

Oman condemns Israeli bombing of Iran, supports peace efforts

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman has strongly condemned and raised concern over an airstrike launched by Israel on Iran on Saturday morning.

In an official statement, the Foreign Ministry said the act constituted a blatant violation of Iran's sovereignty, a clear breach of international law and an escalation that fuels the cycle of violence, undermining efforts aimed at de-escalation, tension reduction and crisis containment through peaceful and diplomatic means.

'While Oman denounces these ongoing Israeli practices that threaten to drag the region into further turmoil and instability, it reiterates its call for the international community to take effective action to stop the aggression and put an end to these blatant violations on the territory of neighbouring countries in the region.'

H E Sayyid Badr al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, posted on X, "We are very concerned by Israeli aggression on Iran this morning. Thankfully the damage appears limited, and we dearly hope there are no casualties. It's time for the world to wake up to the urgent need to address the root causes of this crisis, above all Israel's illegal and brutal occupation of Palestinian lands

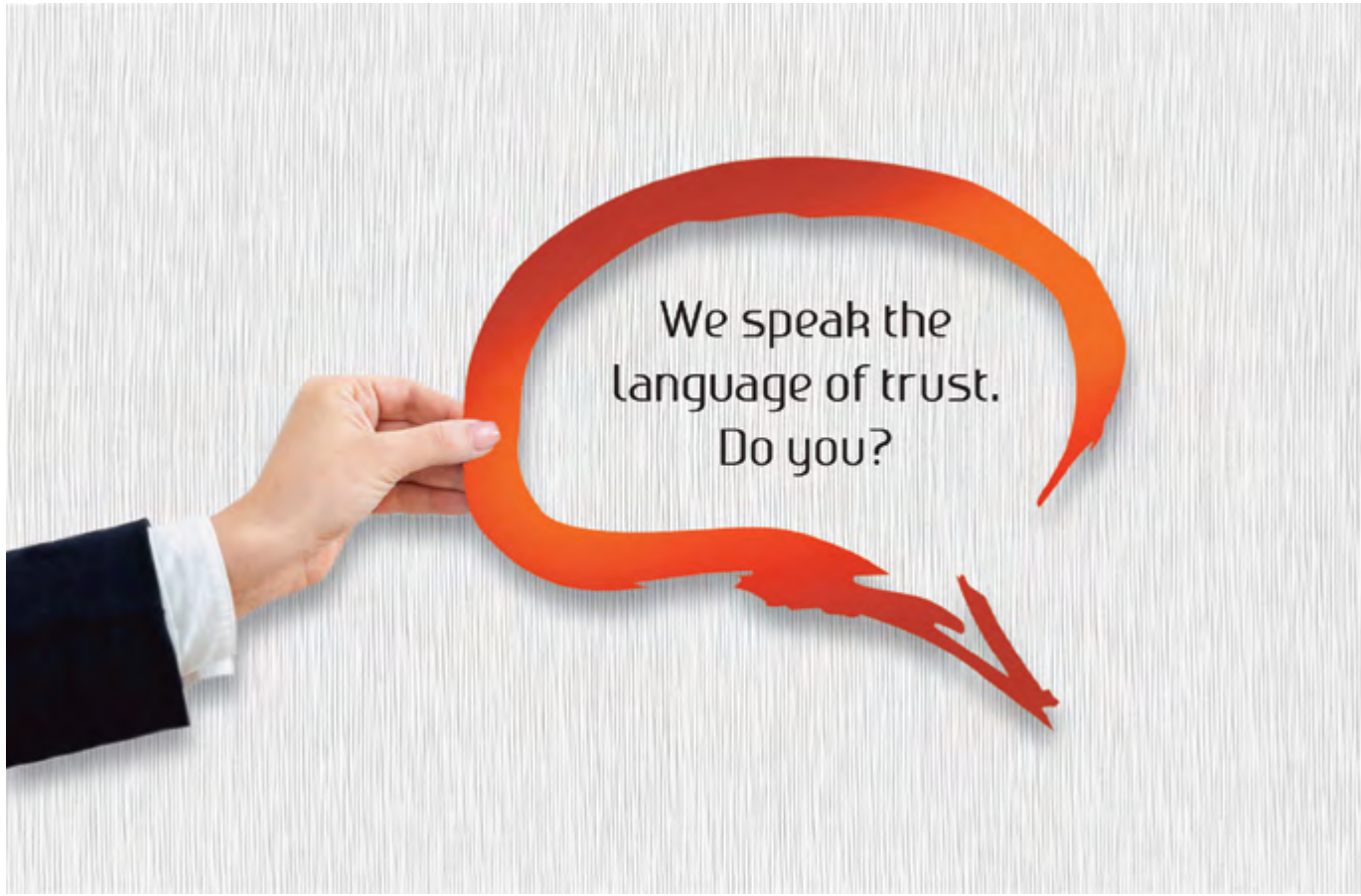
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The sultanate reiterated its call to address the root causes of the region's crises by ending the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories and halting aggression on the Gaza Strip, as mandated by United Nations and Security Council resolutions. 'Oman demands the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state along the 1967 borders within the framework of a two-state solution, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative, ensuring a just and lasting peace for all parties.'

Israel launched direct strikes against Iran early on Saturday in a high-stakes retaliation to Tehran's ballistic missile barrage earlier this month.

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Youth cornerstone of national progress: Sayyid Theyazin

Our Correspondent
Manah

H H Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, presided over Omani Youth Day celebrations on Saturday at Oman Across Ages Museum in Manah, Dakhliyah. The event celebrated the achievements of young Omanis, while spotlighting initiatives that serve society and inspire the nation's youth to develop skills and build a proactive generation.

H H Sayyid Theyazin honoured recipients of the Youth Excellence Award 2024, recognising outstanding contributions in fields such as digital economy, media, environmental work, entrepreneurship and community initiatives.

Highlighting the ministry's commitment to youth inclusion, H H Sayyid Theyazin inaugurated a branch of Youth Centre in Dakhliyah, ensuring that support for the youth reaches across the sultanate. Several agreements were also signed during the event aimed at bolstering initiatives that support youth development.

In a speech, H H Sayyid Theyazin praised the dedication and resilience of Oman's youth. "It is our pleasure to celebrate the achievements and noble deeds of the young men and women of this nation," he said. "With each generation, you bring pride to our country with enlightened thinking and a spirit of unity that strengthens the nation."

He called upon Omani youth to contribute to national development and uphold the nation's values and identity.

Referring to knowledge, technology and innovation as central to Oman's growth, H H Sayyid Theyazin highlighted these as essential for a sustainable economy.

"Our deep-rooted Omani values are the essence of who we are as a people, and we rely on you, our youth, to carry forward this legacy in every aspect of national development."

On the occasion, H H Sayyid Theyazin also announced the establishment of Youth Centre branches in Musandam and South Sharqiyah. "We are determined to create spaces that nurture the aspirations of young Omanis throughout the sultanate," he stated, reinforcing the government's commitment to fostering a supportive environment for youth from all regions of Oman.



H H Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said at Omani Youth Day celebrations on Saturday at Oman Across Ages Museum in Manah

\$392mn loan for Khasab-Dibba road secured

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A private sector framework agreement has also been signed between Oman and the fund to bolster the sultanate's private sector by supporting various investment projects. Through this partnership, OPEC Fund will provide direct financing to key initiatives, thereby aiding financial institutions that contribute to development efforts. The agreement will also offer essential support to small and medium enterprises across the sultanate, fostering economic growth and sustainability.

The agreements were signed during Oman's participation in World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings in Washington, DC last week.

'The Khasab-Lima-Dibba Road project will improve connectivity in Musandam by constructing a two-lane single carriageway asphalt road, spanning approximately 70km, between the cities of Khasab, Dibba and Lima, facilitating better access to markets and ensuring safer transport of goods and people,' OPEC Fund stated.

The agreements underscore Oman's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and empowering its private sector as part of its broader economic development strategy.

OPEC Fund is an intergovernmental development finance institution established in 1976 by member states of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Oman has secured a loan from OPEC Fund for International Development for a vital road infrastructure project in Musandam.

The US\$180mn loan will be provided as the first tranche of a total approved loan of US\$392mn in support of the Khasab-Lima-Dibba Road project, OPEC Fund stated in a release.

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Sur to promote maritime heritage with new museum

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in partnership with Oman LNG and Oman India Fertiliser Company - both subsidiaries of Oman Investment Authority (OIA) - signed two financing agreements on Thursday to fund the Maritime History Museum project in Sur with a total investment of RO12mn.

The signing ceremony saw participation of Abdul Salam bin Mohammed al Murshidi, Chairman of OIA, and other dignitaries. Winner of Bilal bin Haitham Architectural Design Award 2022, the museum is based on a design created by Mohammed Salah al Balushi. His concept reflects Sur's rich maritime past inspired by the historic gathering of ships in Khor al Batlah during the port's busiest period of trading.

About the agreements, H E Salim bin Mohammed al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, stated, "These financial commitments enhance collaboration with sectors that support Oman's development projects and mark an important milestone for the Maritime History Museum."

Funding includes RO10mn from Oman LNG and RO2mn from Oman India Fertiliser Company. H E Mahrouqi appreciated the support from the private sector, which he said reflected a shared commitment to social responsibility.

A consultancy contract for design and supervision has been awarded to Ibrahim Jaidah Architects and Engineers, while British firm Haley Sharpe, a leading museum design consultancy, will develop the museum exhibits.

At the signing ceremony, Amer bin Nasser al Mutaani, CEO of Oman LNG Development Foundation, said, "The agreement is part of our commitment to strengthen partnerships that promote the cultural and tourism landscapes of South Sharqiyah, particularly in Sur."

He added that the museum would contribute to creating new jobs and enhancing local added value, while underscoring the importance of investing in human resources.

The museum will spotlight Oman's seafaring heritage and ancient trade routes, emphasising the critical role of maritime trade in cultural exchange. It is envisioned as a cultural landmark and educational resource dedicated to showcasing Oman's history, documenting the unique maritime legacy that has shaped the nation.



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H E SALIM AL MAHROUQI

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Oman signs air transport pacts with six countries

Muscat - Represented by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Oman signed bilateral air transport agreements with Uganda, Seychelles, Suriname, Chile, Chad and Australia on Thursday, strengthening its aviation ties and expanding flight operations with these nations.

The agreements were signed during the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Services Negotiations event held in Malaysia from October 21 to 25, attended by representatives of civil aviation authorities from around the world.

The agreements, each comprising 24 articles and route schedules, aim to enhance cargo and passenger connectivity between Oman and its new partners. These include provisions for economic cooperation and regulatory oversight, besides code-sharing arrangements.

Highlighting the importance of these agreements in reinforcing Oman's diplomatic and economic relations, Naif bin Ali al Abri, Chairman of CAA, said, "The authority remains committed to advancing the civil aviation sector by enhancing cooperation in air transport and increasing airline operations to and from Oman's airports."

He added that the agreements would support Oman's economic, social and tourism goals.

Oman currently holds 129 bilateral air transport agreements, including 82 under an open skies policy.

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Muscat exhibition expects artists from 18 countries

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, in collaboration with the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center (OCEC), is organising the Muscat Art Exhibition from Monday with over 200 artists coming from 18 countries to showcase their unique talents.

Under the patronage of H E Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, the exhibition will be inaugurated on Monday evening at OCEC and will continue till October 31.

H E Said bin Sultan al Busaidi, Undersecretary in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, emphasised Muscat Art's role in Oman's cultural calendar. "This initiative aligns with our strategic goals, promoting cultural partnerships and enhancing awareness of fine arts."

He underlined the purpose of the exhibition, which is to highlight the importance of art through workshops and community events.

Eng Said al Shanfari, CEO of OCEC, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the centre's commitment to fostering cultural pro-

The purpose of the exhibition is to highlight the importance of art through workshops, community events

H E SAID BIN SULTAN AL BUSAIDI

jects that support national growth. "Muscat Art aims to bring communities together, showcase Oman's rich cultural heritage, and embrace the latest trends shaping our artistic landscape," he said, adding that interest in the event continues to grow each year, thanks to the support from the ministry and

other partners.

Artists from countries including Hungary, Iran, Yemen, Palestine, Lebanon, India, the UK and Germany will exhibit their works, with a particular focus on Omani talent. Emerging artists like Hamid al Aufi and established figures such as Youssef al Nuhwi will have dedicated spaces, as

curators Alia al Farsi and Hassan Meer thoughtfully gathered works from both local and international artists to ensure broad representation.

