed Mohtesan Maqsood
Private sector employee

It's a smart move to enhance regional cooperation on traffic violations. To further reduce accidents, GCC countries could focus on standardised traffic education programmes, improving road infrastructure, and promoting the use of advanced safety technologies in vehicles.

Mike Omotegbona Kosie
Businessman

Uniform Traffic Codes and Green Lights in GCC Countries: A welcome development that will foster unity and oneness in the Gulf countries. These nations share the same language, culture, and housing facilities. A driver's licence in one is applicable to all, facilitating ease of passage and camaraderie. I foresee a single currency in the nearest future. The people are united, and I particularly admire their discipline and sensible culture.

Chaamu Balaji
Fitness and nutrition specialist

The ministers of GCC understand the importance of road safety and appreciate the use of technology to prevent violations of traffic rules. Whether travelling for personal or official reasons, it is crucial to adhere to speed limits and value every life on the road. Monitoring the traffic is necessary to avoid accidents and ensure that people follow the rules. Remember, no rule-breakers means no road-breakers.

? NEXT ON YOUR SAY

With rampant littering rising manifolds during long holidays, what measures should be taken to reduce this phenomenon? Did you encounter such a behaviour recently?

The views stated here are those of the respondents and not endorsed by *Muscat Daily*. If you feel strongly about the issues discussed here, you can email your comments to muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om

SEND YOUR COMMENTS

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

SEND US ON OUR NEW WHATSAPP NO 91953774

EA installs pillars at Turtle Reserve to protect nests

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Environment Authority (EA) has taken a decisive step to protect turtle nests from vehicular assaults by installing wooden pillars, in Ras al Hadd, South Sharqiyah governorate.

Addressing concerns raised on social media regarding this development, the EA clarified that the Turtle Reserve in Ras al Hadd, established under Royal Decree No. 25/96, is a natural reserve, and the authority is dedicated to preserving its biodiversity. The measures - for the protection of turtles - were taken as per the existing laws and regulations.

The EA explained that the wooden pillars do not hinder pedestrian access to the beach but are intended to prevent vehicle entry, and thus reduce beach vandalism and nest destruction.



'The distance from the parking area to the beach is minimal and easily traversable on foot. Additionally, the site of the work does not involve any fish landing activities,' the authority argued.

The choice of wooden pillars is a safe, eco-friendly solution employing natural materials that blend seamlessly with the

beach's natural beauty, it added.

'Such methods are widely used in environmental sites like reserves and parks, both in Oman and internationally, due to their effectiveness in minimising habitat destruction caused by irresponsible vehicle use.'

The authority reassured that these measures have no adverse

The choice of wooden pillars - to protect turtle nests from vehicular assaults - is a safe, eco-friendly solution that blends seamlessly with the beach's natural beauty

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

impact on tourism, emphasising the critical need for sustainable practices to protect the reserve's unique natural resources. 'The presence of turtles on these beaches is a significant tourist attraction, necessitating collective efforts for their preservation.'

The EA is actively implementing various programmes to pro-

tect and sustain this vital global natural heritage, facing extinction threats. These initiatives include environmental monitoring, field surveys, awareness campaigns, and protecting nests and hatchlings.

Among them a notable one is the Turtle Commando Programme that has been instrumental in saving many turtles over the past three seasons.

The 'commandoes' of the programme successfully returned over 200,000 stray baby turtles to the sea, besides rescuing hundreds of mother turtles, removing tonnes of waste during beach clean-ups. They also trained nearly a thousand volunteers as environmental ambassadors.

The authority encouraged public to rely on official sources for information and called for co-operation in protecting natural reserves and conserving the environment.

MHUP offers integrated service station plots

Muscat - In a move to stimulate investments, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MHUP) has designated two sites measuring over 25,000sqm in total for the establishment of two integrated service stations in Dhofar and Al Wusta governorates.

An MHUP official revealed that the ministry is offering land for usufruct contracts through an online auction. The available plots include an area of approximately 5,000sqm in the wilayat of Mazyunah in Dhofar and over 20,000sqm in the wilayat of Haima in Al Wusta.

The plots, accessible through the Tatwir platform, have been made available for developments by private players to support the region's economic growth.

The government is empowering the private sector to drive investments in this region and

contribute to the creation of comprehensive and sustainable urban communities.

"Prospective bidders are required to register on the Tatwir platform using their ID number or commercial registration," the MHUP official informed, adding that the ministry outlined specific requirements for the service stations, which must encompass a variety of facilities.

These facilities include a building for restaurants, essential services, restrooms, an electric vehicle charging station, retail shops, ample parking spaces, a fuel filling station, and a car repair workshop.

This initiative by MHUP marks a significant step towards enhancing infrastructure development in Dhofar and Al Wusta, aligning with Oman's broader goals of economic diversification and regional development.

taste the

NEW GOODNESS

طبيعي أطيب

NATURAL IMMUNITY BOOST

DISTRIBUTED BY **CATERING SOLUTIONS TRADING LLC**

CONTACT NO.: +968 22060236 / 237



Jabal Akhdar witnesses surge in tourism with over 160,000 visitors

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Jabal Akhdar, renowned for its majestic green mountains, has experienced a remarkable influx of visitors in the first nine months of 2023, with a total of 161,974 people exploring its natural beauty.

The National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI) statistics reveal that of the total visitors, 88,840 were Omani citizens who toured this one of the most popular terrains nestled in the Hajar Mountains.

The area gained significant attention in the GCC, with 11,824 visitors coming here from Saudi Arabia, 757 from the UAE, 992 from Kuwait, 594 from Qatar, and 434 from Bahrain.

Additionally, 5,189 tourists from other Arab countries and



53,344 visitors from outside the region visited the place.

Ali bin Saeed al Adawi, Director of Heritage and Tourism Department in Dakhiliyah governorate, commented on the allure of Jabal Akhdar. "Its temperate climate during summers and chilly winters make it an ideal spot for ecotourism and adventure tourism. Visitors are drawn to the diverse experiences it offers - from walking in

Jabal Akhdar has 20 hospitality establishments - ranging from 3- to 5-stars - including 9 hotels and resorts

ALI AL ADAWI

the wadis to mountain climbing, from cave exploration to camping - providing a glimpse into local culture."

Jabal Akhdar is surrounded by valleys, heritage villages, and caves, attracting those who love adventure and exploration. The region is also known for its unique flora, including perennial and rare wild plants like the Al-Allan tree.

Adawi highlighted the hospi-

talities sector's growth in the area. "Jabal Akhdar boasts 20 hospitality establishments - ranging from 3- to 5-stars - including nine hotels and resorts, one hotel apartment, two heritage lodges, and eight guest houses, totaling 726 rooms of varied sizes. These facilities have significantly contributed to increase in tourist movements in Jabal Akhdar."

According to NCSI statistics, Jabal Akhdar's various tourist establishments hosted 45,365 guests from January to October this year.

Adawi spoke highly about the vital role that tourism and service projects in Jabal Akhdar played in enhancing the region's appeal to tourists of diverse nationalities, and cemented its status as a key destination in Oman's tourism landscape.

Research explores impact of robot-aided learning in education

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A new research has explored the impact of using robots with different personalities in student engagement and learning in educational institutions.

Dr Falah Younis Hamode, Assistant Professor and Research Coordinator at the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology at Sohar University, led a groundbreaking research project to conduct 'Sentiment and Emotional Analysis to Capture Misinformation in Natural Language Expressions Using Furhat Social Robot'.

The project, funded by the Block Funding Programme of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, marks a significant advancement in the field of educational technology.

The study utilised a humanoid robot named Furhat, designed to communicate with humans in a friendly and expressive manner, to investigate its impact on students in schools and universities.

Dr Hamode's research involved interactions with 300 students from Sohar University using Furhat - the robot, which embodied four diverse characters - Omar, Fernando, Gyeong, and Yumi - each varying in age, skin colour, voice, and pronunciations.

The research findings revealed that the robot's varying personalities significantly influenced students' perceptions and engagement levels. Traits such as age, gender, and voice played



Statistical analysis showed significant differences in students' attitudes, comfort levels, and trust towards the various robot personalities

DR FALAH YOUNIS HAMODE

a crucial role in shaping students' receptiveness to the teaching content.

The study highlighted the diverse responses of students to each of Furhat's personas, indicating specific preferences for different characteristics and communication styles.

Statistical analysis showed significant differences in students' attitudes, comfort levels, and trust towards the various robot personalities.

The study indicated that adaptability in teaching methods, based on the robot's user interactions, was vital in shaping students' acceptance of the robotic teaching system.

Dr Hamode emphasised the

importance of tailoring the robot's characteristics to the preferences of the student audience to maximise engagement and learning outcomes. He recommended continuing the use of diverse characters to cater to various learning styles and exploring a wider range of emotional expressions in the robot's interactions for a more immersive learning experience.

Sohar University is pioneering in the Middle East as the first academic institution to utilise the Furhat robot for research. This adoption of advanced technology demonstrates the university's dedication to innovative research and acknowledges the significant role humanoid robots like Furhat can play in enhancing a range of academic fields.

The research highlighted the intricate influence of robot personalities on students' perceptions, extending beyond mere content delivery to affect the entire educational experience. Such insights are crucial in the ongoing dialogue about incorporating robotics into educational contexts, underscoring the need for tailored and flexible interactions with robots to achieve impactful learning results.

The research, conducted by Dr Hamode and co-principal investigator Dr Abdullah M Abualkishik, was published in the international journal *Computers*. It contributes significantly to the discourse on integrating robotics in education, highlighting the need for personalised and adaptive interactions in robotic learning systems.

Omani documentary wins top honours at Morocco film fest

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Omani director Fahd al Maimani's short documentary *You Will Not Dive Alone* has earned first place at the International Festival of Cinema and Sea in Morocco. The festival's activities wrapped up on Sunday.

The documentary stands out for its exceptional cinematography and insightful exploration of environmental themes.

It captures the mesmerising world of the deep seas and oceans, blending the allure of Omani cultural heritage with the natural splendour of marine life around the Daymaniyat Islands.

The film narrates the experiences of Omani sailors Faisal al Yazidi and Ahmed al Busaidi,



showcasing their profound connection with the sea and sharing their adventures both on land and in the water.

You Will Not Dive Alone takes its audience on a captivating journey beneath the water surface, revealing the mysterious and diverse marine world of

Oman. The film's immersive scenes offer a glimpse into the underwater beauty and the intriguing life forms inhabiting it.

The festival saw participation from several international films from countries including Spain, Russia, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Iraq.

Barka records 51mm rainfall in two days

Muscat - Light to moderate rains lashed several governorates in the past two days, according to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The authority said that 'a number of wadis overflowed' due to the rains in various part of the sultanate, even as 'there are low clouds and fog spread over parts of Oman'.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR), Barka recorded 51mm rainfall from Saturday to Sunday morning. Its data showed Khaboura received 14mm of rainfall, Rustaq 12mm, Bukha 12mm and Suwaiq 10mm during the same period.



**السوق الحرة
MUSCAT
DUTY FREE**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Civil And Mep Works, Furniture-Shopfittings And Project Consultancy Services For Arrivals Duty Free ShopAt Muscat International Airport

• **Last date for collection of RFP as Thursday 30th November 2023.**

• **Final date for submission of quotations Tuesday 26/12/2023, before close of business at 5 pm**

To collect the RFP, details, please contact Khalid (92825380)





إعلان مناقصات

TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENT

SOHAR Port and Freezone invites Tenderers to the following tenders

تدعو شركة ميناء صحر والمنطقة الحرة الموردين للمشاركة في المناقصات أدناه

Item No	العدد	Item Title عنوان المناقصة	Tender Fee (OMR) رسوم
1	SFZ 2023 - 100	Container Throughput Counting System.	26.250
2	SIPC 2023 -076	Removal of Seabed Sedimentation at SOHAR Port Basin and Approach Channel.	52.500
3	SIPC 2023 -151	Road Re-Surfacing of Damaged Road Surface at SOHAR Port Exit (Extension).	26.250

- The above-mentioned tender fees including the VAT 5%.
- Tenderers can request to receive the electronic tender documents from 9:00 am on Monday, 27/11/2023 until 4:00 pm on Thursday 07/12/2023.
- Tenderers to follow the below procedures and steps to obtain the electronic tender documents:
- Step 1:** Interested Tenderers should remit the stated tender fees as per the below bank details:

- تسليم رسوم المناقصة المذكورة أعلاه ضريبة القيمة المضافة وغيرها 20
- يمكن لمقدمي العطاءات طلب استلام وثائق المناقصة إلكترونياً، لغد من يوم الاثنين الموافق 27/11/2023م (الساعة 9:00 صباحاً) وحتى يوم الخميس الموافق 07/12/2023م (الساعة 4:00 مساءً).
- على مقدمي العطاءات اتباع الإجراءات والخطوات التالية للحصول على مستندات المناقصة إلكترونياً.
- الخطوة الأولى:** يجب على مقدمي العطاءات سداد رسوم المناقصة وفقاً للتفاصيل البنكية أدناه.

Account Name اسم الحساب	SOHAR Industrial Port Co شركة ميناء صحر الصناعي
Account Number رقم الحساب	3101-007970-500
Bank Name اسم البنك	Oman Arab Bank SAOC - Main Br بنك عمان العربي، شارع عمر - الفرع الرئيسي
SWIFT رمز السويفت كود	OMABOMRUXX

Note: Bank transfers is the only mode of payment accepted
ملاحظة: التحويل البنكي هي الطريقة الوحيدة المقبولة للدفع

Step 2:
Tenderers to send the following documents:

- A request for the electronic tender documents scanned bank transfer.
- The firm's commercial registration documents.
- All shall be communicated to the following email address:
procurement@soharportandfreezone.com

Step 3:
Tenderers will receive the electronic Tender Document by e-mail:

- SOHAR reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reasons.
- All SMEs are requested to provide their INADAH Card along with the required documents.
- For any clarification regarding the tenders please send an e-mail to:
procurement@soharportandfreezone.com

الخطوة الثانية:
(تقديم) على مقدمي العطاءات تقديم المستندات التالية:

- طلب الحصول على الوثيقة الإلكترونية من بنك صحر الصناعية
- سيرة من سجل التسجيل التجاري
- أوراق مستندات الشركة المطلوبة لتقديم بطاقة ائحة إلى صاحب مستندات الشركة
- أمر حال مورد أي ملاحظة أو استفسارات تتعلق بالمناقصات، أودع التواصل معنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني:
procurement@soharportandfreezone.com

It all starts here

+968 2685 2700 | soharportandfreezone.om

Oman's economic growth expected to slow to 1.4% in 2023, World Bank says

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman's economic growth is expected to slow to 1.4% in 2023, according to the World Bank. This slowdown is attributed to oil production cuts related to the OPEC+ agreement and a general decrease in global economic activity.

Despite the short-term challenges, the World Bank's Gulf Economic Update, released last week, anticipates a strengthening of Oman's economy over the medium term. This is projected to be driven by higher energy production and comprehensive structural reforms.

The World Bank estimates that Oman's overall economic growth will decelerate to 1.4% in 2023 due to a decline in oil output. However, non-oil sectors are expected to support growth, rising by over 2%. This growth will be driven by the rebound in construction, investments in renewable energy, and tourism sectors. It is noteworthy that Oman's estimated 1.4% growth for 2023 is still above the GCC average growth estimated by the World Bank, which is projected to be 1.0% in 2023. The bank forecasts a subsequent pickup in the GCC region's economic growth to 3.6% and 3.7% in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

The weaker performance this



year is driven primarily by lower oil sector activities, which are expected to contract by 3.9%, reflecting OPEC+ successive production cuts and the global economic slowdown,' the World Bank said.

Despite the challenges in the GCC region, the reduction in oil sector activities is expected to be compensated for by non-oil sectors, which are projected to grow by 3.9% in 2023 and 3.4% in the medium term. This growth is supported by sustained private consumption, strategic fixed investments, and an accommodative fiscal policy.

"To maintain this positive trajectory, GCC countries must continue to exercise prudent

macroeconomic management, stay committed to structural reforms, and focus on increasing non-oil exports," Safaa el Tayeb el-Kogali, World Bank Country Director for the GCC, said.

However, Kogali also highlighted potential downside risks, especially in light of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, which poses significant threats to the region and the GCC outlook. He warned that the current situation could lead to higher volatility in global oil markets.

For Saudi Arabia, the largest economy in the Middle East, the World Bank projects an overall GDP contraction of 0.5% in 2023. Nevertheless, the bank expects the Saudi economy to

bounce back with 4.1% growth in 2024, reflecting expansions in both oil and non-oil sectors.

"Saudi oil sector is expected to contract by 8.4% during 2023 to reflect oil production curbs agreed upon within the OPEC+ alliance. Meanwhile, non-oil sectors are expected to cushion the contraction, growing at 4.3% supported by a looser fiscal policy, robust private consumption, and public investment drive,' the World Bank noted.

Economic activity in the UAE is anticipated to slow down in 2023 to 3.4%, primarily due to weaker global activity, stagnant oil output, and tighter financial conditions, according to the World Bank.

OIA reaps fruits of its investment exit plan

Our Correspondent
Muscat



The initial public offerings (IPOs) of OQ Gas Networks and Abraj Energy Services made great successes this year, reflecting investors' trust in OIA investments and financial management

TALAL AL AWFI

As part of its efforts towards empowering the private sector, attracting foreign investments and creating an environment that supports economic diversification, Oman Investment Authority's (OIA) exiting plan continues to make good outcomes that align with its strategic vision.

In an interview published in the new edition of OIA Quarterly Newsletter 'Enjaz and Eejaz', Talal al Awfi, group CEO of OQ, said, "Initial public offerings (IPOs) in Abraj Energy Services and OQ Gas Networks (OQGN) this year contributed effectively to capitalising individual savings in investments that both generate profits for individuals and provide Muscat Stock Exchange with large investments in the energy sector, which in turn promotes community partnership."

Awfi affirmed that these public offerings made great successes reflecting investors' trust in OIA investments and financial management. For instance, OQGN IPO was oversubscribed nearly 14 times while shares of Abraj Energy Services were oversubscribed nearly 7.8 times. In addition, key investors and a large number of local investors took part in the subscription.

He added that OQ Group

will use the returns of these IPOs for expanding its operations and maximising them on the long-term through re-utilising the additional capital in a strategic manner with the aim of enhancing growth and accelerating repayment of existing investment loans.

Awfi explained that OQ Group has established a special unit for managing IPOs and conducting detailed studies for OQ companies, including the possibility of issuing them for public offering where all deci-

sions relating to any new public offerings are to be made in coordination with OIA and OQ's board.

Speaking about OQ's debts, Awfi indicated that the value of the group's assets is over \$31bn as at 2022, reflecting the extraordinary annual profits made by the group, the efficiency of its debt management, its financial stability and steadfast commitment to create sustainable value.

He explained that OQ's debts, like any other company in the energy sector, are in the form of investment loans for growth projects, adding that these loans enabled the company to maximize the value of the sultanate's natural resources and enhance their returns.

In the issue's editorial, which was published in conjunction with the glorious 53rd National Day, H E Abdulsalam bin Mohamed al Murshidi, OIA's President, said that over this year OIA made several achievements that contributed to maximising and developing investments, making profits and reducing companies' debt, including the completion of six national projects, and the launch of the Oman Future Fund, under directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The Fund is expected to start to offer its services to beneficiaries over the coming period.

Fed needs 'boldness to wait' in policy amid uncertainty

Washington, US - The head of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank said that the Fed needs "boldness to wait" in its future monetary policy decisions due to uncertainty.

"More recently, policymakers across the globe acted decisively in response to the pandemic, bringing all their tools to bear to offset the impending damage to the economy," Mary C Daly said in a speech at the 33rd Frankfurt European Banking Congress held in Germany.

"And then, when inflation followed and proved to be persistent, central banks raised rates rapidly to bring the economy back into balance and restore price stability," she added.

The Fed raised rates by 525 basis points from March 2022 to July 2023 over the course of 11 meetings to fight record inflation that climbed last summer to its highest in more than 40 years.

The bank skipped an interest rate increase for the third time on Nov. 1, keeping the federal funds rate between the 5.25%-5.5% target range - the highest in 22 years.

"Each of these actions were bold. Central banks were clear on what the moment demanded. They acted forcefully, judging that the risks from aggressive measures were smaller than the costs of any potential policy errors," Daly said. "But most times we face are not so clear. And a different type of boldness is required: the boldness to wait."

Daly said the Fed needs to "practice gradualism" when uncertainty is high and the risks to the bank's objectives are balanced. "Practicing gradualism means having the confidence to say that we don't yet know," she



Central banks have acted forcefully, judging that the risks from aggressive measures were smaller than the costs of any potential policy errors

MARY C DALY

explained. "To resist the desire to be certain. To react to not knowing with curiosity. And to adhere to the idea that patience, measured adjustments, and continual reassessment make for better outcomes."

The probability of a rate hike at the Fed's last two-day meeting this year that will conclude Dec. 13 stood at 100% as of Friday, according to the FedWatch Tool provided by the US-based Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group. The Fed, however, could raise interest rates further if inflation climbs further away from its objective of 2%.

Annual consumer inflation in the US came in at 3.2% in October, slowing from a 3.7% gain in September, after soaring to 9.1% in June last year - the highest in more than 40 years.

Agencies

ADNOC opens green hydrogen refueling pilot station

Abu Dhabi, UAE - Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) announced that it has opened 'H2GO', the Middle East region's first high-speed green hydrogen pilot refuelling station, to test a fleet of zero-emission hydrogen-powered vehicles.

The station, which is located on land provided by Masdar City and operated by ADNOC Distribution, will create green hydrogen from water using an electrolyser powered by clean grid electricity, Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported.

Musabbeh al Kaabi, ADNOC Executive Director, Low Carbon Solutions and International Growth, said, "We are pleased to launch this unique high-speed green hydrogen refuelling station which supports the UAE's National Hydrogen Strategy. ADNOC continues to collaborate with local and international companies on innovative technologies and low-carbon solutions that can accelerate decarbonisation and support a responsible energy transition."

The hydrogen supplied at the pilot station will be certified as



"green" from solar sources by the International REC Standard, an internationally recognised certification organisation. The pilot will be used to gather data to understand the long-term viability of hydrogen vehicles in the UAE.

The pilot is supported by the Integrated Transport Centre in Abu Dhabi, and the high-speed refueller was provided by Linde, a leading global industrial gases and engineering company. Throughout the pilot, the fleet of

hydrogen vehicles are being provided by Toyota, Al Futtaim Motors and BMW, and will be tested by taxi companies, including Tawasul.

Bader Saeed al Lamki, CEO of ADNOC Distribution, said, "In line with the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, we are committed to providing sustainable mobility solutions and supporting the energy transition. The opening of the region's first high-speed green hydrogen pilot refu-

elling station, H2GO, demonstrates our commitment to leverage technology and innovation, and to capitalize on partnerships to deliver low-carbon solutions to customers."

Hydrogen is an energy carrier that creates no carbon dioxide (CO2) when used. As a result, no carbon is released into the atmosphere from production to end-use. The station creates hydrogen from water using an electrolyser powered by clean-grid

electricity. The H2GO station is ADNOC Distribution's latest mobility development following the launch of E2GO to build and operate electric vehicle infrastructure in Abu Dhabi and wider UAE.