The Muscat Art Exhibition has steadily gained popularity and aims to enhance cultural awareness and preserve fine arts heritage in Oman. Organisers hope it will establish itself as a major cultural event in the region. Beyond the exhibition, visitors can attend lectures, workshops, and sculpture sessions, as well as enjoy live music and entertainment from October 29 to 31.

MCSY to inaugurate Sur Book Fair at Sunaysla Fort

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth (MCSY) is all set to inaugurate the Sur Book Fair 2024 on Sunday at the Al Sunaysla Fort Theatre in the wilayat of Sur. The fair will run until November 2.

The opening ceremony will be graced by Dr Yahya bin Badr al Maawali, Governor of South Sharqiyah.

In a statement, the Ministry announced that the fair coincides with the celebration of Sur, a renowned a port city in South Sharqiyah governorate, as the Capital of Arab Tourism.

"This event marks a significant step in enhancing cultural development efforts across the governorates and wilayats. The fair will feature a variety of cultural events, including evenings of dialogue and discussions, showcasing the ministry's commitment to supporting the cultural movement."

Several government institutions, civil society organisations, publishing houses, Omani libraries and cultural groups are going to participate in the fair.

The fair will remain open through two sessions: Morning session from 9am to 1pm and evening from 4pm to 9pm.

Sur was declared the capital of Arab tourism for the year 2024 during the 26th session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism held in Qatar's capital Doha in December last year.

The city was selected for the prestigious status following its edge over other competing cities in various parameters such as the availability of infrastructure and tourism resources, the diversity of tourism patterns and activities, as well as policies and directions for preserving the environment.

Tender Announcement



مدائن
madayn

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madaayn) invites the reputable and experienced Companies / Bidders for participating of the below tender through E-Tendering System. This tender is strictly restricted to tender participation for the Joint Venture between (Sultanate Oman and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Companies) only. Any individual or other international companies' bids shall not be accepted. Tender award is exclusive to Joint Venture of Oman and Saudi companies only.

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last date of submission Bidder Authentication	Last date of buying	Date of submission	Type of work	Register Degree	Fee (R.O)
15/2024/ PEIE /H Q-15	Construction of Infrastructure Facilities for Mudhaibi Industrial City (phase-1) at Sharqiyah North Governorate	17-11-2024	21-11-2024	25-12-2024	Construction	Excellent	2000

Interested Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document . Tenders should be submitted on line on given website. The Tenderer must enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (2 %) of the Tender value validity for (180) days, and addressed to The Chairman of Tender Committee mentioned in above tenders.

"Companies that wish to participate in this tender must download (Bidder Authentication form) through the E-Tendering website and fill it according to the required data, and send it to the email tender@madaayn.om Forms submitted after the specified date will not be considered.

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at eTendering System.
- eTendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the eTendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: : etenderhd@gstb.gov.om and +968 24402200

Note: Bid Submission will be online only.

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Muscat to host cybersecurity experts

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman, represented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology's Oman National CERT, is set to host the Regional Cybersecurity Week (RCW) 2024 from Monday.

This event, annually organised by the ITU-Arab Regional Cybersecurity Centre, aims to bolster cybersecurity capabilities across the region. This year, it is going to have the attendance of 600 experts and 45 speakers from more than 60 countries, which positions it as the largest gathering for cybersecurity industry development in the region.

Under the theme 'Cybersecurity as an Enabler for Digital Economy', participants can look forward to engaging sessions featuring distinguished speakers and international experts, alongside an exhibition of cutting-edge solutions and technologies from various cybersecurity companies.

The previous edition of the RCW gained significant recognition, earning five World Guinness Record Awards in 2023 for hosting the largest global gathering, which attracted over 1,600 participants from more than 70 countries.

Send your comments to muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om

OMANI YOUTH DAY

Youth at the heart of Oman's Renaissance

Oct 26 provides a stage for young Omanis to express their aspirations, while fuelling their drive to succeed

Our Correspondent
Muscat

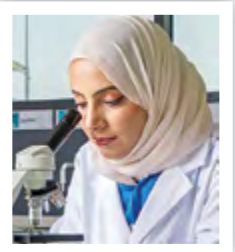
Oman celebrates October 26 as Omani Youth Day, a testament to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's commitment to empowering the nation's youth. This annual occasion highlights His Majesty the Sultan's vision, providing a stage for young Omanis to express their aspirations and enhance the role they play in Oman's ongoing Renaissance.

Muscat Daily spoke with young citizens who shared their thoughts on the day.

Sumaiya Said Sulaiman al Siyabiya, Innovation Specialist at Ministry of Education, described Omani Youth Day as an apt celebration of young people's achievements. "This day inspires us to be more creative and innovative," she said, noting that it serves as motivation for young Omanis to pursue their ambitions in various fields.

Sumaiya called for more investment in entrepreneurship, saying, "I hope we continue to receive the support needed to transform our ideas into tangible projects that contribute to Oman's growth."

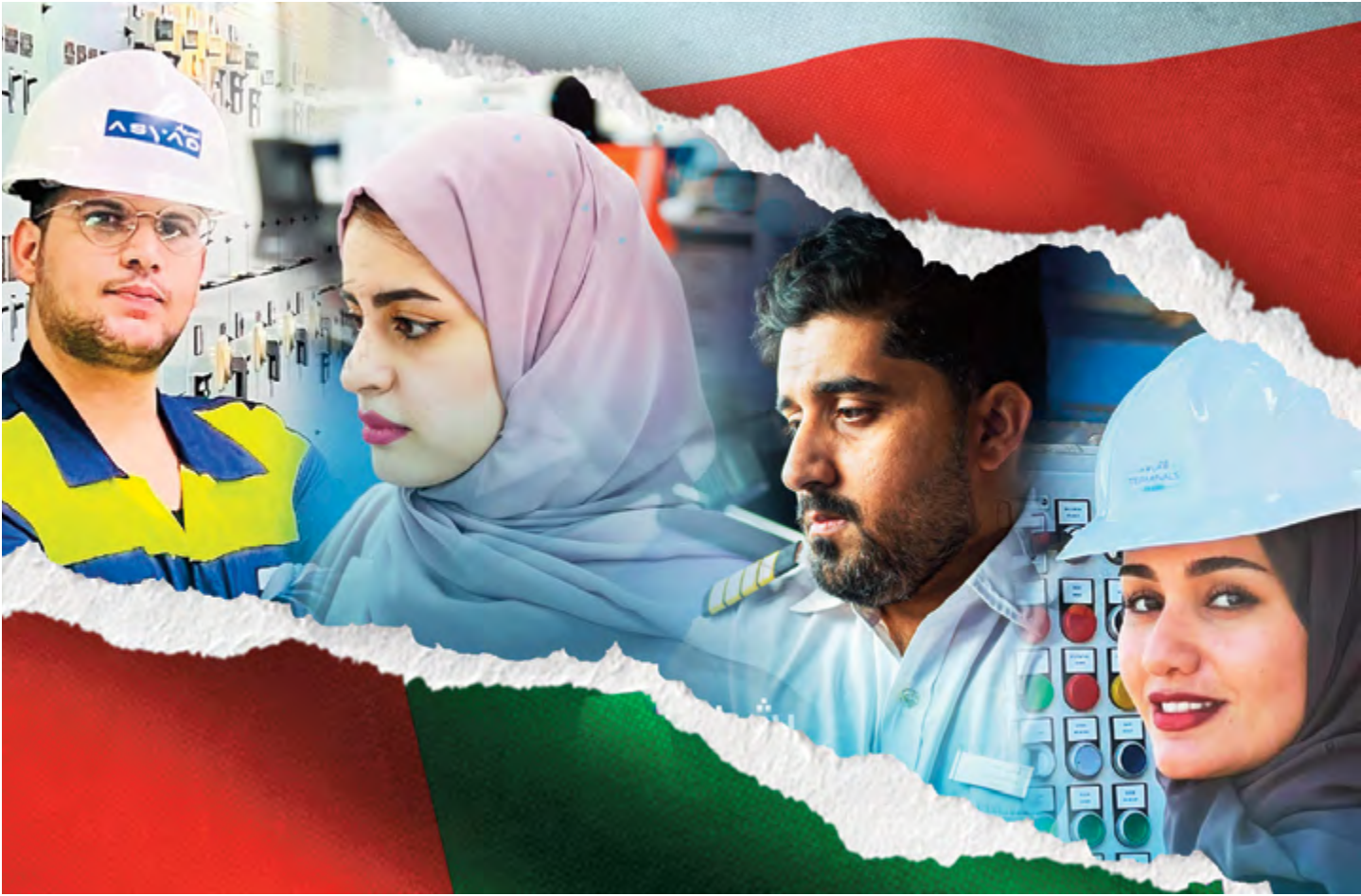
Sharing how Omani Youth Day fuels his drive to succeed in academics, medical student Khalid al Balushi, said, "It gives me the chance to learn from others and improve my skills." While the celebration gives him a strong sense of pride and belong-



Sumaiya Said Sulaiman al Siyabiya



Khalid al Balushi



ing, it reinforces the importance of young people's efforts in Oman's progress, he added.

Reflecting on the day's roots in the vision of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Dr Intisar al Busaidi, a petroleum engineering researcher, noted that the event underscores a commitment to youth empowerment, including initiatives like Oman



Dr Intisar al Busaidi

Vision 2040. She explained that direct engagement between youth and decision-makers across governorates allows young Omanis to voice their needs, ensuring they are actively included in shaping the nation's future.

In line with Oman's plans for the youth, Royal Decree No 76/2020 established University of Technology and Applied Sciences, a consolidation of technical colleges to focus on applied education and innovation. "It addresses the demands of artificial intelligence and Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies, equipping Oman's youth with the skills required for modern industries. This has im-

proved graduate quality and positively impacted the job market, positioning youth to lead Oman's economic and social development," Intisar added.

Dr Mohammed Said al Saidi, Assistant Professor at University of Technology and Applied Sciences, described Omani Youth Day as the "renewed pulse of the nation".



Dr Mohammed Said al Saidi

Reflecting on past generations' challenges and achievements, he said, "On this day, my spirit of determination is reignited."

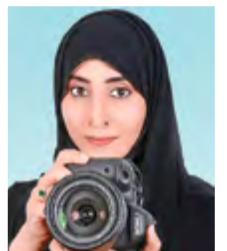
Saidi encouraged young people to refine their skills and actively engage in national development. He stressed the need for more resources in technology and manufacturing to fully realise Oman's potential.

Dr Abdullah al Lawati, a physician, noted that Omani Youth Day encourages young people to reflect on their contributions to Oman's Renaissance. "Youth are the beating heart of Oman, and together we can drive change," he said, urging young Omanis to pursue careers in scientific, technological and medical fields to shape the nation's future.



Dr Abdullah al Lawati

Echoing Lawati's sentiments, photographer Ghaniya al Majrafi said the day recognises the achievements of Omani youth locally and internationally. "We celebrate the potential of Omani youth to bring positive change on this day," she said, calling for continued support to help young people realise greater success and encourage them to persevere through challenges.



Ghaniya al Majrafi

Omani Youth Day celebrates a generation full of potential and determination, positioning young Omanis as central to the nation's future as they advance their skills, lead initiatives and consolidate the sultanate's presence on the global stage.

MHT launches awareness drive in London

Muscat - The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) has launched a promotional campaign in London aiming to draw more British tourists to Oman. The initiative spotlights the sultanate's rich heritage and year-

round attractions, presenting Oman as a unique destination for UK travellers.

The campaign, which began last week and runs till November 18, showcases Oman's vibrant culture and natural

beauty through various promotional activities in the UK capital. By raising awareness of Oman's appeal, MHT hopes to position the country as a top travel choice for British tourists.

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Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE/24/283	Beautification and Development of Anqi village	12/11/2024	02/12/2024
PRE/24/240	Supply of Pesticides	03/11/2024	07/11/2024
PRE/24/241 (Re-Call 1)	RFP of Support and Maintenance Services for Oracle SUN Solaris Servers- (Re-Tender)	03/11/2024	07/11/2024
PRE/24/305	Renting prayer rooms for Al Qurum and Al Amerat Parks	03/11/2024	07/11/2024
PRE/24/306	Renting mobile toilets for Al Naseem, Al Qurum and Al Amerat	03/11/2024	07/11/2024
PRE/24/307	Renting mobile offices	03/11/2024	07/11/2024
PRE/24/308	Supply & laying concrete in Al Amerat Park	03/11/2024	07/11/2024

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2. Clarification and Support:

- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .
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T&C APPLY

EXIM Bank commits to support Omani firms partnering with US businesses

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) is committed to supporting Omani firms seeking to collaborate with US businesses and providing financing facilities to help them enter the US market, according to EXIM's First Vice President and Vice Chair, Judith Pryor.

Judith was on an official visit to Oman last week to attend the US-Oman Partnership Opportunity Delegation (POD) meetings.

In February 2023, Oman's Ministry of Finance and EXIM signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) valued at \$500mn. The MoU aims to explore options for utilising EXIM financing and promoting trade and investment in strategic sectors of Oman's economy.

In an interview with the Oman News Agency, Judith affirmed that the MoU represents a new step in the long-standing 230-year relationship between Oman and the US. She explained that the MoU outlines the partnership and cooperation between the two parties and covers various sectors, including communications, biotechnology, agriculture, and manufacturing.

Judith emphasised EXIM's commitment to providing bank-



Economic ties between the US and Oman reach back more than 230 years, and we are always looking to grow our commercial and economic relationship

JUDITH PRYOR



and economic relationship. That's why we signed a \$500mn MoU last February with Oman's Ministry of Finance and why we are eager to explore collaborative sectors including wireless communication, biotechnology, agriculture, and manufacturing. EXIM is committed to supporting Omani businesses that wish to partner with US businesses in these sectors."

The MoU aims to enhance economic cooperation between the two sides in areas related to financing trade, goods, and services. It also seeks to provide financial facilities for establishing projects in the industrial sector

ing and financing facilities to Omani companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to help them access the US market.

The US official pointed out that the MoU between EXIM and Oman's Ministry of Finance signifies a new chapter in the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries,

building on the Free Trade Agreement that took effect in early 2009 and has effectively strengthened investment relations.

She further said that the MoU will benefit private sector institutions in Oman through various financing tools provided by EXIM, enabling them to expand, pros-

per, and create job opportunities, thereby contributing to the growth and development of the Omani economy.

In a press statement posted on EXIM's website, Judith said, "Economic ties between the US and Oman reach back more than 230 years, and we are always looking to grow our commercial

OQEP shares to list on MSX on Monday

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) will witness the listing of the shares of OQ Exploration & Production Company (OQEP) on Monday, following the successful subscription of OQEP's initial public offering (IPO) and the subsequent allocation of shares to investors.

The company's shares will commence trading on the Omani bourse under the trading symbol 'OQEP'.

The OQEP IPO, the largest in Oman's history, was oversubscribed 2.4 times. The RO780 million IPO generated demand for shares worth RO1.814bn at the upper range of the offered price of 390bz per share.

Azzan bin Mohammed al Abdullatif, Vice President of Acquisitions and Exit Projects at OQ Group, told Oman News Agency that the listing of OQEP shares on the MSX represents a historic event in Oman as the first in the energy sector in the field of exploration and production.



Oman participates in UNIDO's Industrial Policy Forum in Riyadh

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – The Sultanate of Oman took part in the Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum (MIPF) which concluded on Thursday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The event was organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Oman was represented during the forum by H E Qais Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

The forum aimed to enhance partnerships with the organisa-

tion and its programmes. It also targeted devising innovative solutions and industrial policies that support industrial development on the regional and international spheres.

Moreover, the MIPF covered a spectrum of topics, such as Arab industrial integration and strategies to benefit from industrial policies.

Several sessions were held during the forum on topics such as the utilisation of AI and digital transformation in the field of industry.

Meanwhile, H E Yousef, Min-

ister of Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion also participated in the Energy Localization Forum, held in Riyadh.

During this forum several prominent agreements were signed, such as a partnership agreement between GCC Lab Company and Oman's Voltamp Energy.

The partnership pertains to establishing a power transformer asset management center in Damman 3rd Industrial City in Saudi Arabia.

ONA

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) is expected to soon launch a tender for the construction of Al Mudhaibi Industrial City in the North Sharqiyah Governorate.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, Eng Saleh bin Salman al Abri, Director General of Facilities and Infrastructure at Madayn, announced that the detailed general plan for the industrial city has been completed, with all final designs and consulting studies approved, including soil testing, traffic studies, and topographical studies. "The tender documents for the implementation of the first phase have also been finalised, and the tender is expected to be launched soon."

He added that the tender will encompass the development of approximately 2.5mn square meters, including various essential services such as road networks, water supply, sewage systems, lighting, water tanks, security fences, surveillance devices, and a number of ready-made units in the pioneering Madayn complex, each covering an area of 500 square meters. The complex will



Tender will encompass the development of 2.5mn sqm area, including various essential services such as road networks, water supply, sewage systems, lighting, water tanks, security fences, surveillance devices, and a number of ready-made units

include administrative offices alongside manufacturing workshops, private parking lots, and truck entrances.

Abri pointed out that the tender will also include a service building housing the offices for

the management of the industrial city, the Masar Service Center (a one-stop shop for providing services to investors), and meeting rooms with additional facilities serving investors in the industrial city.

He explained that due to Al Mudhaibi Industrial City's strategic location and its proximity to the main road connecting the Special Economic Zone in Duqm to major ports and border crossings in Oman, an area of 100,000 square meters has been allocated for logistics investment to provide logistical services.

Additionally, areas will be designated for agricultural investment to attract investments in the agricultural sector that support transformation industries re-

lated to food security in the governorate. The industrial city will also focus on investing in renewable energy and knowledge industries in coordination with educational institutions in the governorate and relevant private entities.

Eng Said bin Khalfan al Shabibi, Acting Director General of Al Mudhaibi Industrial City, said, "The establishment of an industrial city equipped with essential services will significantly support the development of economic activities in North Sharqiyah Governorate by providing an appropriate environment for the private sector to engage in various industrial, commercial, and service activities in one integrated location."

Pioneering sustainability: How GCC is shaping the future of aluminum

Dubai, UAE – With global aluminum consumption projected to reach 124mn tonnes by 2030, the industry faces a growing responsibility to address its significant carbon footprint. As the most energy-intensive metal, aluminum production accounts for some of the highest CO2 emissions in the industrial sector, yet its essential role in transportation, energy, and consumer goods continues to drive global demand. Arthur D. Little's latest viewpoint outlines how the GCC can lead the charge in decarbon-

ising the aluminum industry while reaping economic rewards.

Arthur D. Little's new report, Aluminum: The Path to Green, highlights how the GCC, leveraging its natural advantages, is uniquely positioned to lead the global shift towards greener aluminum production. The region, blessed with abundant natural gas reserves, is already producing over 6mn tonnes of aluminum annually, benefiting from some of the lowest energy costs in the world. This energy effi-

ciency not only allows for competitive production but also results in fewer carbon emissions when compared to other regions dependent on coal-based power.

In parallel, the integration of solar power in the aluminum production process is gaining momentum. With its exceptional solar resources, the GCC has a natural edge in

adopting renewable energy solutions for smelting and other energy-intensive phases of aluminum production.

This shift not only supports global decarbonisation efforts but also aligns perfectly with the region's broader sustainability goals.

Moreover, the role of recycling in shaping a greener aluminum ecosystem cannot be understated. By in-



creasing aluminum recycling efforts, the GCC countries can reduce reliance on raw material extraction and position itself as a global leader in circular economy practices.

"With major initiatives like the new EGA aluminum recycling plant, the GCC is taking decisive steps towards a more sustainable future," Ilya Epikhin, Global Head of ADL's Metals & Mining competence center at Arthur D. Little, said in a press release. "Innovations in recycling and renewable energy integra-

tion are helping the region establish itself as a global hub for green aluminum."

Adding to this, Peter Kaznacheev, Principal, Energy and Utilities practice at Arthur D. Little commented "Aluminum is critical for the future of energy, transport, and construction. The Gulf region has a significant opportunity to lead in aluminum production while transitioning to greener alternatives. This transition will not only help mitigate the environmental impact of production but also position the

GCC as a leader in the global market."

In terms of technology, the region's aluminum producers are increasingly adopting cutting-edge innovations such as carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS), as well as exploring the potential of hydrogen-powered smelting. These advanced technologies, coupled with Industry 4.0 applications that enhance production efficiency, are positioning the GCC as a global frontrunner in green aluminum.

Tina Teng

A large, three-dimensional yellow Euro symbol sculpture stands prominently in the center of a modern, brightly lit interior space. The sculpture is mounted on a grey cylindrical base. To the left and right of the sculpture are two tall, blue European Union flags on black poles. In the background, a curved white wall features the text "VISITOR CENTRE" and "EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK" below a stylized logo. A man in a dark suit is walking from right to left in the foreground. The architecture includes large glass windows and a high ceiling with recessed lighting.

(Source: Euronews.com)

 Sembcorp Salalah سيمبكورب صلالة		Statement of financial position as at 30 September 2024			
		Unaudited 30 September 2024	Unaudited 30 September 2023	Audited 31 December 2023	
		RO	RO	RO	
Assets					
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment	230,096,060	240,724,751	238,116,599		
Right of use assets	582,106	627,369	601,689		
Derivative financial instruments	-	232,421	-		
Total non-current assets	230,678,166	241,584,541	238,718,288		
Current assets					
Inventories	6,136,311	5,694,256	5,795,556		
Trade and other receivables	8,587,310	8,086,400	9,115,180		
Current portion of derivative financial instruments	35,051	825,373	456,508		
Bank deposits	11,484,012	12,357,800	17,615,780		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,320,726	8,044,144	1,326,499		
Total current assets	34,563,410	35,007,973	34,309,523		
Total assets	265,241,576	276,592,514	273,027,811		
Equity and Liabilities					
Equity					
Share capital	95,457,195	95,457,195	95,457,195		
Legal reserve	18,522,198	16,352,066	16,875,190		
Retained earnings	60,904,370	50,918,903	48,467,732		
Hedging reserve	(81,853)	871,922	249,844		
Total Equity	174,801,910	163,600,086	161,049,961		
Liabilities					
Non-current liabilities					
Long term loans	25,310,083	50,707,437	50,787,450		
Long term lease liabilities	622,773	584,757	593,820		
Asset retirement obligation	851,389	818,053	811,813		
Deferred tax liabilities	24,380,269	24,792,711	24,644,492		
Deferred revenue	730,767	930,390	880,348		
Derivative financial instruments	122,312	-	137,837		
Total non-current liabilities	52,017,593	77,833,348	77,855,760		
Current liabilities					
Current portion of long term loans	25,691,129	23,517,264	23,517,264		
Trade and other payables	9,544,103	8,810,680	6,810,040		
Current tax payable	3,186,841	2,831,136	3,794,786		
Total current liabilities	38,422,073	35,159,080	34,122,090		
Total liabilities	90,439,666	112,992,428	111,977,850		
Total equity and liabilities	265,241,576	276,592,514	273,027,811		
Net assets per share	0.183	0.171	0.169		

Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for nine month period ended 30 September 2024				
	Unaudited for three months period ended 30 September 2024	Unaudited for three months period ended 30 September 2023	Unaudited for Nine months period ended 30 September 2024	Unaudited for Nine months period ended 30 September 2023
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Revenue	20,809,505	19,897,494	62,203,436	59,254,712
Cost of sales	(13,706,121)	(12,888,805)	(39,131,077)	(36,422,829)
Gross profit	7,103,384	7,008,689	23,072,359	22,831,883
Administrative and general expenses	(225,793)	(158,058)	(606,611)	(464,887)
Other income	93,628	88,141	251,309	256,586
Profit before interest and tax	6,971,219	6,938,772	22,717,057	22,623,582
Finance income	242,837	273,446	659,111	678,607
Finance costs	(1,243,465)	(1,670,430)	(3,937,322)	(5,301,747)
Profit before income tax	5,970,591	5,541,788	19,438,846	18,000,442
Income tax expense	(897,335)	(833,009)	(2,968,770)	(2,705,515)
Profit after tax for the period	5,073,256	4,708,779	16,470,076	15,294,927
Other comprehensive income				
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss				
Fair value of cash flow hedge adjustments – gross	(423,246)	368,527	239,473	986,803
Reclassification to profit or loss – gross	(197,585)	(188,430)	(629,705)	(366,538)
Deferred tax liability / (asset) on change in fair value of cash flow hedge	93,1			



Kia's EV9: Vehicle with 'absence of engine'

Embarking on the trend of the world's climate concerns, Kia's brings in its top-line electric vehicle model, the EV9 to the Omani market.

For those looking for diverse automobile options, the Kia EV9 enhances the driving experience with its futuristic looks, sophisticated appeal and remarkable speed, all with the absence of an engine, a release stated.