Abdulla Balalaa, Chairman of Masdar City, said, "Masdar City has been committed to sustainable transportation since its inception in 2006 and has been a pioneer in multiple forms of transportation from the first EVs in the UAE to the autonomous PRT system. We welcome this partnership with ADNOC to pilot hydrogen in the UAE. Currently, transportation accounts for approximately 20% of the total global carbon output, and we need to work across every technology possible on our journey to net-zero. We are excited to continue to support carbon free transportation in the UAE."

ADNOC has allocated an initial \$15bn to advance lower-carbon solutions and develop decarbonisation technologies to reduce its carbon intensity by 25% by 2030 and enable its Net Zero by 2045 ambition.

WAM

European passenger car market expands 14.6% in October

Frankfurter, Germany - The European passenger car market grew 14.6% from a year ago in October, marking the 15th consecutive month of growth, an industry group report revealed.

New passenger car registrations in the EU amounted to 855,484 units in October, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) said in a statement.

Three of the largest markets saw double-digit percentage



gains - France (21.9%), Italy (20%), and Spain (18.1%), while the German car market

posted a more modest annual hike of 4.9% in October.

The market share of battery-

electric cars in the EU increased to 14.2 in October, up from 12% last year.

"The year-to-date share now stands at 14%, surpassing diesel's cumulative share for the first time," read the statement.

EU battery-electric car registrations climbed 36.3% from a year earlier to 121,808 units in October.

Hybrid-electric cars held their position as buyers' second

choice, with a 29% market share.

While gas-powered cars are still the most popular choice, the market share fell to 33.4% in October.

In January-October, new car registrations in the 27-member bloc grew 16.7% year-on-year, reaching nearly 9 million units.

All markets expanded during this 10-month period except for Hungary, the ACEA said.

Anadolu Agency

Offshore gas field could help Gaza recovery

By Charles Kennedy

A gas field offshore Gaza with more than a trillion cubic feet in reserves could become a future revenue stream for the Palestinian economy.

There have been suggestions that this gas is the reason for the war between Israel and Hamas, with the Israeli government eyeing control of the Gaza Marine field. Still, the US has now signalled the gas belongs to the Palestinian people and is theirs to exploit. For that to happen, however, peace must be restored.

During a recent visit to Israel, President Joe Biden's energy security advisor Amos Hochstein said that the Gaza Marine field could go a long way towards helping the Palestinian economy grow.

In an interview with The National, Hochstein noted that the potential of the field should not be overestimated; however, he added that "it can absolutely be a revenue stream for a Palestinian government, and to ensure there is an independent energy system for Palestine."

The Gaza Marine field was

The Gaza Marine field was discovered in 2000 by British Gas, which had signed 25-year exploration deal with Palestinian Authority in 1999 under Oslo II Accord that gave Palestinians maritime jurisdiction over waters extending 20 miles from the coast



Photograph for illustrative purpose only

discovered in 2000 by British Gas, which had signed a 25-year exploration deal with the Palestinian Authority in 1999 under the Oslo II Accord that gave Palestinians maritime jurisdiction over waters extending 20 miles from the coast.

Israel's government at the time signed off on the drilling, and British Gas drilled two wells, tapping an estimated 1.4tn cubic feet of gas. However, conflict, economic troubles, and political disputes interfered with exploration in the years that followed.

Earlier this year, the Netanyahu government preliminarily approved the renewal of exploration work at the Gaza Marine field.

"In the framework of the existing efforts between the State of Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinian

Authority (PA), with emphasis on Palestinian economic development and maintaining security stability in the region, it has been decided to develop the Gaza Marine gas field off the coast of Gaza," the Israeli Prime Minister's Office said in a statement in

June.

The National asked Hochstein whether Israel would allow Palestinians to exploit their gas reserves, to which the official replied: "I am very confident, there is no reason for them not to, it is not theirs [the Israelis], the gas belongs to the Palestinian people."

A 2019 paper by the UN Conference on Trade and Development suggested that there are substantial oil and gas reserves in Palestinian land and waters and that some of the gas discovered in the eastern Mediterranean could belong to the Palestinians.

However, the paper said, "Israel has begun to exploit [the resources] for its own benefit, while these resources may be considered shared resources, whereby the oil and natural gas exist in common pools."

In this context, Hochstein's comments regarding the Gaza Marine field are critical. They essentially demonstrate that the US recognises Palestinian jurisdiction over at least this field – like Israel, which approved drilling there.

The US official also noted that companies have already expressed interest in the development of Gaza Marine. This is hardly a surprise since the East Mediterranean has become a hot spot for oil and gas, especially gas.

The two giant fields off the coast of Israel – Tamar and Leviathan – have turned the country into a gas exporter that gas-thirsty Europe is eyeing as a potential supplier. Israel recently awarded six exploration licenses to companies, including BP and Eni. The licenses are all for offshore exploration for gas.

"The winning companies have committed to unprecedented investment in natural gas exploration over the next three years, which would hopefully result in the discovery of new natural gas reservoirs," Israel's Energy Minister, Israel Katz, said.

With so much interest in the area, companies may indeed be prepared to develop Palestinian gas resources, with the very grave caveat of if and when the war ends.

Oilprice.com

China's internet giants post strong Q3 growth

Beijing, China – A slew of listed Chinese internet giants have released reports on their financial performances in the third quarter of 2023, revealing robust growth momentum propped up by innovation drives and reflecting the solid recovery fundamentals of the Chinese economy.

The revenues and profits of China's leading market players in the internet platform sector, including Alibaba, JD.com, Tencent and Baidu, continued their robust momentum in the first half of the year to log fast growth in the third quarter.

The financial reports have also revealed that the enterprises have increased their investment in artificial intelligence (AI), innovative services and related areas, creating new business.

Alibaba's revenues and profits in the third quarter grew 9% and 34%, respectively, from the same period last year, per the quarterly results published by the company.

Commenting on this solid performance, chief executive officer of Alibaba Group Eddie Yongming Wu said that quite a few businesses have shown new momentum and vitality, and that proactive self-transformation has achieved remarkable results.

Alibaba's businesses are seeing new growth, driven by the



Alibaba's revenues and profits in the third quarter grew 9% and 34%, respectively

company's strategy of prioritizing investment in technology and innovation, said Xu Hong, chief financial officer of Alibaba.

Entering a new stage of development, the company is maintaining its entrepreneurial mentality and seizing the new opportunities brought by AI technological change, Wu added.

The company recently unveiled the latest version of its large language model, Tongyi Qianwen 2.0, and a suite of industry-specific models amid the AI-focused innovation drive of

internet giants.

Other internet companies such as Tencent and Baidu have also launched their own large language models – Tencent has Hunyuan and Baidu has the ERNIE chatbot – while developing advertising and marketing tools based on AI technologies, aiming to sharpen their innovation capabilities and create growth.

Emerging business sectors such as video channels and mini games contribute to a high-margin revenue stream for Tencent, said Ma Huateng, chairman and

CEO of the company. "We are beefing up investment in AI models to give our products new features and improve our ability to recommend content and advertising accurately," Ma added.

According to Tencent's third-quarter results published on the company's website, its total revenue was 154.6bn yuan (about \$21.7bn), an increase of 10% year on year.

The robust growth of China's internet giants in the third quarter has also reflected the accelerated pace of recovery in the domestic economy. E-commerce

platforms, as typical service platforms provided by these companies, are important channels of consumption, said Ding Zhechuan, an internet industry analyst at China Merchants Securities.

Since the beginning of this year, the transaction values of goods and the revenues of major e-commerce platforms have returned to positive year-on-year growth, Ding noted.

He explained that the rapidly recovering economy and logistics activities, as well as the improving cost performances of goods online and increasing numbers of active users in the lower-tier market, provided new growth engines for the e-commerce platforms.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows that China's online retail sales of physical goods rose 8.4% year on year in the first 10 months, accounting for 26.7% of the country's total retail sales of consumer goods.

Since the start of this year, e-commerce platforms such as Alibaba have continued to conduct share repurchases, to some extent reflecting the confidence of the enterprises in their long-term operations and the macro economy, and sending out a positive signal, Ding said.

Xinhua



Chipmaker Nvidia's Q3 revenue triples to record high

New York, US – Nvidia's revenue tripled to a record high during the third quarter due to rising demand from companies for hardware that is essential for artificial intelligence (AI) tasks, according to its financial results statement.

The US-based chipmaking giant posted record revenue of \$18.12bn in the quarter ending October 29.

The amount is 206% higher than the same period last year and up 34% from the preceding quarter. The company also posted record Data Center revenue of \$14.51bn, up 41% from the second quarter and 279% from a year earlier.

Gaming revenue was also up 81% from a year ago and up 15%

from the previous quarter.

"Our strong growth reflects the broad industry platform transition from general-purpose to accelerated computing and generative AI," founder and CEO Jensen Huang said in the statement.

"Large language model start-ups, consumer internet companies and global cloud service providers were the first movers, and the next waves are starting to build. Nations and regional CSPs are investing in AI clouds to serve local demand, enterprise software companies are adding AI copilots and assistants to their platforms, and enterprises are creating custom AI to automate the world's largest industries," he added.



US budget deficit stands at \$67bn in October

Washington, US – The US federal budget deficit stood at approximately \$67bn in October to kick off the 2024 fiscal year on a negative note, according to recently released Treasury Department figures.

For October, total receipts, or income, were around \$403bn, against total outlays, or spending, of \$470bn, the agency's figures showed.

As for receipts, individual income taxes were \$220bn,

while social insurance and retirement came in at \$114bn.

For outlays, social security was \$117bn, while national defense came in at \$87bn.

For the 2023 fiscal year, which ran from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the budget deficit had stood at \$1.69tn with almost \$4.44tn in income against approximately \$6.13tn in spending.

Anadolu Agency

ICAO adopts global framework for aviation fuel

Dubai, UAE – The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) announced on Friday the adoption of the "Dubai Framework", a new ICAO Global Framework for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) and other Aviation Cleaner Energies, during the last day of the Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3), held in Dubai.

The agreement, which was reached in Dubai, comes a few days ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported.

As per the framework, ICAO and its member states have agreed to strive to achieve a collective global aspirational vision to reduce CO2 emissions in international aviation by 5% by 2030, compared to zero cleaner energy use, by expanding the



As per the framework, ICAO and its member states have agreed to strive to achieve a collective global aspirational vision to reduce CO2 emissions in international aviation by 5% by 2030

production of SAF, LCAF and other cleaner aviation energy sources, supported by lowering production costs and providing financing and technology.

ICAO members also agreed to review these goals by 2028, through the study and evaluation

of developments in the global sustainable energy market.

The Global Framework was adopted following consultations made across five days, with inputs from over 1,000 officials, investors and experts from 100 countries and 30 international

organisations.

Key elements of the framework include a collective vision for the clean energy transition, harmonised regulatory foundations, supporting implementation initiatives, and improved access to financing for related initiatives.

As per the framework, the ICAO and its member states will work towards the decentralisation of the production of SAF, LCAF and other aviation cleaner energies across all countries and

regions, providing a fair and equal opportunity to participate across the value chain, from feedstock to fuel production and use.

The framework states that "no single fuel source will be produced at a level necessary to achieve the long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG). Accordingly, the global framework needs to be flexible and not exclude any particular fuel source, pathway, feedstock or technology that meets the CORSIA agreed criteria".

SAFs, LCAFs and other aviation cleaner energies are expected to have the largest contribution to aviation CO2 emissions reduction by 2050, the framework asserts, which will be supported through a comprehensive approach to be developed by the ICAO and its members.

BNA

Mercedes-Benz launches new GLS models

Hot on the heels of the facelift of the GLE and GLE Coupe, the Mercedes-Benz GLS, Mercedes-Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC (combined fuel consumption 14.1-13.8 l/100 km, combined CO2 emissions 320-314 g/km) and Mercedes-AMG GLS 63 4MATIC+ (combined fuel consumption 13.2-12.8 l/100 km, combined CO2 emissions 298-289 g/km) are now also appearing in updated form.