Leading the shift from fuel to electric, EVs are the powerhouse of automotive innovation. Adhering to Kia's commitment to a net-zero future, its dynamic EV range is environment friendly and cost-effective, designed to reduce dependence on fossil fuels while addressing the climate concerns.

Enthral with Kia EV9's cutting-edge electric rechargeable battery that delivers an impressive driving range of up to 500 km on a full charge. Whereas, a quick 24 minute charge goes a long way from 0 to 80 per cent embracing both short and extended journeys. Depending on usage, the EV9 is an ideal city car and can be charged at home with the EV charging device provided as part of the purchase.

Engineered to deliver peak power performance of 7,800 rpm and motor output power of 283kw, EV9 provides noise-less acceleration and uncompromised performance. Compared to gasoline-powered vehicles, EVs are low maintenance and

consist of fewer spare parts. Exploring the all-new Kia EV9, it is the first mid-sized all-wheel drive SUV based on Kia's E-GMP platform and comes in spacious six- and seven-seater options. Arrive at your destination in style with EV9's ravishing exterior and ultra-roomy interiors fitted with ventilated seats, Swivel seats options for the second-row occupants and cup holder tray with USB ports for the 3rd row passengers. Charge your phone on the front centre console's wireless charging tray and keep documents, home keys or coffee cups because space is not an issue with Kia EV9.

Take advantage of the ample front and rear cargo space for

loading groceries, travelling luggage or baby strollers.

Reshaping the way we move, Kia prioritises advanced ergonomic safety features and the EV9 consists of a plethora of high-tech life-saving features. It is equipped with Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Following Assist, Blind-Spot Rear View Monitor, along with convenience-enhancing features including Remote Smart Parking Assist and digital centre and side mirror features. The Remote Smart Parking Assist lets you park in or exit a parking spot as you stand outside the vehicle. Using sensor technology, it searches for parking spaces and automatically assists with steer-

ing, accelerating, decelerating, and shifting. The EV9 offers stylish and eco-conscious driving experiences, setting a benchmark for sustainable mobility.

Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers. Excellent product offerings and unmatched facilities easily ensure their absolute satisfaction, every mile of the way. No wonder then that RIA has been ranked amongst the top Kia distributors worldwide and has been honoured with prestigious accolades including the 2023 Best Customer Satisfaction - Sales in the Region and Best Reginald Excellence award 2023.

Oman Air enters into loyalty programme deal with Qantas

Oman Air and Qantas, Australia's largest airline, have taken their partnership to new heights with the launch of a new and exciting loyalty programme offering.

Sindbad members will soon be able to redeem their Miles on flights with Qantas, which operates an extensive network including Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, with Qantas members able to access the same benefits on Oman Air's network.

The airlines, which have an existing interline partnership, will add more attractive benefits, such as Mile-earning opportunities, as Oman Air prepares to join the oneworld alliance in 2025.

Oman Air CEO Con Korfatis said, "Our partnership with Qantas reinforces our commitment to bring even greater value and rewarding experiences to our loyalty members. This collaboration not only en-

hances the travel journey by offering more ways for members to redeem their hard-earned Miles, but also plays a key role in attracting Qantas' huge membership-base to come and experience Oman. As we look towards our highly anticipated oneworld membership next year, we look forward to providing more rewards and seamless travel across all member airlines."

Qantas Loyalty CEO Andrew Glance added, saying, "We know how much our members love to use their points to book international reward seats, with record numbers redeemed in the last twelve months. Frequent Flyers also tell us that exploring new destinations is high on their priority list, so this partnership will be welcome news for members eyeing their next overseas adventure. Oman Air is an impressive airline with an expansive network.



Meethaq honoured as best Islamic bank

As part of its commitment to advancing the Islamic Banking Industry in the Sultanate of Oman, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat was recently recognised as the best institution in Islamic Banking for 2024 by The Arabian Stories.

The award was presented at the inaugural edition of Islamic Banking Conference 'Themar', held in Muscat, under the patronage of Abdulsalam Mohammed al Marshdi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority, and attended by esteemed officials and specialists in the Islamic banking sector.

Marshdi presented the award to the Meethaq's Management Team, the bank informed.

The first edition of 'Themar' conference placed strategic em-

phasis on key areas such as Islamic financial transactions, economic stability, and issues concerning recent developments in the Islamic banking sector in the sultanate.

Ali Ahmed al Lawati, assistant general manager, Meethaq Corporate Banking, gave the main presentation that highlighted the sector's growth trajectory locally, regionally, and globally focusing on both opportunities and challenges within the Islamic finance sector as well as highlighting Meethaq's pivotal role in developing Islamic financial markets in terms of providing finance and capital market instruments.

The conference featured panel discussions for stakeholders and experts in Islamic banking to exchange views.

Star-studded culinary event at Anantara

Following the immense success of previous editions in 2021 and 2022, Al Baled Resort Salalah by Anantara is delighted to announce the much-anticipated return of the Al Baled Culinary Festival.

Supported by key sponsors including the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, Experience Oman, Omani Culinary Arts, Dhofar Municipality, Amouage, Al-shoala, Vodafone Oman, and Al Khareef, this event promises to be a remarkable celebration of



culinary excellence and further cement Salalah's reputation as a gourmet destination in the region.

Set along a pristine, palm-fringed shoreline and framed by

the shimmering waters of the Arabian Sea, Al Baled Resort Salalah by Anantara offers a luxurious oasis where timeless Omani charm meets modern sophistication. With 136 rooms, vil-

las, and suites, including private pool villas, this exclusive beachfront retreat is renowned for its elegant architecture, unparalleled privacy, and warm hospitality. Guests are invited to experience world-class dining, lavish spa treatments, and breathtaking natural surroundings, making it the perfect venue for this extraordinary culinary event.

Taking place throughout November 2024, this month-long celebration is poised to be

an unforgettable experience for gastronomes and food enthusiasts alike, featuring exquisite dishes prepared by chefs from some of the finest Michelin-starred restaurants across Europe, as well as local Omani culinary talents.

This year, the festival welcomes renowned culinary artists from Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, and France, who will create exceptional dining experiences using the freshest local ingredients.



Oman Shell, Dar Al Herfya take initiative to promote women artisans

Oman Shell, in partnership with Dar Al Herfya, recently concluded a transformative three-month training programme for the empowerment of 18 skilled women artisans from Dakhliya.

This initiative has been taken to help them enhance their technical expertise and business acumen in traditional Omani handicrafts, a release stated.

The programme culminated in a grand three-day public exhibition, coinciding with Omani

Women's Day, showcasing the participants' craftsmanship and celebrating their achievements. The exhibition, alongside the graduation ceremony, marked the successful completion of the pilot phase and reinforced the program's commitment to advancing women's empowerment.

Dar Al Herfya's three-month training program, hosted at the Oman Across Ages Museum, provided technical upskilling in

traditional Omani arts and crafts, particularly in fabric and palm handicrafts, to a carefully selected group of unemployed women between the ages of 18 and 55. The initiative aimed to create opportunities for these women to generate sustainable income while preserving Omani heritage.

As part of the initiative, participants were provided with tools, machines, and raw materials needed to continue their craft

after the training. In addition, Dar Al Herfya facilitated access to six selling platforms, thereby addressing the market access challenges that low-income women in the region often face.

This programme aligns with Shell's broader objective of supporting community development and enhancing its contribution to the preservation of Oman's cultural legacy. By empowering women and promoting sustainable business practices in the

handicraft sector, the initiative serves as a testament to Shell's commitment to fostering local talent and supporting the long-term socioeconomic development of Oman.

Zuwaina al Rashidi, CEO of Dar Al Herfya, World of Handicrafts, commented on the program saying, "We are incredibly proud of the dedication shown by these talented women over the last three months. Their craftsmanship is a reflection of

Oman's rich culture and heritage. "The Hirfah programme not only equips them with the skills and tools they need to succeed, but also preserves Omani traditions and highlights the important role women play in our communities."

Commenting on Oman Shell's strategic partnership with Dar Al Herfya, Malak al Shaibani, General Manager, Corporate Relations and In-Country Value, Oman Shell, said, "Over the past

three months, 18 remarkable women from Dakhliya governorate embarked on a journey that began with a simple thread of tradition that has now woven into a tapestry of innovation and self-reliance. Guided by Dar Al Herfya's vision and supported by Oman Shell, these craftswomen have honed their skills in the timeless arts of weaving and palm leaf work. At Shell, we believe true progress lies in empowering communities."



RAM's latest cohort graduates from public policy, planning programme

The Royal Academy of Management (RAM) recently hosted a ceremony to celebrate the graduation of the second cohort from its 'Public Policy and Strategic Planning - Their Excellencies the Undersecretaries Path' programme.

This initiative aligns with the royal directives of H M Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, aimed at nurturing national leaders capable of steering Oman's advancement. The programme is designed to equip various sectors with leaders, who can enhance public and executive policies, thereby increasing the efficiency of government institutions in achieving the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

This programme was delivered in collaboration with the esteemed Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore and

the University of Cambridge in the UK.

Dr Ali bin Qasim al Lawati commended the outstanding achievements of the participants, recognising their successful journey through the programme. He emphasised that the programme was specifically designed for senior decision-makers and policy-makers from various government entities.

The curriculum offered valuable insights into the latest global concepts and trends in strategic thinking and public policy formulation, while prioritising Oman's local context and national objectives in addressing global challenges.

Dr Ali highlighted the programme's collaboration with prestigious international institutions, ensuring it was meticulously

The curriculum offered valuable insights into the latest global concepts and trends in strategic thinking and public policy formulation, while prioritising Oman's local context and national objectives

tailored to meet the unique needs of policy development and implementation in Oman.

Dr Ali further highlighted that the programme provided participants with the opportunity to cultivate advanced skills in qualitative data analysis and the development of evidence-based public policies through rigorous training modules and structured dialogue sessions. A major focus of the programme was the integration of cutting-edge technolo-

gies to enhance data-driven strategic decision-making.

Commenting on his experience, H E Khamis bin Mohammed al Shamakhi, Undersecretary in the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, praised the academy for providing an exceptional programme that combined educational rigour with interactive dialogue.

He remarked that the programme was more than just an

introduction to strategic planning; it served as a dynamic platform for brainstorming, addressing challenges, and identifying opportunities within the government framework.

"Through this programme, we gained exposure to various international experiences presented by the University of Cambridge and strengthened our collaboration as decision-makers. We also employed modern technologies to enhance institutional performance," he added.

Nasr bin Khamis al Sawai, Attorney General, expressed his pleasure in participating in the programme, highlighting how the strategic experiences he encountered served as a practical source of inspiration for enhancing institutional performance. He added that these experiences

12 films hand-picked for Red Sea International Film Festival

The Red Sea International Film Festival (Red Sea IFF) revealed this year's Festival Favourites - a selection of twelve standout films that have received accolades and awards while captivating audiences and critics around the globe.

Selected favourites are *Agora*, *Black Dog*, *East of Noon*, *Eephus*, *Familiar Touch*, *Freedom Way*, *The Inevitable Journey to Find a Wedding Dress*, *The Legend of the Vagabond Queen of Lagos*, *Little Jaffna*, *Quiet Life*, *Santosh* and *U are the Universe*.

These exceptional films have taken the festival circuit by storm, enchanting viewers with their powerful storytelling and artistic brilliance.

The Festival Favourites programme is dedicated to promoting cultural diversity, showcasing award-winning films from every corner of the world. The selection shines a light on innovative storytelling, stunning cinematography and unique perspectives.

Kaleem Aftab, Director of International Programming for the Red Sea International Film Festival, said: "This year's selection continues to demonstrate our commitment to showcasing diverse voices and perspectives during the festival. These films explore a range of real, human themes - from contemporary social issues to relationships and the search for meaning in an increasingly complex and chaotic world."



Grand Millennium reopens Bahriyat - a seafood paradise

The Grand Millennium Muscat Hotel proudly announces the grand reopening of Bahriyat, its celebrated signature seafood restaurant. Offering a unique and enticing dining experience, Bahriyat - reintroduced with a new concept - promises to tantalize the taste buds of seafood lovers with its exquisite offerings.

Situated in the heart of Muscat, the 5-star Grand Millennium Muscat stands as a tribute to Oman's rich cultural heritage and traditional values, with Bahriyat upholding those ideals. Conveniently located near the airport and connected to Muscat Grand Mall, the hotel is ideally positioned in the city's business, government, and diplomatic district, offering tempting dining options.

As the name indicates, Bahriyat ('fruits of the sea') encapsulates the spirit of the

ocean, presenting a gastronomic feast for every palate. The restaurant's decor features ocean-inspired elements, creating a picturesque ambience that complements its diverse menu. Guests can embark on a culinary journey with the restaurant's signature dishes, meticulously crafted from locally-sourced seafood caught along the coast of Oman.

Hand-selected from the fish market by Bahriyat's own chef, the restaurant's delectable array of dishes creates an unforgettable dining experience for everyone. It offers an inviting atmosphere for the entire family, featuring a variety of dishes, all prepared with the freshest ingredients and crafted by true connoisseurs of good taste.

The thoughtfully designed menu, showcasing seasonal favourites and restaurant spe-

cialties that reflect the richness of the sea, include fresh oysters, grilled seafood platter for two, lobster thermidor, and traditional Moroccan Seafood Tagine. The dishes, the décor, the modern plating and presentation manifest Bahriyat's contemporary approach that fluidly merges with traditional cooking methods.

The restaurant's captivating marine theme comes to life through its decor, with cool blue tones evoking the ocean and sky. Unique design touches, like miniature jellyfish in blue lamps and a wall adorned with fish sculptures, create a magical ambience, while the friendly staff provide a warm and inviting dining experience.

In addition to the launch of Bahriyat, Grand Millennium Muscat boasts other captivating dining options as well.

Khimji Ramdas, Youth Centre partner to empower youth

Khimji Ramdas and the Youth Center have entered into a strategic agreement aimed at empowering the youth of Sultanate of Oman through a series of training workshops and initiatives designed to equip them with skills for the job market.

The agreement was formalised during the closing ceremony of the 2024 summer programme, held under the patronage of H H Sayyed Saud bin Hilal bin Hamad al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat Governorate.

On behalf of Khimji Ramdas, the agreement was signed by Kairavi Khimji, Director, while H E Basil bin Ahmed al Rawas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth for Sports and Youth Affairs, signed



on behalf of the Youth Centre.

This collaboration will deliver training workshops across various governorates of Sultanate of Oman, with the goal of enhancing youth competencies and preparing them to meet the challenges of the job market. The initiative reflects Khimji Ramdas' and the Youth Center's shared

commitment to supporting and enriching youth in the Sultanate.

As part of the agreement, Khimji Ramdas and the Youth Center will also continue their collaboration on the 'Mindarah Omania' photography competition, now in its third edition. Launched in 2022, this competition has garnered significant at-

tention, inspiring young Omani photographers to showcase their talent and creativity.

Speaking on the occasion, Kairavi Khimji, Director of Khimji Ramdas, said, "Aligned with the Sultanate of Oman's Vision 2040, this partnership reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering Omani youth as key contributors to the nation's socio-economic development. Through these training programs and creative platforms like the photography competition, we aim to equip the next generation with essential skills that will not only enhance their professional prospects but also support the Sultanate's long-term vision of sustainable growth and innovation."

Tanishq unveils festive tribute to modern queens

Tanishq, India's most-loved jewellery brand from the TATA Group, which opened its flagship store at the Oman Avenues' mall, earlier this year, is now wooing jewellery lovers with a brand new collection.

This festive season, Tanishq invites you to celebrate your inner royalty with the launch of the Nav-Raani Collection. Inspired by the grandeur of royal queens, this exquisite collection is designed for the modern woman who embodies strength and elegance, a press note said.

"Handcrafted in pure gold and featuring intricate meenakari enamel work, each piece in this



exquisite collection captures the essence of regal heritage while embracing contemporary style.

"From statement necklaces to

intricately designed earrings, the Nav-Raani Collection offers a range of exquisite pieces, making it the perfect addition to your festive wardrobe or an ideal Diwali gift. Each item is meticulously crafted to ensure a timeless appeal, perfect for the grandeur of Diwali celebrations," the note said.

Highlights include an 18 Karat yellow gold necklace set featuring striking red stones, intricate floral Kundan elements, and a detachable pendant, all reflecting grace and ambition. Crafted over 45 days, the collection also includes a 22 Karat yellow gold necklace adorned with peacock

feather motifs and an innovative ombre of green Kundan, striking a balance between timeless elegance and modern vibrancy. With detailed enamel work and ornate jali designs cradling captivating green stones, another piece symbolises the strength and multifaceted nature of women who gracefully juggle various roles in their lives.

"The Nav-Raani Collection is a heartfelt tribute to the queens of today. We wanted to create something that resonates with their grace and power," said Aditya Singh, head of jewellery international business, Titan Company Limited.

Ecuador gripped by energy crisis amid worst drought in decades

Bogota, Colombia - Ecuador has increased power cuts from eight to 14 hours a day because of the worst drought it has faced in decades, according to Energy and Mines Minister Ines Manzano.

"We have made the painful but responsible decision to modify the rationing plan, increasing it from 8 to 14 hours a day," Manzano wrote near midnight Thursday on X, adding that the government is trying to recover generating capacity and acquire new sources of energy.

Despite President Daniel Noboa's earlier promise to gradually reduce the cuts to eight, six and four hours, the government has been forced to take drastic measures.

Authorities said the Masar and Coca Codo Sinclair hydro-electric plants, crucial for the country's power supply, are operating at historically low water levels.

Manzano said Noboa's earlier announcement was based on favourable weather forecasts at that time.

But because of the ongoing drought, declining reservoir



levels and deteriorating power plants, the government has extended the power outages for several more weeks. Water sources account for over 70% of Ecuador's energy supply.

Colombia's decision

Colombia's decision to halt electricity sales to Ecuador has further exacerbated the situation. Colombian President Gustavo Petro expressed his solidarity with Ecuador.

"The drought in Ecuador is increasing," he wrote on Friday on X. "It is time for the fraternal

countries of Latin America to show solidarity. The possibility of developing solar and wind energy in these countries requires our collaboration."

Manzano told reporters that generators are being sourced from the US, but delays because of Hurricane Milton and a US port strike have affected their arrival.

While the government has not specified the duration of the rationing, Manzano anticipates Ecuadorians will experience an easy by Christmas.

Anadolu Agency



NPP candidate Mahamudu Bawumia and NDC flagbearer John Mahama

Ghana: Candidates intensify campaigns in presidential race

Accra, Ghana - Ghana's two leading candidates for December's presidential election are seeking to cover major ground by preaching their policies and promises to voters.

Vice President Mahamadu Bawumia, from the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP), is facing off against John Dramani Mahama from the National Democratic Congress (NDC), who served as Ghana's president between 2013-2017. Mahama is making his third attempt at securing the country's top job, failing to do so in the 2016 and 2020 elections. He lost to outgoing President Nana Akufo-Addo, who has served the maximum two teams in office, so is not in the running for this year's vote.

The frontrunners have used different strategies to reach out to targeted groups to outline their policies. "The campaigns over the years, especially for the two major political parties, have gone through some changes," political analyst Ibrahim Alhassan told DW. "So both the NDC and the NPP have decided to now adopt what is referred to as a tailored campaign strategy."

Alhassan noted that rather than holding rallies that attract large crowds, they favour a more community-based approach.

Both Bawumia and Mahama have focused on Ghana's economic recovery, which has been a major thorn in the side of the outgoing Akufo-Addo presidency.

Ghana is currently under an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme to help restore its economy, having defaulted on most of its US\$30bn external debt due to years of accumulated borrowing. The US\$3bn IMF support package was to help the West African country restructure its debt.

Bawumia, an economist and former central banker, has spoken of digital innovation policies as key solutions to Ghana's economic woes.

"All the youth, we need jobs. I am going to give one million youths digital skills in Ghana," Bawumia said at a campaign rally in Ghana's southeastern Volta region. "Everybody, even if you are a school dropout, we can give you digital skills."

Mahama has been trumpeting his party's 24-hour economic policy, which he says would unlock Ghana's economic potential.

Both the NDC and the NPP have decided to now adopt what is referred to as a tailored campaign strategy

IBRAHIM ALHASSAN

"The NPP's digitalisation, which has always been the mantra for the NPP's flagbearer and the current vice president, is equally being pushed," the political analyst told DW.

Both candidates have also promised as part of their campaign platforms to remove some taxes, including the 10% tax on betting income, COVID-19 levy and electronic transfer levy, which were introduced by the current government.

"But by and large, what I have noticed about the campaign promises, especially for the two parties, is that they are almost all the same," Alhassan noted.

Both the NPP and the NDC enjoy significant support in their respective strongholds, so their candidates have been targeting voters who are undecided about which party they will vote for.

Kwaku Amponsah, an undecided voter in Ghana's capital, Accra, told DW that neither party's campaign messages have done anything to sway his choice.

"There is nothing promising about their promises," he said, adding that he doubts they have any real solutions.

DW

US: Joe Biden makes historic apology to Native Americans

Washington, D.C., US - US President Joe Biden travelled to Arizona on Friday where he spoke with members of the Gila River Indian Community, offering a historical apology to Native peoples who suffered a century-and-a-half of unjust federal policies.

Biden, who has sought to invest in long neglected Tribal communities, as well as expanding Tribal autonomy and protections, was accompanied by US Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Native American ever to serve in a Cabinet position.

Stephen Roe Lewis, governor of the Gila River Indian Community, introduced Biden, praising his 'compassion, character and empathy', saying 'no other president or vice president has done more for Native Americans'.

Speaking to those gathered, Biden called the opportunity to offer an official apology, 'one of the most consequential things I've ever been able to do'.

Biden's apology was offered for decades of abuse suffered by Indian Nations at the hands of the US government and its policy of forced assimilation among Indian children.

Biden told those gathered: "The Federal Indian Board Era is one of the darkest chapters of American history. The trauma experienced in those institutions haunts our conscience to this very day."

He spoke passionately about the need 'to right a wrong... to chart a new path forward', before praising 'thousands of years of (Native American) culture' in government, culture and agriculture.

Addressing the 'trauma and shame' of 'generations of children stolen', Biden slammed his fist on his podium, bellowing 'I formally apologise!'

Boys at the school, for instance, had their braids cut off and children were forbidden from speaking in their native tongue. Catholic educators condemned traditional Tribal religion as 'evil', pushing forced conversions under the motto, 'kill the Indian, save the man'.

At least 973 children died in the schools.

After Haaland took over at the Department of Interior, she ordered a comprehensive review of federal boarding school policies. It was that report that motivated Biden to offer an official presidential apology.

"He made commitments to Indian country," said Haaland, "and he has followed through on every single one."

Biden, whom Haaland called



A perfidious scheme to 'civilise Indians'

The boarding school system, which began as part of the Indian Civilization Act of 1819, remained in place until 1970 and at one point comprised some 400 schools, many of them church-operated, across the breadth of the continent.

Over the course of 150 years, records show that more than 18,000 Native American children, some as young as four, were taken from their parents and put into abusive boarding schools aimed at eradicating Tribal cultures. In his remarks, Biden acknowledged that the true number of children taken was likely far greater.

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"He made commitments to Indian country," said Haaland, "and he has followed through on every single one."

Biden, whom Haaland called

'courageous', put federal protections on a number of sacred Tribal sites in the Southwest, including restoring protections for the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, which his predecessor Donald Trump had opened to drilling and mining under Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Biden on Friday, listed the many initiatives his administration had undertaken to assist Tribal communities, such as investment in infrastructure, health and education.

Political observers point out that the move by Biden during his last days in office also seeks to highlight the administration's work while attracting a very specific group of voters in a critical

swing state as Vice President Kamala Harris and Trump remain in a dead heat just days before the US presidential election.

In his remarks, President Biden labelled the Federal Boarding School Era 'a sin on our soul' and called for history books to be rewritten, 'just because history is silent doesn't mean it didn't happen', he said, adding, 'we must know who we are as a nation'.

In closing, Biden spoke of hopefulness and the strengthening of ties between the federal government and Tribal Nations. While acknowledging that it was impossible to change the past, he said his apology was about 'finally moving forward, into the light'.

DW

Japan heads to polls today for snap elections

Tokyo, Japan - Japan is heading to a snap general election on Sunday to elect lawmakers to the House of Representatives, the 465-seat lower house of parliament, known locally as the National Diet.

There are over 45,000 polling stations across the country for over 105mn eligible voters to cast ballots.

There are more than 1,300 candidates vying for seats, including a record 314 women.

In the election, each voter casts two ballots, one to choose a candidate in a single-seat constituency and the other to select a party for proportional representation. Japan has 289 single-seat districts and 11 proportional representation blocs.

A party or coalition will need



There are more than 1,300 candidates vying for seats, including a record 314 women

233 seats to form a government with a simple majority.