A number of design, technology and equipment changes take the comfort, connectivity and ambience of the large SUV model series to the next level. With their generous exterior dimensions, the SUV models offer interior space for up to seven occupants in three seat rows, a press release said.

The latest Mercedes-Benz GLS models can be recognised by the even more striking radiator grille. The four louvres are galvanised in high-quality Silver Shadow. The bumper is also visually more prominent. It features integrated air inlet grilles, combined with a surround in high-gloss black. The large simulated underguard (standard equipment) has also been redesigned. The eye-catcher at the rear is the interior of the lights with three horizontal blocks. A new 20-inch multi-spoke light-alloy wheel in Himalayas grey with a high-shine finish has been added to the range of wheels.

As before, the Mercedes-Benz GLS is a seven-seater as standard. With Catalana beige and Bahia brown, two new leather colours are available. The range of interior trim finishes has also been revised. Glossy brown lime wood is now standard. The



trim element MANUFAKTUR glossy black flowing lines piano lacquer, previously reserved for the Mercedes-Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC, is now also available for the GLS family from Mercedes-Benz.

Most drivers of a GLS only travel on paved roads or in easy to moderately difficult off-road terrain. Mercedes-Benz has therefore recompiled the scope of the Off-Road Engineering package. Components include an underide guard and 30mm more ground clearance.

The updated generation of the infotainment system MBUX brings with it a new look. The displays can be individualised with the help of three different styles (classic, sporty, discreet) and three modes (Navigation, Assistance, Service).

The 'Off-Road Mode' in the current MBUX generation turns special content such as gradient, lateral inclination, compass and steering angle into a visual experience.

Sharakah finances Oman Speedy International

In a move to further bolster small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Oman, Sharakah, the nation's leading SME development company, has recently entered into an agreement with Oman Speedy International.

This agreement marks a milestone, providing a term loan to Oman Speedy International for establishing a new division focused on engine re-manufacturing, an international franchise endeavour, a press release said.

The significant agreement was signed by Ali bin Ahmed Muqibal, CEO of Sharakah, and Said bin Humaid al Hashimi, owner of Oman Speedy International. This partnership exemplifies Sharakah's commitment to nurturing the growth of SMEs in the region.

Muqibal, conveyed his strong support for the collaboration, remarking, "It is a pleasure to assist an SME in achieving greater heights." Similarly, Hashimi, expressed his gratitude for Sharakah's backing, describing it as "extremely beneficial."



In line with its commitment to bolstering local enterprises, Sharakah has an impressive loan scheme tailored for asset-based funding and working capital needs. This scheme is particularly designed to support both new and existing projects, offering financial support ranging to RO350,000. The loan period extends up to a maximum of six years, inclusive of a moratorium period, providing ample time for

businesses to establish and stabilize their operations. This loan scheme is a testament to Sharakah's dedication to fostering the growth and sustainability of SMEs in Oman.

This collaboration underscores Sharakah's role in advancing the SME sector in Oman and highlights the potential of local companies like Oman Speedy International to expand and diversify their services.

Enterprise adds HAVAL, TANK to fleet

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, part of M/s Ayn Zain Global - A to Zee group, has yet again reposed their trust in Great Wall Motors brand by adding more HAVAL as well as TANK models as a part of their fleet expansion.

OTE group, the exclusive distributor of GWM in Oman, has concluded a bulk deal with Enterprise RAC, for TANK 500 and HAVAL H6 GT models, a press release said.

This is a testimony of the robust quality, premium features and upgraded interiors as well as the value GWM brands offer to corporates and individuals alike. This enhanced range of HAVAL H6 & TANK models is further to the HAVAL Jolion which was introduced by Enterprise quite recently. With a wide range of models available to suit any lifestyle, Jolion, starting from just RO5999, has proved its quality and upgraded features with customers to further this relationship between Enterprise and OTE Group.

TANK is a global luxury SUV brand launched by GWM to meet the ever-growing demand for SUVs all over the world.



TANK is a technological marvel and a testimony of GWM's commitment to innovation, high performance, and the delivery of breakthrough international products. This powerful, all-terrain, off-road vehicle is designed to provide a safe, smooth, and exciting driving experience. With over six million sales to date in more than 60 countries.

The all-new HAVAL H6 GT is a blend of coupé-inspired design merged with the practical features of a modern SUV. Its increased cabin space, advanced safety features and 5-Star ANCAP rating make it our most dynamic SUV to date. It is built for those who desire sporty design and effortless practicality. With a host of safety, technology, performance, and comfort features, it's the best of all possible worlds.

GWM has partnered with Oman's automotive conglomerate the OTE Group, to introduce their globally acclaimed Brand HAVAL and TANK range of SUVs along with the POER Pickup range through showrooms in Muscat, Salalah, Sohar and Ibra.



Abu Dhabi Festival 2024 programme unveiled

Under the honorary patronage of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the founding honorary patron of Abu Dhabi Festival, the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation has unveiled the programme for the Abu Dhabi Festival 2024 which is held under the patronage of Sheikhha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed al Nahyan.

This marks the twenty-first edition of the festival, themed 'The Will for Hope', celebrating

artistic excellence and cultural diversity, a press release said.

With a spectacular lineup featuring classical ballet, jazz, opera, and traditional Arabic showcases, World and Arab and premiers, accompanied by community and educational programme, the festival promises to captivate local and global audiences.

This year, Abu Dhabi Festival designated China as the 'Country of Honour', commemorating 40 years of diplomatic ties between

the People's Republic of China and the UAE, ensuring a culturally rich celebration.

In 2024, the festival's theme, 'The Will for Hope', focuses on fostering hope and optimism during challenging times. It reflects the influence of arts and culture, serving as a beacon that breaks through darkness and negativity.

A portion of the 2024 revenues of Abu Dhabi Festival will be donated to Tarahum for a Gaza campaign by Red Crescent.

This contribution aligns with the official efforts of the United Arab Emirates to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people and aid those affected in Gaza.

Sheikh Abdullah said, "The Abu Dhabi Festival embarks on its third decade of sustainable cultural progress, embodying Abu Dhabi's vision and reaffirming its commitment to elevating Emirati culture globally. By showcasing leading creatives and performers on the stages of Abu Dhabi, the Festival underscores

the significance of culture and the arts in fostering hope, spreading values of coexistence, peace, and human fraternity, and conveys the message of the tolerant and open-minded UAE to the world.

"Celebrating the People's Republic of China as the Guest Country of Honour, this exceptional edition of the Festival will be enriched with cultural brilliance, reflecting diverse traditions from the East and the West."

Bank Muscat offers cashback rewards



In line with its commitment to extend rewards to customers, Bank Muscat has launched an exciting offer for Visa credit card holders on Oman's Glorious 53rd National Day.

Customers can enter a draw to win RO53 cash back when spending RO53 using their Bank Muscat Visa credit cards during the promotion period when shopping locally or internationally through point-of-sale machines (POS) or online. The offer is valid until November 30, a press release said.

During the offer period, there will be 53 winners every day, leading to a combined total of 848 winners during

the campaign period. Customers will get 1 chance to enter the draw for any local spend of minimum RO53 and two chances to enter the draw for any international spend of minimum RO53. The winners will be announced at the end of the campaign period.

The draw is applicable to all BM credit cards, - Asalah Visa Signature credit card, Al Jawhar Visa Platinum card, Bank Muscat Visa Gold credit card, Bank Muscat Oman Air Visa Platinum credit card, Bank Muscat Visa Classic credit card, Bank Muscat Private Banking Visa Infinite credit card and Bank Muscat Visa Infinite credit card.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Second round of swaps completed

Israel released 39 Palestinians prisoners - six women and 33 minors - from two prisons

Gaza - About three dozen Palestinian prisoners released by Israel arrived in the West Bank on Sunday, following Hamas' release of 17 hostages in the second round of swaps under a cease-fire deal.

Late on Saturday, Israel received the second batch of hostages released from the Gaza Strip, including 13 Israelis and four Thais, who had crossed into Egypt and were en route to Israel, confirmed the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in a post on its X account.

"After undergoing an initial medical assessment, they will continue to be accompanied by IDF soldiers as they make their way to Israeli hospitals, where they will be reunited with their families," said the IDF.

Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin said on Sunday that the Thais in the latest release were in good health.

"Everybody is safe, on the



A bus transferring Palestinian prisoners arrives in the West Bank city of Al-Bireh on Sunday (Xinhua)

whole in good mental health and are able to speak normally," said the prime minister via social media X.

As part of the ongoing prisoner-hostage swap agreement with Hamas, Israel released 39 Palestinians - six women and

33 minors - from two prisons, reported the Palestinian news agency WAFA on Sunday.

The swap was scheduled for around 4pm local time (1400 GMT) on Saturday. It was delayed for several hours after Hamas accused Israel of failing

to meet the terms of a four-day humanitarian cease-fire agreement, which was agreed upon by the two sides on Wednesday after more than six weeks of bloody conflicts.

A Palestinian source told Xinhua that Hamas was ex-

pecting the delivery of 'large quantities' of humanitarian aid to Gaza City and the rest of the northern part of the Gaza Strip, rather than providing supplies to the southern part of the enclave only.

Hamas also demands that

the Palestinian prisoners to be released by Israel should include those from the Gaza Strip, said the source.

Taher al-Nono, an advisor to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, said Israel had breached the agreement, par-

ticularly with regard to the entry of humanitarian aid trucks.

An Israeli official threatened that if the second group of Israeli hostages is not released by Hamas before midnight, the Israeli army will 'restart ground operations' in the Gaza Strip, Israeli media outlets have reported, without providing further details.

The 'obstacles' were later solved through 'Qatari-Egyptian contacts with both sides', Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari announced on Saturday night.

Israel received the second batch of hostages released from the Gaza Strip, including 13 Israelis and four Thais, who had crossed into Egypt and were en route to Israel

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced early on Sunday that it had received a new list of hostages slated to be released later in the day in the third of four scheduled swaps.

Xinhua

200 aid trucks dispatched for Gaza on second day of humanitarian pause

Cairo, Egypt - As many as 200 trucks carrying humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies, were dispatched towards Gaza through the Rafah Crossing on the second day of the operational pause and hostage deal.

The UN informed that 200 trucks were dispatched from Nitzana, while 187 of them successfully entered Gaza by 7pm (local time).

"200 trucks with humanitarian aid were sent to international aid orgs. operating in Gaza through the Rafah Crossing as part of the operational pause, and within the framework for the release of the hostages agreed with the US, with the mediation of Qatar and Egypt. The humanitarian aid

trucks carried food, water, equipment for shelters and medical supplies," the Israel Defense Forces posted on X (formerly Twitter). The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that 129,000 litres of fuel also crossed into Gaza.

According to the OCHA, 11 ambulances, three coaches and a flatbed were delivered to Al Shifa hospital to be used to assist with evacuations.

UN also commended the role of Palestinian and Egyptian Red Crescent Societies for making the deliveries possible and said that the longer the pause lasts, the more aid will be sent in and across Gaza.

Agencies

Israel-Palestinians hostage swap deals

Ramallah, Palestine - Hostage swap deals have been the most common and effective means throughout the conflict. The following highlights the top hostage swap deals between Palestinian factions and Israel from 1968 to 2011.

July 23, 1968

The first hostage swap between the PLO and Israel occurred after Palestinian fighters from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) successfully executed the first hijacking of an Israeli plane. The aircraft was en route from Rome to Tel Aviv when the hijackers diverted it to Algeria, forcing it to land. Onboard were more than 100 passengers. Later, the PFLP released the passengers in exchange for Israel's release of 37 Palestinian prisoners.