In the previous setup, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had 256 seats out of 465 members of the lower house while its coalition partner the Komeito party had 32 seats in the recently dissolved parliament. The LDP, which has ruled Japan for the most part since 1955, is likely to face a strong challenge this time from the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ).

Polls suggest the CDPJ, which had 98 seats, could end up with as many as 140, which would put the LDP in a position where a coalition with Komeito is a necessity, not just an option.

Anadolu Agency

Israel strikes targeted sites in Iran

Saturday’s attack, a direct strike on Iranian military sites, follows Iran’s October 1 attacks on Tel Aviv

Tehran/Jerusalem - Two Iranian soldiers were killed in Israel’s overnight attack on the country, the Iranian military announced in a statement on Saturday.

The statement said the soldiers lost their lives while ‘defending Iran’s security and preventing harm to the Iranian people and interests, in response to projectiles launched by the criminal Zionist regime’.

It did not, however, specify the location of the attack or the extent of the damage, adding that more details would be released soon. Security sources reported that the attack began around 2.30am local time (2300GMT), with residents in Tehran hearing loud sounds from air defence systems.

According to Iran’s air defence forces, the Israeli strikes targeted sites in the capital Tehran as well at the Khuzestan and Ilam provinces, claiming that its defences successfully thwarted the strikes, as reported by state media. However, it added that ‘limited damage’ was reported in some locations, with investigation ongoing.

An Israeli army spokesperson said the operation was aimed at Iran’s missile production facilities, surface-to-air missile systems, and other air defence infrastructure.

Saturday’s attack, a rare direct strike on Iranian military sites, follows Iran’s October 1 missile attacks on targets in Tel Aviv, which were in retaliation for the deaths of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas leader Is-



An Israeli army spokesperson said the operation was aimed at Iran’s missile production facilities, surface-to-air missile systems, and other air defence infrastructure

mail Haniyeh, and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

Iran previously warned that any attack from Israel would prompt a ‘harsher response’. According to experts, the attack is likely to further escalate tensions between the two arch-foes.

‘Completed targeted strikes’

Meanwhile, the Israeli military announced on Saturday that it

had completed targeted airstrikes on Iranian military facilities. The army said the airstrikes targeted missile manufacturing facilities believed to have produced missiles that were launched at Israel over the last year.

In conjunction with the strikes, the military also targeted surface-to-air missile systems and other Iranian aerial assets, which were intended to impede Israel’s operational capabilities within Iranian

airspace, it stressed.

“The operation was successfully executed, with all aircraft returning safely to base,” it added.

The military indicated that it possesses a range of offensive capabilities, some of which were utilised in the strikes on Saturday that targeted strategic assets deep within Iran.

“I can now confirm that we have concluded the Israeli response to Iran’s attacks against Israel,” Israeli army spokesman

Daniel Hagari said in a video statement. “We conducted targeted and precise strikes on military targets in Iran, thwarting immediate threats to the state of Israel.”

He added that the Israeli army ‘has fulfilled its mission’.

“If the regime in Iran were to make the mistake of beginning a new round of escalation, we will be obligated to respond,” he said.

Israeli media reported that over 100 Israeli fighter jets took

part in the attack on Iran.

Iran ‘ready’ to retaliate

Before Israel announced its attacks, Iran said that it was ready to retaliate against Israeli ‘aggression.’ “There is no doubt that Israel will receive the appropriate response to any action it takes,” the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, citing sources.

The agency also cited official sources saying that ‘Israel’s

claims of 100 military aircraft participating in the attack are entirely false, as Israel aims to exaggerate the scale of its weak assault’.

The US said earlier that Israel ‘is conducting targeted strikes against military targets in Iran as an exercise of self-defence and in response to Iran’s ballistic missile attack against Israel on October 1’.

According to Iran’s air defence forces, the Israeli strikes targeted sites in the capital Tehran as well at the Khuzestan and Ilam provinces, claiming that its defences successfully thwarted the strikes

Meanwhile, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid on Saturday expressed support for Israel’s airstrikes on Iran, but criticised the government’s decision to refrain from targeting strategic and economic sites in the country, calling it a ‘wrong decision’.

“Israel’s enemies learned this morning that the Israeli military is strong, capable of launching powerful attacks, and can reach any location,” Lapid said on X.

But Lapid, leader of the Yesh Atid party, criticised the nature of the Israeli operation, asserting that ‘the decision not to attack strategic and economic sites in Iran was a mistake’.

“We could have, and indeed should have, made Iran pay a heavy price,” he added.

Anadolu Agency

Mideast nations condemn Israeli airstrikes on Iran

Ankara, Turkey - States across the Mideast - including Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, and Qatar - have condemned Saturday’s Israeli airstrikes on Iranian territory.

Qatar expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of Israel’s targeting of Iran, branding the attacks ‘a blatant violation of Iran’s sovereignty and a clear breach of the principles of international law’.

The Qatari Foreign Ministry expressed ‘deep concern regarding the serious repercussions that may result from this escalation’ and urged all concerned parties to ‘exercise restraint, resolve disputes through dialogue and peaceful means, and avoid anything that could destabilise security and stability in the region’.

Jordan’s Foreign Ministry condemned the Israeli airstrikes on Iranian territory.

Ministry spokesman Sufyan Qudah reiterated the kingdom’s ‘absolute rejection of the dangerous escalation in the region and violations of international law’.

Qudah called on the international community to ‘fulfil its responsibilities and take immediate actions to impose a cessation of Israeli aggression on Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon as a first step toward de-escalation’.

Kuwait expressed its ‘strong condemnation and rejection of the Israeli aggression targeting Iran’.

“This act reflects the chaotic policies pursued by Is-

raeli occupation forces, which violate the sovereignty of nations, jeopardise regional security, and disregard the principles of international law,” Kuwait’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Kuwait reiterated its call for ‘the international community and the UN Security Council to assume their responsibilities in halting these actions that threaten the future of the region and its peoples’.

Qatar branded the attacks ‘a blatant violation of Iran’s sovereignty and a clear breach of the principles of international law’

Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Ministry expressed its ‘strong condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli attack’, calling it a ‘violation of Tehran’s sovereignty and a breach of international laws and norms’.

In a statement, the kingdom emphasised its ‘consistent position against the ongoing escalation and expansion of the conflict’, calling on ‘all parties to exercise maximum restraint and reduce tensions’.

The UAE’s Foreign Ministry also issued a call for restraint, stressing ‘the importance of exercising utmost self-restraint and judgment to mitigate risks and prevent the expansion of the scale of conflict’.

Anadolu Agency

Israeli army claims attacking over 70 Hezbollah targets over past 24 hours

Jerusalem - The Israeli army claimed on Saturday that it had attacked more than 70 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon over the past 24 hours.

In a statement, the army reported: “During the last 24 hours, the Air Force struck over 70 Hezbollah targets, some of which were directed by the Northern Command.”

The army claimed that the targets included ‘anti-tank missile launch sites, military buildings, ammunition depots, and military headquarters’.

On clashes in southern Lebanon, the Israeli army stated that its soldiers had eliminated several Hezbollah members who were allegedly launching rockets at Israeli forces.

A fighter jet also reportedly attacked a building containing Hezbollah fighters armed with a



The army claimed that the targets included ‘anti-tank missile launch sites, military buildings and ammunition depots

significant cache of weapons.

Hezbollah has not responded to the Israeli army’s claims. However, the group has been engaged in fierce battles against Israeli troops in southern

Lebanon, with reports indicating that 10 Hezbollah fighters, including several officers, were killed on Friday.

Israel has mounted a huge air campaign in Lebanon since last

month against what it claims are Hezbollah targets, in an escalation from a year of cross-border warfare between Israel and Hezbollah since the start of Israel’s brutal offensive on the

Gaza Strip.

Israel expanded the conflict on October 1 by launching an incursion into southern Lebanon.

The Israeli army also reported on Saturday that it had intercepted two drones launched from Lebanon towards the Upper and Western Galilee regions in northern Israel.

In separate statements on X, the Israeli army reported: “Following alarms triggered at 08:39-08:41 local time (0539 - 0541GMT) in the Upper Galilee area, the Air Force intercepted a drone launched from Lebanon.”

It added that ‘following the alerts that were activated at 09:04-09:06 local time (0604 - 0606GMT) in the Western Galilee area, the Air Force intercepted an unmanned aircraft that crossed over Lebanese territory’.

Anadolu Agency

‘Entire population of North Gaza at risk of dying’

Gaza City, Palestine - In an urgent alarm, the UN’s top humanitarian aid official on Saturday warned that amid a rapidly deteriorating situation and a fierce, weeks-long Israeli army push, ‘the entire population of North Gaza is at risk of dying’.

“Hospitals have been hit and health workers have been detained. Shelters have been emptied and burned down,” said Joyce Msuya, acting under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator. Msuya highlighted the alarming impact of the Israeli onslaught on healthcare and civilian safety, as well as the plight of first responders, noting that they have been ‘prevented from rescuing



people from under the rubble’.

The humanitarian chief expressed deep concern for the civilian population, reporting that ‘families have been separated and men and boys are being

taken away by the truckload’.

The Israeli violence has resulted in ‘hundreds of Palestinians reportedly killed’, with ‘tens of thousands forced to flee yet again’, she said.

Msuya warned that ‘the entire population of North Gaza is at risk of dying’, condemning the ongoing attacks and blockade as showing ‘blatant disregard for basic humanity and for the laws of war’.

She called for immediate international action to halt the violence and ensure the protection of civilians in the region.

Israeli army ground incursions and bombardments continue across northern Gaza, as the forces push for forced displacement of Palestinians.

Death toll rises to 42,924

At least 77 more Palestinians were killed in relentless Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip over the

last two days, pushing up the overall death toll since last year to 42,924, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Saturday.

Some 100,833 others have also been injured in the year-long, ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza, according to a ministry statement. “The Israeli occupation has committed seven massacres of families in the last 48 hours, resulting in 77 deaths and 289 injuries,” the ministry said.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Civil Defence in Gaza announced that it has been unable to respond to emergency calls from residents in northern Gaza’s Jabalia, as the region continues to endure a devastating offensive.

Anadolu Agency

INDIA

Cyclone ‘Dana’ weakens into well marked low pressure area

The cyclone hit the Odisha coast on Friday, uprooting trees, snapping power lines in several areas

Bhubaneswar, Odisha - The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the Cyclone ‘Dana’ has weakened into a ‘well-marked’ low-pressure area and is likely to further weaken to become insignificant.

Cyclone ‘Dana’ hit the Odisha coast on Friday, uprooting trees, snapping power lines in several areas, and killing a person in West Bengal. The storm made landfall between Bhitarkanika and Dhamra in Odisha with wind speeds of 100-110kmph.

In a post on X, IMD said: “The depression (remnant of severe cyclonic storm ‘DANA’) over north Odisha moved slightly westwards during the past six hours and weakened into a well-marked low-pressure area over the same region. It is likely to weaken further and become insignificant during the next 12 hours.”

Earlier, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi informed



Vehicles wade through a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall as an effect of the ‘Dana’ cyclone, in Kolkata on Friday (ANI)

Odisha is safe now. After the landfall of the cyclone, I reviewed the situation... we achieved zero casualties. We had evacuated eight lakh people

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI

that 4431 pregnant women have been shifted to health centres, with 1600 childbirths reported, and all mothers and babies are healthy. “The situation is being monitored 24/7. With Lord Ja-

gannath’s blessings, we will successfully overcome the cyclone.” Addressing a press conference, CM Majhi said that eight lakh people have been evacuated so far and restoration of

electric wires is underway. He also informed me that the officials are facing problems due to continuous rain.

“Odisha is safe now. After the landfall of the cyclone, I reviewed the situation, and due to teamwork, we achieved zero casualties. We had evacuated eight lakh people. Many relief centres are still open. Restoration of electric wires is going on. We are facing problems due to continuous rain. Crops of 1.75 lakhs hectore have been damaged. The

Budhabalanga River is flooded but it is flowing below the danger level,” he said.

The Odisha CM also highlighted that 158 platoon police forces were deployed for the security of people in cyclone-affected areas.

“I thank all who are working day and night. They would need to work for another 48 hours,” he added.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Bhakta Charan Das hit out at the state government and said that

the relief measures were not adequate. Bhakta Charan Das said: “The landfall of cyclone Dana happened in a national park at Bhitarkanika gram panchayat. The national park is located 4km near the coast. As it was a forest area so the velocity was reduced. There has been extensive crop damage to land of around more than 50,000 acres. There has been loss to paddy crops. The relief measures by the government are not adequate.”