1969

A group of PFLP members attempted to hijack another Israeli



plane to secure the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. The plane landed in Britain, but the hijacking operation failed. British authorities arrested Leila Khaled. The PFLP hijacked a British plane and conducted a swap deal, leading to the release of Leila Khaled.

January 28, 1971

In a prisoner exchange deal fa-

cilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross between the PLO Palestinian prisoner Mahmoud Bakr Hijazi was released in exchange for the release of Israeli soldier Shmuel Faiyaz.

Mid-February, 1980

The Israeli government decided to release Palestinian prisoner Mahdi Bssaiso in exchange for

the release of Jordanian citizen Amina Dawood Al-Mufti.

November 23, 1983

In an exchange between the Israeli government and Fatah, Israel released all prisoners from the 'Ansar Detention Camp' in southern Lebanon. The released included 4,700 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners.

1997

There was a swap operation between the Jordanian government and Israel, where Tel Aviv released Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the Hamas, along with two of his companions. In return, Israel secured the release of two Mossad operatives.

Early October, 2009

Israel released 20 Palestinian female prisoners from the West Bank and Gaza in exchange for obtaining a recorded video lasting two minutes that featured the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, captured by Palestinian resistance factions on June 25, 2006.

Oct 11, 2011

Israel freed 1,027 Palestinian prisoners in a major swap, securing the release of soldier Gilad Shalit. Hamas named the operation 'Wafaa Al-Ahrar', while Israel dubbed it 'Closing the Time'.

Anadolu Agency

Arms embargo on Somalia to be lifted

Mogadishu, Somalia - Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mahamud announced on Saturday that the UN Security Council arms embargo on Somalia will be lifted next month.

Mahamud told parliamentarians that his government was committed to achieving five national targets. "We had five national targets this year including liberating the country from al-Shabaab, removal of the arms embargo, admission to the East Africa Community (EAC) and debt relief and the arms embargo will be lifted earlier next month," Mahamud told lawmakers.

Experts said the removal of the arms embargo and its effect will likely be more reputational than anything.

Omar Mahmood, International Crisis Group's senior analyst for Eastern Africa, told



Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mahamud

The embargo has been in effect since 1992 to cut off the flow of weapons to the country after it was dragged into a civil war

Anadolu that the president's remarks regarding the arms embargo signal international

confidence in Somalia. "It signals international confidence in the Somali govern-

ment's progress on weapons and ammunition management at a technical level," he said. The Security Council extended the embargo to November 15, 2023, citing the continued threat of the al-Shabaab terror group to the region's peace and stability.

The embargo has been in effect since 1992 to cut off the flow of weapons to the country after it was dragged into a civil war.

"The lifted UN arms embargo on Somalia brings significant benefits, including improved stability, heightened counterterrorism capabilities, and a more stable, peaceful Somalia which will be a favorable environment for rebuilding and humanitarian efforts in the country," said Mohamed Husein Gaas, director of the Raad Peace Research Institute in Mogadishu, told Anadolu.

Anadolu Agency

African Union calls for immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Sudan

Addis Ababa - The African Union (AU) has strongly condemned the continuing conflict in Sudan as it called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the country.

The call was made by the AU's Peace and Security Council in a communique issued on Saturday that followed its recent meeting, which dwelt upon the current situation in conflict-affected Sudan.

The council 'strongly condemns the ongoing unjustified and destructive conflict between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces, which has had grave consequences on security and humanitarian situation

in Sudan and neighbouring countries', the statement said.

It further condemned the 'indiscriminate killings of innocent civilians, wanton destruction of infrastructure, including diplomatic premises, and wholesale looting of civilian homes and property, and the sexual abuse of women and girls, all in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law'.

Noting that there can be no viable and sustainable military solution to the conflict, the council stressed that only genuine, truly representative and all-inclusive Sudanese dialogue can lead to an amicable and sustainable solution to the cur-

rent situation.

The council reiterated its demand to the conflicting parties to 'immediately and unconditionally ceasefire and to end the unnecessary conflict which has resulted in the untold loss of lives, injuries and sufferance to innocent civilians, in particular women and children, and the deterioration of the already dire humanitarian situation in the country'.

It, in particular, expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Darfur, Kordofan and Khartoum, as well as in Abyei administrative area as the conflict spreads across the country.

Xinhua

Vertical drilling begins to rescue workers trapped in Indian tunnel

Two locations were identified for drilling to bring out trapped workers

Uttarkashi, India - Vertical drilling, one of the several chalked-out options to bring out 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi since November 12, finally started on Sunday afternoon.

Two locations were identified for the vertical drilling, one of the several chalked-out options to bring out trapped workers, and both are on the Silkyara side of the high-altitude under-construction tunnel, a portion of which caved in on November 12.

The rescuers managed to make progress over a distance of eight metres down the ground in the first one and a half hours, according to official sources, for the work to lay a 900mm pipeline.

SJVN, a public sector undertaking company, is involved in the hydroelectric power generation and transmission, on the 15th day of continued rescue efforts. Drilling work has also been started in another part on top of the tunnel which has access to electricity and water.

Multiple agencies are working on the rescue efforts. In the latest, the Indian Air Force has also joined in as it flew critical DRDO equipment to Dehradun.

"Responding with alacrity to the requirements of the ongoing rescue operation, late last evening the IAF flew in critical DRDO equipment to Dehradun. #HADROps," the IAF stated in its official release.

Earlier, on Sunday, a plasma-cutting machine was flown to the tunnel site from Hyderabad to cut through the Auger drilling machine and its stuck blades from inside the tunnel.



SJVN begins vertical drilling work on the top of the Silkyara tunnel, in Uttarkashi, India, on Sunday (ANI)

The rescuers managed to make progress over a distance of eight metres down the ground in the first one-and-a-half hours, according to official sources, for the work to lay a 900mm pipeline

The process of removing the auger blades from the rubble was underway even before the new machine arrived at the tunnel site in the early hours of Sunday.

Micro-tunnelling expert Chris Cooper told ANI that the rescuers were removing smaller as

well as bigger pieces of debris from the auger machine stuck inside the tunnel.

"We are still in the process of removing the Auger (driller) from inside the tunnel. The plasma machine will help us in this task as it will cut through the steel (blades stuck in the rubble) much faster."

"We do not know how much time it will take. It depends. Sometimes we get smaller pieces out. Sometimes we get bigger pieces out."

Meanwhile, a safety umbrella was thrown around the Silkyara tunnel, official sources said, adding that the umbrella ensure the protection of the rescuers.

On Tuesday, rescuers had managed to insert an endoscopy camera into the tunnel. The first visuals captured on that device showed the trapped workers had ample space inside the tunnel for them to move around.

The visuals gave new hope to worried relatives, some of whom were camping outside the site of the collapsed tunnel structure.

Meanwhile, international tunnelling expert Arnold Dix, who has been roped in the rescue project, said on Sunday that there was no chance of any further collapse in the area where the incident took place.

"It may have been an unusual situation occurring here where the class of rock changes. It has to be investigated. The area that collapsed hadn't collapsed before; it wasn't even given any clue that it was going to collapse before. So, it is a part of the challenge for us," he said.

ANI

Administrator of NASA set to travel to India and UAE

Washington DC, US - NASA Administrator Bill Nelson is set to travel to India and the UAE beginning on Monday for a series of meetings with key government officials.

Nelson will also meet with space officials in both countries to deepen bilateral cooperation across a broad range of innovation and research-related areas, especially in human exploration and Earth science, the American space agency NASA said in a release. Nelson's visit to India will fulfil a commitment as part of the US and India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology initiated by President Joe Biden.

In the India leg, Nelson will visit several locations, including the Bengaluru-based facilities where the NISAR spacecraft, a joint Earth-observing mission between NASA and its Indian counterpart ISRO, is undergoing testing and integration for launch in 2024.

NISAR is short for NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.

As the first satellite mission between NASA and ISRO, NISAR is a revolutionary Earth-observing instrument, the first in the Earth System Observatory, that will measure Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses, providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater, key information to guide efforts related to climate change and hazard mitigation.

Laurie Leshin, director, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), recently told ANI that scientists from both space agencies - ISRO and NASA - are working closely on



NASA Administrator Bill Nelson

NISAR mission to help make sure that they make the most out of the data that will be coming down from the spacecraft.

"NISAR is a radar machine to look at the surface of the earth, to know how it is changing. In India, they are interested in understanding how the mangrove environment at the coasts is changing. We will understand how ice sheets are changing and how earthquakes and volcanoes are happening all over the world...There are many different aspects to understanding our earth better," Leshin told ANI in Bengaluru earlier this month.

NISAR is an equal collaboration between NASA and ISRO and marks the first time the two agencies have cooperated on hardware development for an Earth-observing mission.

While in the UAE, Nelson will participate in the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Also, during the visit, students in each country will have the opportunity to meet with Nelson to discuss science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and their roles as members of the Artemis Generation.

ANI

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTYRS



Family members of the victims, who lost their lives in the 26/11 terror attacks stand in a queue to pay tribute at the martyrs memorial on the 15th anniversary, in Mumbai, India on Sunday (ANI)

Dubai Future Forum to begin today

Dubai, UAE - Dubai Future Forum, the world's largest gathering of futurists, will be held on Monday and Tuesday. Being organised by Dubai Future Foundation (DFF), the forum will take place at the Museum of the Future under the patronage of Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai, the chairman of the executive council and the chairman of the Board of Trustees of DFF.

The forum will be held under four main themes: reimagining nature, empowering future generations, the human-machine relationship, and transformations in human life.

More than 150 speakers from the UAE and around the world will participate in 70 panel discussions and keynote speeches, in addition to workshops covering areas such as space, sustain-



ability, environment, energy, food, health, medicine, education, technology, artificial intelligence, digital economy, governance and many others.

The forum will be attended by more than 2,500 futurists from 100 countries, in addition to around 100 international institu-

tions. The first day of the two-day forum will host panel discussions, keynotes, fireside chats and workshops, bringing together an array of specialists.

Speakers will discuss topics such as the currency of the future, innovations in the energy sector and the role of strategic

foresight in developing future policies.

Ohood Al Roumi, UAE Minister of State for Government Development and Future, will start the second day with a keynote address on how to develop effective, sustainable policies.

WAM

United Nations calls on Pakistan to halt expulsion of Afghan refugees

Kabul, Afghanistan - The United Nations has voiced concern about the welfare of Afghan citizens who have arrived in Afghanistan amid Pakistan's deportation of Afghan refugees and called for the suspension of the expulsion of Afghan refugees, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported.

UN called on the Pakistan government to halt the expulsion of more than one million Afghan refugees, at least during the winter season. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stressed that Pakistan should halt the expulsion of Afghan refugees. The UN has raised concerns as Pakistani authorities

have announced their intention to continue the expulsion of one million illegal refugees residing in Pakistan, according to Khaama Press report.

On November 22, Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai said that the second phase of a crackdown against illegal foreigners has been initiated and the government is planning to deport one million illegal foreigners by January 2024, Pakistan-based Geo News reported.

More than 340,000 illegal migrants, particularly Afghans, have voluntarily left or been deported from Pakistan after the Pakistan caretaker government



This file photo shows Afghan refugees sitting at the Torkham border in Nangarhar province on November 1 (AFP)

announced its decision to deport undocumented refugees on October 5.

Speaking to reporters, Jan Achakzai said all government agencies are involved in the crackdown on the illegal migrants, Geo News reported.

He further said: "Those under any delusion that they will dodge crackdown live in fool's paradise." Achakzai stated that the repatriation of unregistered Afghan nations is taking place via the Chaman border. However, the process slowed down in the past few days.