ANI

Security tightened along Bangladesh border

Siliguri, West Bengal - In view of the present situation in Bangladesh, the Border Security Force and North Bengal Frontier has tightened the security arrangements along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The forces have taken special initiatives including in the riverine areas that fall under the International borders.

Addressing the media, Suryakant Sharma, IG, BSF North Bengal Frontier, said the BSF has activated the intelligence wing along the border. The forces are on high alert to stop any infiltrations and migrations. “We have our Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to closely monitor the situation and as per the law they take the necessary steps. The government is acting on the issue of activation of anti-India elements.”

India shares a 4,096km border with Bangladesh of which West Bengal shares 2,216.

Meanwhile, three hundred eighty-five new women constables of BSF took an oath to serve the country at the BSF Assistant Training Centre in Baikunthapur, Siliguri on Saturday.

ANI

Tribal communities’ participation crucial for development: President

New Delhi - President Draupadi Murmu on Saturday stressed the important role of tribal communities in India’s development and said that complete development of the country is possible only with the active participation of tribal communities.

Addressing a convocation ceremony of IIT Bhilai, President Murmu said: “Our tribal brothers and sisters are a storehouse of knowledge accumulated through their natural lifestyle. By understanding them and learning from their lifestyle, we can make a significant contribution to India’s sustainable development. But the complete development of the country is possible



President Draupadi Murmu presents a degree to a student during the convocation ceremony of IIT Bhilai on Saturday (ANI)

only when our tribal brothers become active participants in it.” She also expressed confi-

dence that IIT Bhilai, with new dreams, a new approach and the latest technologies, would bring

glory to the nation worldwide.

“IIT Bhilai is a new IIT. With new dreams, new thinking and the latest technologies, I believe that this institute and its students will make the country proud in the world,” she said.

President Murmu said that for over sixty years, IIT students have made their mark in the field of science and technology at the global level and its alumni are holding key positions in leading companies.

“For the last six decades, the students of the country’s IITs have made their mark in the fields of science and technology at the global level.”

ANI

DOCTORS LEARNING SELF-DEFENCE



AIIMS doctors showcasing self-defence techniques during a self-defence training camp for female faculty, residence students and staff organised by AIIMS, in New Delhi on Saturday (ANI)

UK: Far-right figure in custody ahead of demonstration

London, UK - Britain’s staunch Islamophobic and xenophobic figure Tommy Robinson has been taken into custody ahead of a planned demonstration by his supporters in London this weekend.

Kent Police said on Friday that a 41-year-old man had been arrested at the direction of the High Court and would appear at Woolwich Crown Court in London on Monday in connection with contempt of court allegations. It added that Robinson whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon has also been charged with allegedly refusing to provide his phone’s PIN to officers who had stopped and questioned him at the border in Folkestone in July.

He was granted bail over that allegation and will appear at



This file photo shows Tommy Robinson being arrested during a march in London on November 26, 2023

Westminster Magistrates’ Court on November 13, BBC reported.

Yaxley-Lennon is facing a possible jail sentence over contempt of court charges as it is alleged he

breached an injunction not to repeat lies about a Syrian refugee which had been previously ruled by a judge to be defamatory.

Tommy Robinson X account

confirmed that he had been taken into custody, shortly after he entered Folkestone police station on Friday afternoon.

Sky News reported that earlier

today he spoke to supporters outside the police station, and said: “I’ll see what happens mate, I don’t expect to come back out there.”

It comes less than 24 hours before a major policing operation to contain potentially thousands of his supporters as Robinson had been calling on his supporters to join the upcoming far-right rally on Saturday.

Robinson was also accused by many for being one of the main figures behind the rising tension during violent disorder across the UK in summer.

A High Court judge issued a warrant for the former English Defence League (EDL) leader’s arrest after he failed to appear for a contempt of court hearing at the end of July.

Anadolu Agency

Astronauts in hospital after return from ISS

Washington, D.C., US - Three NASA astronauts and one Russian cosmonaut returned to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS) on Friday after seven months in orbit.

The four, Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt, and Jeanette Epps, and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Grebenkin had been scheduled to return two weeks ago but those plans had to be delayed due to weather disturbances caused by Hurricane Milton.

NASA said the crew had received medical exams upon exiting the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft that flew them home, but added that the four, ‘were taken to a local medical facility for additional evaluation’ after

splashing down in the Gulf of Mexico near Pensacola, Florida.

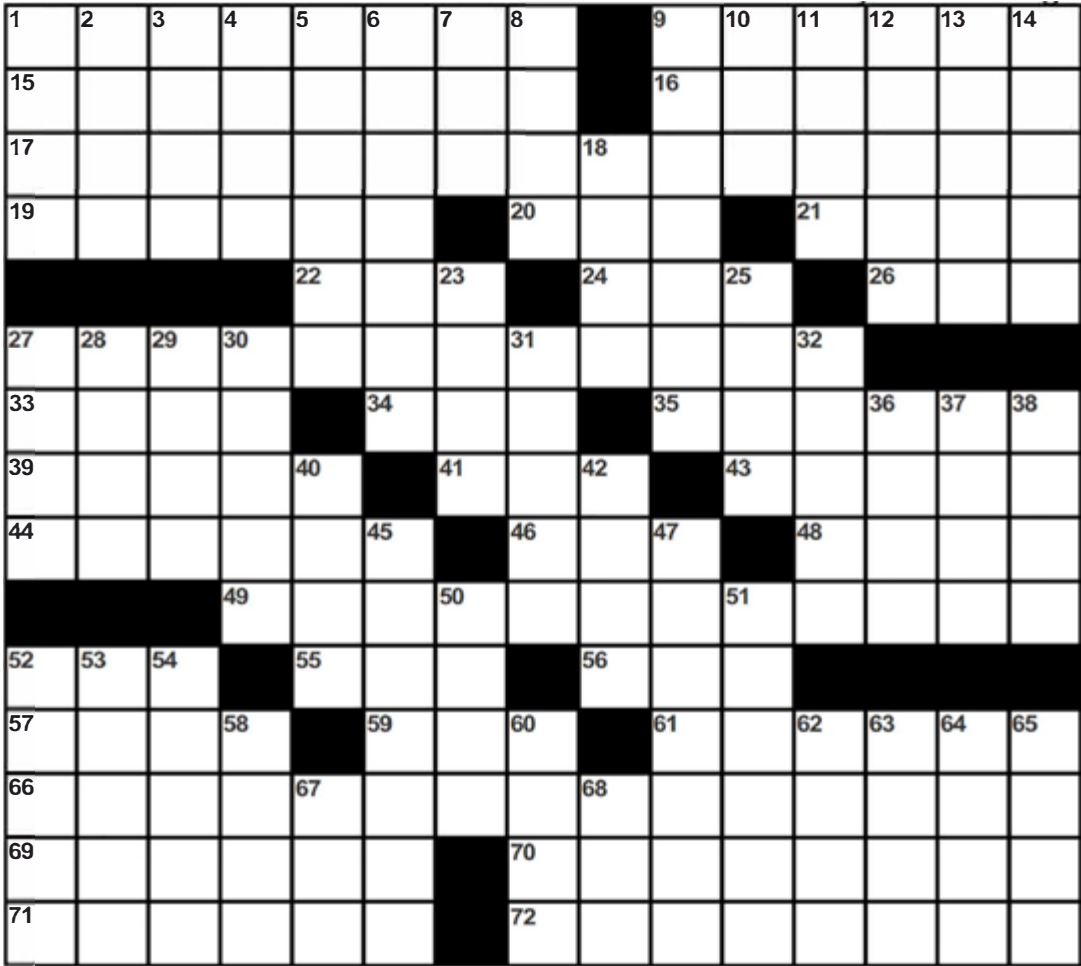
NASA said the step had been taken ‘out of an abundance of caution’, and that ‘all crew members were flown to the facility together’. No mention was made of why exactly the extra exams were necessary.

The crew had spent the previous seven months conducting hundreds of scientific experiments aboard the ISS, including some conducted with stem cells and plants as well as others concerned with the health of astronauts in space.

Two other stuck-in-space astronauts, Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore will remain on the ISS until February next year.

DW

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) Like unnaturally blond hair
- 9) They're taken on a flight
- 15) It's taken on a flight
- 16) Flirt with subtly
- 17) Sitcom with a magical title character
- 19) 50-50 chance
- 20) Golf bag item
- 21) A few
- 22) Witness
- 24) Toxic spill-fighting gp.
- 26) Take the gold
- 27) Stand-in dad, say
- 33) Helper in horror movies
- 34) TV's "Science Kid"
- 35) Order to relax
- 39) Hatchling group
- 41) One of a pack of 20, for short
- 43) Acquired kin
- 44) Mexican Mrs.
- 46) Chow down
- 48) Run out of steam
- 49) Prepare to join the table
- 52) _ Harbour, Florida
- 55) Shine, in some product names
- 56) Plumber's bend

DOWN

- 1) Angler's supply
- 2) Venetian beach resort
- 3) Slips up
- 4) Kin of Kong
- 5) Contract provision
- 6) Interferes with
- 7) "Neroli" musician Brian
- 8) Highly skilled
- 9) Popeye's kid
- 10) Carrere of Hollywood
- 11) "Raggedy" dolls
- 12) "That's obvious!"
- 13) "Spider-Man" director Sam
- 14) Dutch artist Jan
- 18) Give a raspberry
- 23) Cast-of-thousands film
- 25) Pro's foe

- 27) Bits of fiction
- 28) Barbarous type
- 29) By and by
- 30) March en masse
- 31) "So long!"
- 32) First hole of the back nine
- 36) Et_ (and others)
- 3 7) Agra attire
- 38) Fancy jug
- 40) Part of FDA
- 42) Look awed
- 45) He played Grandpa on "The Munsters"
- 4 7) Perfumed powders
- 50) Kinks hit of 1970
- 51) Place for hangers
- 52) Friend off orrest Gump
- 53) James_ Garfield
- 54) Actress Tea
- 58) Tear down
- 60) Stuff of legends
- 62) Baseball Hall ofFamer Johnny, "the Big Cat"
- 63) Double-clicked thing
- 64) Walking stick
- 65) Yukon transport
- 67) Dapper fellow?
- 68) ABBA's "Mamma _!"

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Today, set money issues aside and focus on things you can affect immediately. Money can definitely give you power, but it can give you only so much, so don't place too much importance on your finances right now. Money is not the only route to where you want to go. Your people skills are being wasted, so why not use some of that charm to move things along? A smile and a well-placed compliment may help you in a surprising way.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Whether you realize it or not, your reputation has been on a steady climb upward for the past few weeks. Make the most of that today when you run into a person who holds a lot of power in your life. Engage them in an interesting conversation. Don't just talk about the weather. Ask about a shared interest, for instance, or bring up a controversial but not contentious news item. It's a great day to make connections.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

It might feel as if your relationship is a house of cards. It's shaping up to be quite impressive, but one slight breeze or jiggle could send it all tumbling down. This sense of insecurity can be tricky to deal with. Instead of letting yourself concentrate on the bad things that could happen, focus all that energy on what's going right. Don't take anything for granted. What is meant to be will be.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is a jalapeño?