The statement of Achakzai comes despite the United Nations Refugee Agency previously

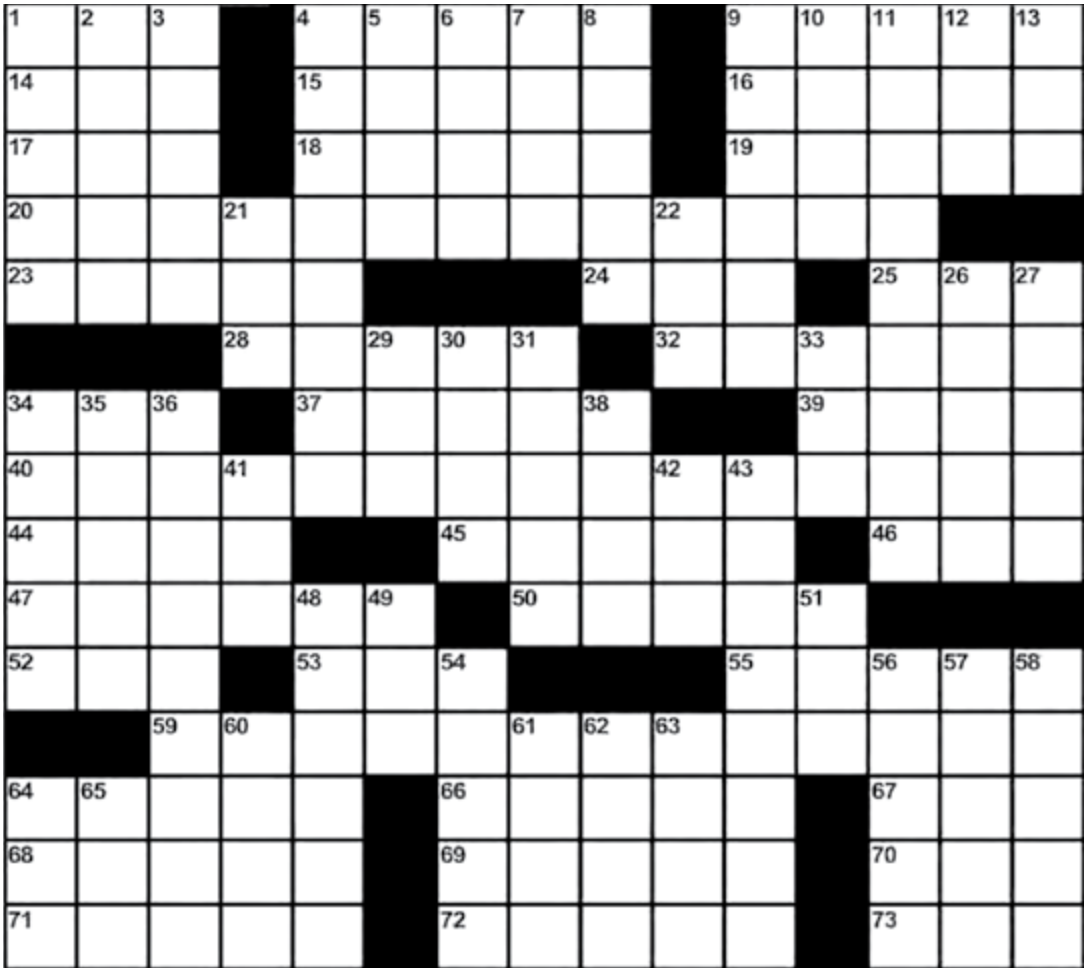
urging Pakistan to halt the expulsion of Afghan refugees during the winter season, citing the harsh Afghan winter conditions that can be life-threatening.

The spokesperson for the UNHCR called winter an inappropriate time for expulsions and stated: "We are talking about desperate women, children, and men on the move, leaving Pakistan in droves."

Nearly half a million Afghan migrants have been expelled from Pakistan in less than two months, with reports indicating that 90 per cent of these migrants lack shelter at the Torkham border crossing.

ANI

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) One Mr. Rogers
- 4) Frets
- 9) Like the color purple
- 14) Aboriginal food source
- 15) About three grains of troy weight
- 16) Soft palate attachment
- 17)... du Flambeau, Wisc.
- 18) Drop, as a vowel sound
- 19) "Itty" follower
- 20) Beyond one's imagination
- 23) Beauty pageant wear
- 24) Barely make (with "out")
- 25) Apprehend
- 28) Cavalry group
- 32) Fit for farming
- 34) Volcanic spew
- 37) Dentist's filling
- 39) Beaks
- 40) Like an offer one should avoid
- 44) Round coif
- 45) Small finch
- 46) Hr. at the prime meridian
- 47) Doorframe part

- 50) Music-score sign
 - 52) Place for experiments
 - 53) Grassland
 - 55) Mouthy exams
 - 59) Impossible to put into words
 - 64) Contradict
 - 66) "L return"
 - 67) "Dig in!"
 - 68) Luxury auto, for short
 - 69) Top Boy Scout
 - 70) Last words of Little Jack Homer
 - 71) Start of something
 - 72) Hairdresser's handful
 - 73) Supply with staff
- DOWN**
- 1) Kindled anew
 - 2) Certain Arab
 - 3) Southwestern desert plant
 - 4) Screenplay outline
 - 5) Absorbent after-bath powder
 - 6) Lake near Niagara Falls
 - 7) Dry riverbed
 - 8) McQueen of "The Great Escape"
 - 9) Kind of stamp
 - 10) Like Lucifer

- 11) Noted Bible printer
- 12) Computer keyboard key
- 13) What hens do
- 21) Food crumb
- 22) Alias
- 26) Vinyl collectible
- 27) Assault
- 29) Lennon's bride
- 30) Cutlass, e.g., briefly
- 31) Rich spreads
- 33) Queen of the hill?
- 34)... costs (by any means)
- 35) Balkan capital
- 36) Tropical birds with curved beaks
- 38) Antiquity
- 41) Grasped
- 42) Magnanimous
- 43) Bestows a title upon
- 48) Firstborn
- 49) "I'm Sorry" singer Brenda
- 51) "... blessing curse?"
- 54) Liability A's opposite
- 56) Crosswise, on deck
- 57) Andean animal
- 58)... motion (begin)
- 60) African river
- 61) Blacken on a grill

NOTE PAD

GRID MECCA FELT
RARE AWARD IDEA
INAPPLEPIEORDER
PINTO OSPREYS
HERBSTAB
CADDYSLAKES
RNAILIACLOLA
INNOCENTASALAMB
MICADEVILLEO
PEEKEDSILKART
AVISLOAM
AMPERESLOOSE
INAPRETTY PICKLE
LOLLSTAIRHAUL
KNEETONNEAYES

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19
Your drive for success simply can't steer you wrong right now, so let it introduce you to new and exciting circumstances today. Meeting new people and tackling difficult challenges might not be the first things on your wish list, but once you get started in on something with this much possibility, you won't be able to stop until you've reached your goal. Friends are seeing new strength in you, and it's time that you started seeing it in yourself too!



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22
You could get some good news today. In fact, it could send you over the moon! You need to be careful not to let your enthusiasm distract you too much from the business at hand, but when you get the chance you should spread the news to the people in your life who love to celebrate with you. Send out some messages and let everyone know why you're so happy right now. You'll make them happy too. They won't think you're bragging.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Try to be first today. Be the first person in the office or classroom, the first to offer a kind word to an upset person, the first to call a spade a spade, the first to comment on a social media post. You'll get a little rush out of beating everyone to the punch. Your competitive energy hasn't had any place to show its stuff lately. The act of being first today will keep you satisfied for quite a while.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

01. If an artist discusses canon, collage, call and response, and retrograde, what are they most likely to be talking about?
A. Embroidery
B. Mediaeval poetry
C. Techniques of cubist painting
D. Compositional forms of choreography



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20
It's time to celebrate the fact that you're feeling more grounded than ever in your personal life. The people you're spending time with totally get who you are, accept you, and love you. A group outing is a great way to celebrate the harmony that you create together. If you can, try to organize a weekend road trip. Or maybe just regress to your childhood by having a fun sleep-over. Your friends are up for anything you want to do.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
A person from your past could make a surprise appearance today, and you have no reason not to welcome them with open arms. No matter how weird things got between the two of you, right now this person is on your side and eager to help you get stuff done. Their ideas could push your already healthy ambition to a new level. You're ready for action and they have a plan, so listen to it. This might be harder than it sounds, so take your time and move cautiously.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19
Today, the big question for you is whether or not you go with your latest whim or stick to your previously made plans. This indecision might bring you to the edge of frustration, especially when so many of your friends are pressing you to make a decision faster than you feel ready to. If push comes to shove, you'll probably be better off sticking with the plans you made. You'll get points for not flaking out, and you'll have no unpleasant surprises during the day.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21
You might be having a hard time getting along with someone you usually adore, but it's not going to last very long, so don't worry. There's a lot of tension between the two of you through no fault of your own, and there's nothing you can do to mitigate it. Just wait it out. If you need to get some distance from each other, that doesn't mean you'll never speak again. Trust that your relationship can withstand the ups and downs that normal life brings you.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
The next time you speak with an older relative, ask them a few questions about the family's past. They have an awful lot to teach you about history, perseverance, and maintaining hope when there may not be much of a reason to do so. Learning something new about your past is a great way to feel more positive about your future. It will also readjust your attitude toward the people you call family. There is always more to the story, and it's a great experience to learn the details.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18
If things are getting tense between you and a friend or coworker, don't try and fight it. Sure, conflict is never fun to deal with, but sometimes it's necessary to solve a problem or move in a better direction. Plus, your communications skills are better than ever, so you can trust yourself to navigate any tension with grace and ease. Don't be afraid to disagree today, especially when you know you're right and they're wrong.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22
You're always great at not letting problems at work bleed over into your personal life, but not everyone in your life is quite so good at it. Be on the lookout for moodiness and grumpiness to arise with one of the most important people in your life. They might bite your head off for no reason, but it's probably because things aren't going so great in their work. Try not to get defensive. Don't turn this into a big thing between the two of you.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
There are some amazing new people in your life right now, and you should set aside some time to get to know them a lot better. They'll welcome your increased attention and reward your curiosity with juicy gossip and tips on how to get ahead. You're entering a phase when your ambition is going to take a back seat to your desire to understand the people in your life who challenge you. They make you feel like you're only scratching the surface of what is possible.

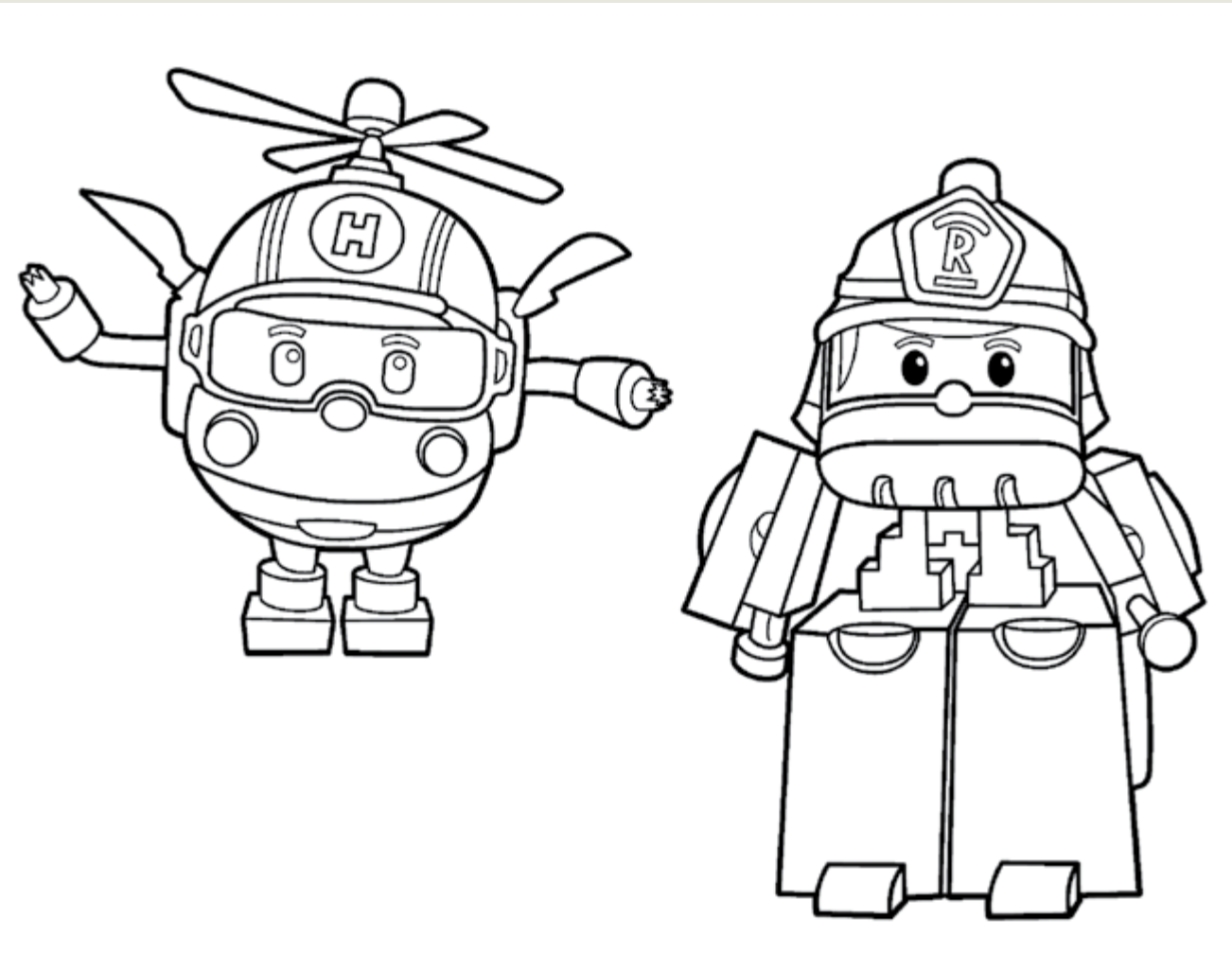


PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20
A kind word from you could help a struggling coworker immensely right now, so swallow your pride and give credit where credit is due, even if the person who deserves the praise isn't exactly your favorite person in the world. By rising above it all and being the bigger person, you'll give them an example of how to behave. And with a little luck, they'll take the instruction and start being more pleasant to be around.

03. What sign of the zodiac is represented by a goat?
A. Taurus
B. Libra
C. Aries
D. Capricorn

Answers: 1. D 2. A 3. D

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

G	S	E	Y
L	E	O	K
N	H	E	O
N	O	L	R

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

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

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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

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

SWEET REVENGE

Sinner saves three match points to beat Djokovic, leads Italy to Davis Cup final

Malaga, Spain - Less than a week after their meeting in the ATP Finals title match, Jannik Sinner took swift revenge against Novak Djokovic on Saturday in the Davis Cup semifinals.

In a 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 singles victory, the Italian saved three match points by escaping 0/40 at 4-5 in the final set and broke immediately after to seize control of the match in Malaga. Sinner's heroics kept Italy alive in the semi-final tie after Miomir Kecmanovic opened the day's play with a 6-7(7), 6-2, 6-1 victory against Lorenzo Musetti.

Sinner then teamed with Lorenzo Sonego to defeat Djokovic and Kecmanovic 6-3, 6-4 in a decisive doubles match, sending Italy into their first Davis Cup final since 1998. Returning finalists Australia will provide the opposition in Sunday's title tilt.

"It was a roller coaster," Sinner said of his two-hour, 35-minute singles victory against the World No. 1 — a description that also applies to the tie as a whole. "I was starting off really well. Second set he played much better than me. Third set I tried to serve really well, and also on match points down I served well."

In the singles showdown, Sinner saved seven of nine break points, including five in the final set, to keep Italy's Davis Cup dream alive. Djokovic faced just one break point across the final two sets, but Sinner claimed it in style with a forehand passing shot before confidently serving



Italy's Jannik Sinner celebrates with Lorenzo Sonego after winning a point against Serbia in their Davis Cup semifinals on Saturday

'It was a roller coaster. I was starting off really well. Second set he played much better than me. Third set I tried to serve really well, and also on match points down I served well'

JANNIK SINNER

out the match. While Djokovic found success with aggressive play in the second and third sets, he was unable to drag Sinner into a rally on his three match points. The Italian then capitalised on a brief dip from his opponent to bring up his first break point since the opening set, and he whipped a forehand down the line past a stranded Djokovic to move decisively ahead.

From 4-5, 0/40, Sinner won 13 of the match's final 16 points.

The result improved Sinner to 2-4 in his head to head with Djokovic overall and 2-2 this season, with his previous win coming last week in the ATP Finals group stage. Their Malaga meeting was their second match this season to require a decisive set, with Sinner previously winning a third-set tie-break in Turin.

The drama of the pivotal doubles match belied the straightforward scoreline. After Sinner and Sonego won the opening set by claiming its lone break point, there were a combined 10 break chances in a thrilling second set. Following an early trade of breaks, the Italians fought out of a 0/40 hole at 2-3, saving four break points in a marathon game before breaking to lead 4-3.

They erased another break point as they served out the match to clinch a 2-1 victory in the semi-final tie and send Italy into their eighth Davis Cup final. Italy are seeking their second title after first lifting the Davis Cup trophy in 1976.

Verstappen dominates in Abu Dhabi for his 19th win in 22 races

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates - Red Bull's Max Verstappen stamped his F1 dominance in the grand finale at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, for an incredible 19th win in 22 races. His pole-to-flag victory marked his 54th career win, propelling him into third place in Formula One's historical list of winners, trailing only Lewis Hamilton (103) and Michael Schumacher (91).

While Sergio Perez initially claimed second place for Red Bull, a post-race penalty nudged him off the podium, placing him behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Mercedes' George Russell. Verstappen reflected on the emotional in-lap, acknowledging the significance of bidding farewell to a car that had brought him immense success. He hailed the remarkable season, which saw him lead 1,000 racing laps and rack up an unprecedented 575 points, setting a new benchmark in F1 history.

"It was an incredible season," said Verstappen.

"It was a bit emotional on the in-lap, it was the last time I was sitting in the car which has of course given me a lot," he said. "It will be hard to do something similar again but we definitely enjoyed this year."

The season's curtain call also unveiled Mercedes' first winless campaign since 2011, conceding the runner-up spot to Red Bull. McLaren secured fourth place overall, led by Lando Norris and rookie sensation Oscar Piastri.



Francesco Bagnaia celebrates after winning the MotoGP world championship title

Bagnaia triumphs in Valencia to defend MotoGP title

Valencia, Spain - Francesco Bagnaia clinched the MotoGP world championship at the season-closing Valencia Grand Prix in Spain to secure back-to-back titles. His closest rival, Jorge Martin, suffered a dramatic crash following a collision with Marc Marquez, dashing his hopes for the championship.

Martin, trailing Bagnaia by 14 points before the final race, heightened the tension by winning Saturday's sprint. However, his aggressive maneuvers during the race saw him attempting to overtake Bagnaia early on, resulting in a collision that pushed him down to seventh.

Undeterred, Martin attempted a bold recovery at the Circuit Ricardo Tormo but collided with Marquez on lap six, sending him into the gravel and ending his title ambitions.

The incident marked a disappointing end to Marquez's stint

with Honda, concluding his final race for the manufacturer without finishing. Marquez is set to join Gresini Racing for the 2024 season.

Amid the race's chaos, Jack Miller took the lead for a substantial period, surpassing Bagnaia. However, a crash in the 20th lap dashed Miller's hopes, leaving Bagnaia to navigate the clear track to secure victory and the championship.

Bagnaia maintained composure to cross the finish line first, fending off challenges from Fabio Di Giannantonio of Gresini Racing and Johann Zarco of Pramac Racing, who finished second and third, respectively.

The event was marked by multiple crashes, leading Marco Bezzecchi of VR46 Racing, Enea Bastianini of Ducati, and GasGas Factory Racing Tech3's Augusto Fernandez unable to finish the tumultuous race.

CLASSIFIEDS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



SHAJI & SUSAN
NOVEMBER 27

Wishing a perfect pair a perfectly happy day.
Here's to another year of being great together!
Anniversary cheers!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



DR CHANDAKA ADITYA TRILOCHAN
DR CHANDAKA DIVYA RAMANI

Happy married life!
Welcome to Muscat
Best wishes from Ramdas Chandaka

JOB VACANCY

Inviting applications for the post of production and factory in charge - steel fabrication from those specialised in steel pipes fabrication, structural steel, tanks, vessels, skid packages; with 5 years of experience and having a driving licence email: najma@alrouba.com

Urgently required SCADA engineer, planning engineer and electrical engineer for a water network project (PAEW /OWWSC-approved). Kindly send CVs to email: www.consult2021@gmail.com

عيادة فصول السنة للطب الهندي التقليدي
ALL SEASON AYURVEDA CLINIC

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

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

We are a well-known Oman distributor of International FMCG brands looking for the following positions.

- 1-National Sales Manager
- 2-Trade Marketing Executive
- 3-Sales Supervisor
- 4-Food Service Executive
- 5-Retail Sales Executives

Age strictly under 35 years. We offer a rewarding career with competitive compensation to candidates with minimum 3 years' experience, excellent written and verbal communication skills in English, and confident in your dealings with your team as well as Senior management and business partners.

If you are ambitious, passionate, and confident to take on a new challenge, please email your CV to : fmcgomanteam1@gmail.com

WJ Towell Group Company

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

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

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

أوربت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

mai alkaline
pH 9.1 to 9.5
Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

📍 OmanOasis 📍 OmanOasisOfficial 📍 OmanOasisWater

HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing
- ✓ Electrolytes

oman **OASIS**

800 71 222
9275 5522

CA No. 195452

KAI HIGH!

Havertz scores last-gasp goal as Arsenal beat Brentford to move to the top of the league

Brentford - Kai Havertz came off the bench to score an 89th-minute winner that sent Arsenal top of the Premier League with a 1-0 victory at Brentford.

Arsenal go a point above Manchester City and two clear of Liverpool, taking advantage of the two teams dropping points against each other earlier in the day.

"It feels amazing. I have been working hard for this moment and today it paid off, so I am happy to help the team with that," Havertz told TNT Sport.

"It was a brilliant pass from Bukayo (Saka). We work on this routine in training quite a lot. I know Bukayo and Martin (Odegaard) love to play that ball, so it was a good goal.

Brentford were missing some key players, with Mathias Jensen, Mads Roerslev and Nathan Collins all picking up injuries during the international break, joining Rico Henry, Mikkel Damsgaard and Josh Dasilva on the sidelines.

Arsenal, in contrast, welcomed back Martin Odegaard and Gabriel Jesus, the latter making his first start since 21 October. Aaron Ramsdale also started in goal, with loanee David Raya ineligible to face his parent

club.

Immediately, Brentford sensed nervousness from Ramsdale, and put him under pressure at every opportunity. A minute after forcing him to kick long out of play, he got his feet in a tangle and was dispossessed by Yoane Wissa, who passed to Bryan Mbeumo, whose shot was cleared off the line by Declan Rice.

Ramsdale continued to look uncertain, making a mess of a throw, but still tried to play out from the back, and it was Arsenal who thought they had taken the lead just before half-time.

Bukayo Saka's cross was headed at goal by Gabriel Jesus, whose effort was pushed into the air by Mark Flekken, allowing Leandro Trossard an easy close-range finish into an empty net.

But following a VAR review, Trossard was found to have been offside.

Despite having only 34 per cent possession, Brentford carried arguably the greater goal threat of the two teams, with Mbeumo prodding wide on the break before substitute Neal Maupay's header from Mbeumo's cross was cleared off the line, this time by Oleksandr Zinchenko.



It feels amazing. I have been working hard for this moment and today it paid off, so I am happy to help the team with that. It was a brilliant pass from Bukayo (Saka)

KAI HAVERTZ

It was almost a fantastic introduction for Maupay, who was spotted doing some last-minute homework before entering the

match.

Rice then saw a shot blocked behind by Frank Onyeka, while substitute Eddie Nketiah shot

Arsenal's Kai Havertz scores against Brentford on Saturday

tamely at Flekken, wasting a 3v2 in Arsenal's favour.

But there was still time for another substitute to strike the telling blow.

After replacing Gabriel Martinelli, Havertz met Saka's cross at the back post to head low into

the goal to give Mikel Arteta a perfect result in his 200th match as Arsenal manager.

It was a sucker punch for Brentford, who fell to just a second defeat in their last 11 home Premier League matches, and stay 11th, with 16 points.

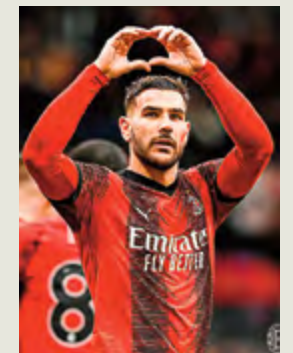
Hernandez penalty helps Milan beat Fiorentina as Camarda makes history

Milan, Italy - AC Milan secured a crucial 1-0 victory against Fiorentina in their Serie A match on Saturday.

French defender Theo Hernandez made the difference, converting a first-half penalty, to help Milan register their first win in five Serie A matches.

The deadlock was broken just before the halftime whistle when Hernandez confidently dispatched a penalty following a late challenge by Fiorentina's Fabiano Parisi, giving Milan the much-needed advantage.

However, the match witnessed a historic moment as Francesco Camarda



AC Milan's Theo Hernandez celebrates after scoring against Fiorentina

etched his name in Serie A lore. The 15-year-old made an impactful debut as a substitute for Luka Jovic in the dying moments, becoming the youngest player ever to grace the Serie A stage. Milan's seasoned manager Stefano Pioli expressed admiration for Camarda's composure and maturity, highlighting his significant contribution despite his tender age.

"Francesco is a good lad; he is working well and we also need his freshness. He is very young but also very mature. We were all very happy for him. I could be his grandfather," Milan's Pioli told Sky Sports Italia.

Pioli praised his team's progress after a lacklustre spell of matches, acknowledging the mental fortitude displayed in securing the victory. Milan, currently placed third in the standings with 26 points, are trailing league leaders Inter Milan by five points.



Liverpool's Alexis Mac Allister (left) battles for the ball with Manchester City's Bernardo Silva

Mac Allister: An important result and we keep going step by step

Manchester, United Kingdom - Alexis Mac Allister reflected on what he felt was a fair outcome and 'important' result after Liverpool came from behind to draw 1-1 with Manchester City on Saturday.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's late goal ensured Jürgen Klopp's side left Etihad Stadium with a hard-earned point, as the No.66's first strike of the season cancelled out Erling Haaland's first-half finish.

The result leaves the Reds within a point of Pep Guardiola's

reigning champions and two shy of Arsenal at the top of the Premier League table, with more than a third of the campaign now played.

Speaking to Liverpoolfc.com post-match, Mac Allister said: "I think it was a very tough game of course, what we expected.

"They are a very good team but I think it's a fair result for both teams. They had most of the possession maybe but they didn't have many chances and I think it's a fair result."

On the lunchtime kick-off coming so soon after the international break, he added: "It's very tough [with] jet lag, a long trip, but it is what it is. We like playing football and we want to win and that's why we did our best."

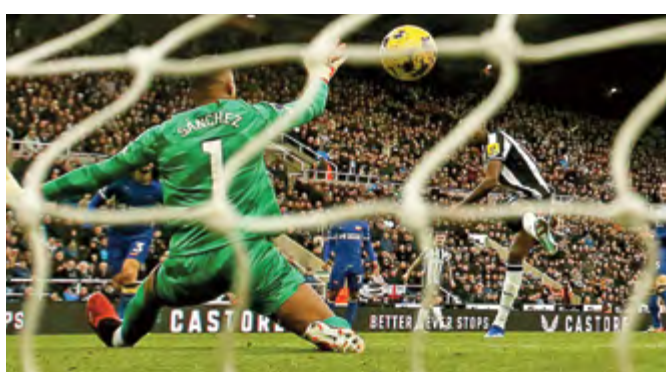
During his post-match assessment, Klopp described the need for Liverpool to change and improve their first-half performance after the interval - and praised the team for doing so.

And Mac Allister echoed that sentiment. "I think they are really

good. You can see their ideas but our passing was very good as well.

"In the first half maybe we didn't defend as well as we can but in the second half we were much better, [with] more challenges, and that was important to get the ball and then score ourselves."

Alexander-Arnold's 80th-minute equaliser means the Reds have now recouped 12 points from losing positions in the Premier League so far this term.



Newcastle United's Alexander Isak scores against Chelsea on Saturday

Newcastle beat Chelsea with superb showing

Newcastle, United Kingdom - Two goals in as many second-half minutes helped Newcastle United to a 4-1 win over Chelsea at St James' Park.

Jamaal Lascelles and Joelinton scored in the 60th and 61st minutes, the second after a big Thiago Silva error, to take Newcastle up to sixth and give them a fifth successive home win in the Premier League.

Chelsea had cancelled out Alexander Isak's opener through a stunning Raheem Sterling free-kick in the first half, but could not come from behind for a second time after Reece James was sent

off in the 73rd minute for two bookable offences.

Anthony Gordon scored a late fourth for Newcastle to add to his assist earlier in the match.

Newcastle welcomed Isak back from injury, and on his first start since 8 October the Swede scored after just 13 minutes. He beat Robert Sanchez from close range after a defence-splitting pass by Lewis Miley, who, at 17 years and 208 days old became the sixth-youngest player to assist a Premier League goal, after Aaron Lennon, Wayne Rooney, Jonathan Leko, Cesc Fabregas and Jordan Ibe.

Free home delivery & timely service

oman OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

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

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

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

C&A No. 1086402

1920 EST. OMAN'S 1st EXCHANGE

WE EXCHANGE TRUST

Celebrate
Dhanteras

with
PRECIOUS GOLD AND SILVER,
from 1g to 1kg, at the best international prices

PURSHOTTAM KANJI EXCHANGE
شركة برشوت
كانجي للصرافة

Download it NOW!

+968: 91787829 | 99849289
www.pkexchange.com



A doe and fawn walking through a burned forest in Shelburne, Canada

WILDFIRES

CANADA HAS BEEN LEFT BATTERED BY A ‘NEVER BEFORE SEEN’ WILDFIRE SEASON

When scientists started pouring over data to assess Canada’s fire season this year, they struggled to find the right superlatives.

‘Never before seen’, was thrown around, as was ‘exceptional in scale, duration’ and ‘huge long-term consequences’.

‘We have shattered all the records on a Canadian scale,’ says a shaken Yan Boulanger, a researcher for the country’s natural resources ministry.

There had never been so many areas burned - 18 million hectares, via 6,400 fires - or so many people evacuated, at more than 200,000.

‘It’s an impressive wake-up call because we didn’t necessarily expect it so quickly, even if the potential was there,’ Boulanger, a forest fire specialist at Natural Resources Canada, told AFP.

In Quebec, hard hit and less accustomed than the west to very large fires, the shock is immense. No more leaves on the branches, trunks blackened and roots charred - in the spruce forest of Abitibi-

Temiscamingue, only a few tufts of moss managed to resist the onslaught of blazes that started in June. As far as the eye can see, there is the same desolate landscape.

‘There is little chance that this forest will be able to regenerate. The trees are too young to have had time to form cones which ensure the next generation,’ says Maxence Martin, a professor of forest ecology at the University of Quebec in Abitibi-Temiscamingue.

In this remote region, forestry is the main industry, supporting entire towns with the 60,000 direct and indirect jobs linked to it. But both the industry and the wildfires have significantly reshaped the landscape.

Losing one third of forest

‘If we continue on the current trend (of fires), by 2100 as much as one third of the boreal forest in Quebec will have been lost,’ says Martin, slaloming among the regrowth starting to poke through the scorched ground.

This area is part of a vast ring of greenery which encircles the Arctic, stretching from Canada through Alaska, Siberia and northern Europe to form the largest expanse of

wilderness in the world.

Fires here are fueled by drier and hotter conditions caused by climate change. And by releasing greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, these fires in turn contribute to global warming, in a vicious circle.

Another particularity of this northern forest - it releases 10 to 20 times more carbon per unit of burned area than other ecosystems.

That’s helped Canada’s emissions reach unprecedented levels, at 473 megatons this year. That’s more than three times higher than the previous record, according to data from Europe’s Copernicus observatory. And in the boreal forest, due to the thickness of the humus on the ground, fires can continue to burn for months.

‘When we explain to people that the fires will only really be extinguished with snow, everyone becomes eager for winter to arrive,’ Guy Lafreniere, the mayor of Lebel-sur-Quevillon, a small Quebec town of 2,000 residents who had to evacuate twice this summer, says with a smile.

Homes were saved thanks to the nearby lake which halted the advance of the fire. But the whole summer was disrupted, no child finished their school year and hundreds of small chalets built in the forest for weekends and vacations were destroyed.

Today the city is surrounded by fire breaks, built during the blazes. A ring of conifers - which are very flammable - were chopped down.

‘We had a helicopter dumping water on the machines as they moved along chopping down the trees, so the machines didn’t



Saplings growing back in charred forest land

People had five minutes to leave their homes and hit the road. It was intense and stressful, especially since there was a lot of smoke and we could see the flames very close

DORIS NOLET

themselves catch on fire,” the mayor recalled.

Overwhelmed

Much of Canada, including the far north, is facing extreme drought conditions. Light-

ning storms earlier this year were triggering hundreds of fires in a single day. Firefighters, authorities and residents were overwhelmed and declared emergencies persisting through the summer.

‘People had five minutes to leave their homes and hit the road. It was intense and stressful, especially since there was a lot of smoke and we could see the flames very close,’ says Doris Nolet, in charge of volunteer firefighters from Normetal, another evacuated Quebec village.

‘It was the first time that we were faced with forest fires. We know how to take care of houses, car fires, but not forest fires,’ she adds.

‘We had a strange summer,’ confirms Omer Riviere, who lives in this village and remains traumatised at having lost his chalet in the forest where ‘he had old furniture and, above all, so many memories.’

For the first time in its history, almost all Canadians were affected by this year’s fire season, either directly or because they had to deal with the smoke, which traveled thousands of miles - repeatedly polluting the air across North America and even parts of Europe.

‘We need to think deeply. It’s not Europe here, we don’t have the means to fight all the fires. They are too far away, too big, too inaccessible - so we have to be proactive,’ suggests Natural Resources Canada’s Marc-Andre Parisien.

While the mega fires of 2023 are now smoldering, they’ll almost certainly be back again. AFP



FULFILL YOUR EVERY DESIRE

UNLEASH YOUR ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT

GWM TANK
500



XXL
Luxury Truck

A new concept of luxury for SUVs

GWM TANK
300



4X4 Redefined

HAVAL H6



Next Generation SUV

HAVAL DARGO



4X4 Off-Roader

HAVAL JOLION



Feature
Packed SUV

Starting from
OMR 5999



WARRANTY
Upto - 6 years / 200,000 km*



50%
Assured Buy Back
3 years / 75,000kms*



AAA
Road side assistance



SHOWROOMS
Wattayah | Seeb
Sohar | Salalah | Ibra



5
Full Service Centres



10
Quick Service Centres