- A. Chilli pepper
- B. Olive
- C. Onion
- D. Potato

2. What are Italy's national colours?

- A. Green, gold and yellow
- B. Red, white and blue
- C. Black, gold and red
- D. Green, red and white

3. Who popularised the phrase "The buck stops here"?

- A. Mao Zedong
- B. Harry S Truman
- C. Richard Nixon
- D. Josef Stalin

Answers: 1.A 2.D 3.B



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Feeling good about who you are and where you are in life is getting easier and easier to do. You're appreciating the good things that are happening to you, and finally seeing them as blessings you deserve. This change in attitude is helping you feel more confident and hopeful. And as your emotional health gets more robust, your physical health should follow. These two aspects of your life are more interconnected than you realize.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

You are entering a time of great organization and efficiency. It's a philosophy you are ready to live by. Your highly structured personality is coming out in full force right now. It will help you have a very productive day, and it will help you enjoy a greater amount of self-satisfaction. There is no amount of chaos you can't tame, no mystery you can't solve, and no problem you can't fix.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

You've been taking a lot of risks lately and lucky for you they've been paying off. But your luck is bound to change, and it'll do so soon. Make sure you get ahead of the curve by playing it much more conservatively. Make "safety first" your motto, and approach the day's events with caution. Look both ways before crossing the street, and make sure your seat belt is on. And don't walk under ladders! Even superstitions should be obeyed right now.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

Is someone failing to meet all of your expectations? If so, the problem could be with your expectations. You can either choose to rethink what you want from this person or make it clear to them that the current situation isn't going to work for you any longer. Your disapproval might be just what this person needs to make some real changes for the better. Use your power to motivate, but make sure you aren't holding anyone to unrealistic standards.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You are in a very social mood right now, so why not hit that new restaurant in town with a few of your food-loving friends? Good food and a nice atmosphere will create the perfect environment for enjoyable communication and will set the scene for you and your people to relax. It's time to catch up on what's going on in everyone's lives, don't you think? You deserve to treat yourself and splurge a little.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

The eccentric energy that surrounds you today won't annoy you as much as it would on any other day. Instead, you'll be able to use it to spark your creativity and start a few social experiments. Some folks you've been wanting to get together are finally free at the same time, so do what you can to get them in the same room. After the introductions, step back. You don't want to push people into anything that they're not interested in.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

If a relationship isn't moving forward as quickly as you'd like, take a look at who's driving the action. Are you waiting for the other person to call you or make the first move? Do you expect them to say those three little words? It's time to take a more active role. Say what you feel. You have a right to say it! And this relationship may need to be shaken up a little bit. As long as you know how you feel, there's nothing wrong with sharing your feelings.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

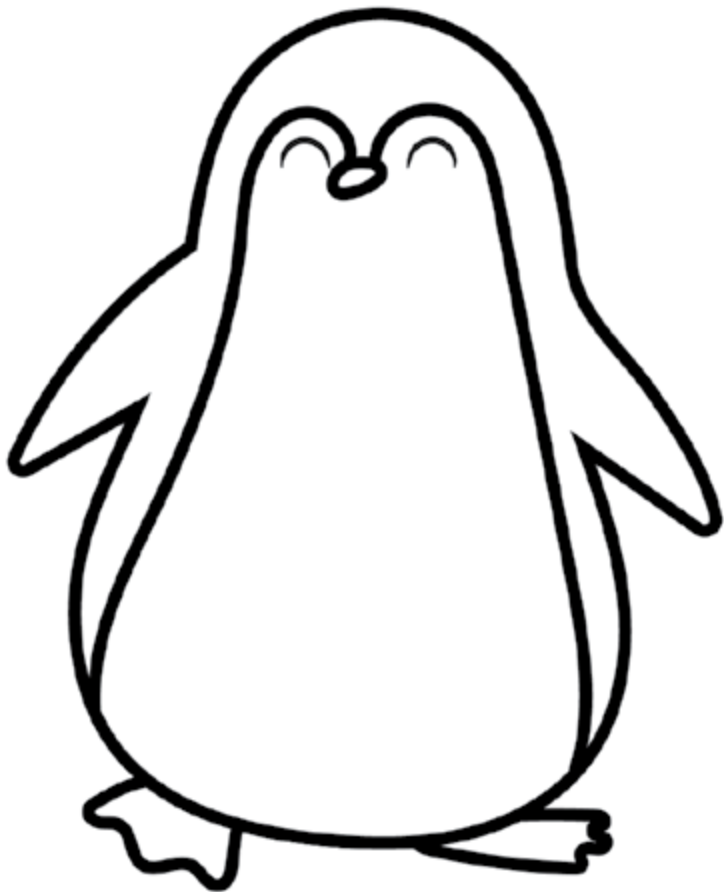
Try to be more open about your fears and worries. Sure, doing so might leave you feeling vulnerable, but it will definitely take a huge burden off your shoulders. You'll feel relief as soon as you start to talk. Share your emotions with others and find out what they would do if they were you. You don't have to seek the comfort of someone who knows you well. Sometimes, the less someone knows about you, the safer they can make you feel.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

If you listen carefully to the soft voices around you, you will hear things of great value. It's easy to get distracted by the loud voices, but it takes your style of patience to hear what many people don't take the time to listen to. They're losing out, but you will gain in the end. A strong current of compassion is in your life right now, and this side of your personality needs to be encouraged. You will catch details others miss.

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

H	F	A	O
G	R	U	C
A	I	H	S
D	E	F	A

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

SOLUTION

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

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

Arsenal ‘really looking forward’ to Liverpool clash, says Arteta

London, England - Arsenal go into the game with Premier League leaders Liverpool with plenty of injury doubts, but manager Mikel Arteta remains confident that his squad is good enough to recover ground in the standings.

Bukayo Saka, Riccardo Calafiori and Jurrien Timber are all injury worries ahead of Sunday's home game, while midfielder Martin Odegaard is still unavailable.

Defender William Saliba is suspended after his red card in last weekend's loss at Bournemouth, Arsenal's first defeat this season, to add to the manager's problems, but Arteta remains upbeat despite the difficulties.

"Obviously we didn't want to be in that situation, but we are really lucky to have the players that we have, to have the squad that we have, to have the attitude that we have," Arteta told reporters on Friday.

"When it comes down to reacting to a difficult situation, we don't feel sorry for ourselves, we face it.

"We are a team that knows how good we are and how difficult we can be for



Mikel Arteta

opponents.

"We have had very difficult and challenging moments but I don't think this is one of them. We are so energised, the atmosphere will be tremendous and we are really looking forward to the game."

Saka has not played since picking up an injury while on England duty earlier this month, while Calafiori went off injured during Tuesday's 1-0 Champions League win over Shakhtar Donetsk and Timber has missed Arsenal's last three games.

"We're going to do our very best to somehow have them available. It's very, very uncertain," Arteta said.

"He (Calafiori) needs some more tests. Yesterday he had some, today he's going to have some more. Last time we thought it was really bad and then he ended up playing two days later.

"He's (Saka) done a bit of training on the grass. How far we can get him before Sunday is another question. We will see.

"It was the first session that he (Timber) could have some involvement. He's been out a while. We thought he would be further ahead."

MAN CITY ON TOP

Haaland on target to help Guardiola's side secure win against Southampton

Manchester, England - Manchester City's Erling Haaland scored an early goal to take the champions provisionally top of the Premier League with a 1-0 victory over lowly Southampton at Etihad Stadium on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola's team have 23 points after nine games, two ahead of Liverpool, who visit Arsenal on Sunday. Southampton are still without a win in their first season back in the top flight after a season away and sit bottom on one point.

While Haaland scored a stunner in Wednesday's 5-0 Champions League thrashing of Sparta Prague, he had gone three Premier League games without a goal but ended that drought in the fifth minute on Saturday.

Wrestling with defender Jan Bednarek, the 24-year-old Norwegian, a master of scoring from difficult angles, stabbed the ball into the roof of the net with a toe while falling onto his backside.

Southampton had a terrific chance to level right before the break when Cameron Archer was one-on-one with keeper Ederson - and Saints boss Russell Martin already had his hands raised in celebration - but the forward smashed his shot against the bar.

Haaland, whose 11 goals top the league scoring chart, had a flurry of near-misses in the second half, including a sitter from close range that he poked just wide and then buried his head in his hands in disbelief.

The afternoon was a tale of



Manchester City's Erling Haaland celebrates his goal against Southampton

We had our chances to score three or four goals to make it, but (Southampton) deserve a lot of credit for what they did here today

BERNARDO SILVA

teams heading in opposite directions, with City stretching their unbeaten streak in the Premier League to 32 games.

They have not lost a league game at the Etihad since a defeat by Brentford in November 2022.

Southampton have not won at City since 2004.

The win for Guardiola's side was not particularly pretty.

"We're used to that when teams defend deep against us which makes it more difficult, we have to be patient," City midfielder Bernardo Silva said.

"We had our chances to score three or four goals to make it, but (Southampton) deserve a lot of credit for what they did here today."

City hammered the visitors with 22 shots to Saints' five.

Bournemouth hold Aston Villa

High-flying Aston Villa were held 1-1 by Bournemouth in the Premier League on Saturday as a last-gasp glancing header from Evanilson cancelled out Ross Barkley's goal. Though devastated to throw it away at the death, Unai Emery's team nevertheless moved to third in the league with 18 points.

Wood scores double as high-flying Forest beat Leicester

Leicester, England - Chris Wood scored a brace as Nottingham Forest moved up to fifth in the Premier League with a 3-1 victory over hosts Leicester City in the East Midlands derby on Friday, underlining their excellent start to the season.

Ryan Yates put Forest in front with a rare goal before Jamie Vardy equalised for the home side. The visitors were much the better side in the second half and Woods' double took them to a comfortable victory.

Leicester goalkeeper Mads Hermansen made a stunning save from point-black range to deny Nicolas Dominguez, Forest winger Callum Hudson-Odoi struck the post and Yates missed a sitter as the visitors should have won by a greater margin.

Forest move to 16 points from nine matches and into the top five, though they have played a game more than the teams around them. Leicester stay in 14th place with nine points from as many fixtures as they continue to leak goals.

"It's a very nice start for myself and the team. I'm not someone who will put one in the top cor-



Nottingham Forest's Chris Wood celebrates after scoring against Leicester City on Friday

Manager Espirito Santo seeks Forest's continued progress

Leicester, England - Nottingham Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo is not looking at the Premier League table but thinking only of the next game following his side's comprehensive 3-1 East Midlands derby win over Leicester City at the King Power Stadium on Friday.

The victory takes Forest up to fifth in the league, but that matters little to the manager,

n, I rely on the service from my teammates and it's been great," Wood told Sky Sports.

"We must keep doing what we are doing all through the season, keep building and getting better."

Forest led on 16 minutes when Leicester twice failed to adequately clear from a corner and Yates drilled the ball into net from 25-yards, the second Premier League goal of his career.

First Facundo Buonanotte



Nuno Espirito Santo

who expects further improvement from side in the coming

months to fully realise what he believes is their true potential.

"We played a good game, very stable, confident and solid. Our organisation was good, I am delighted," he told Sky Sports.

"It is not about the table, what is more important is to see our fans celebrate like they did today. What is important is how we do things, how we continue to progress."



Eddie Howe (L) with Anthony Gordon

Gordon's new Newcastle contract cuts out 'needless noise around his future'

London, England - England winger Anthony Gordon putting pen to paper on a new long-term deal at Newcastle United will allow him to put any transfer speculation behind him and renew focus on the job, manager Eddie Howe said on Friday.

Having grabbed 12 goals and 11 assists last season, Gordon has started this campaign slowly with just two goals as Newcastle sit ninth in the standings. The club announced his contract extension on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old had been linked with a move to Liverpool in the close season while he barely played for England at the Euros - factors which Howe said caused a lot of distractions when pre-season preparations got underway.

"(The new contract) cuts out a lot of needless noise around his future. I think now that he can really focus on this season and performing at his very best level," Howe told reporters ahead of Sunday's Premier League trip to Chelsea.

"He's such a talent. We need him absolutely firing and I think this will help him, no doubt, get back to his very best... It was a difficult summer for him, there's no doubt about that."

Injured Liverpool forward out of Arsenal match

Liverpool, England - Liverpool manager Arne Slot will be without Diogo Jota on Sunday when his team look to maintain their lead at the top of the Premier League standings away at Arsenal in what should be the Dutchman's toughest test yet in England.

Portuguese forward Jota had started all but one of Liverpool's league games this season, scoring four goals across all competitions, but was forced off the pitch with an abdominal issue early in their 2-1 win over Chelsea last

I think we all know that Arsenal will be one of them (our biggest competitors), and dropping points against them or winning points against them, is always important

ARNE SLOT

weekend. "Jota definitely no (for Sunday)," Slot said on Friday.

Liverpool have a one-point lead over champions Manchester City with 21 points after eight matches. Arsenal are third with 17, dropping points in a 2-0 loss

to Bournemouth last weekend.

A victory against the Gunners on Sunday would give Slot's team seven points of breathing room over Mikel Arteta's side.

"We all know that taking points from your competitor -

and nobody knows in this early stage who is going to be your biggest competitor - but I think we all know that Arsenal will be one of them, and then dropping points against them or winning points against them, that is always important," Slot said.

The last three clashes between the two teams have produced two draws and an Arsenal victory. "If you make it simple, if you use mathematics, if Liverpool could have won all of them, I think the league table would have been a bit different," Slot said.



Diogo Jota

VINI HAVING A BALL

Real Madrid's Brazilian star favourite to win his first Ballon d'Or

Madrid, Spain - Vinicius Junior's remarkable performances at Real Madrid have put the 24-year-old forward as the odds-on favourite to claim his first Ballon d'Or when the award for the best player in the world is announced in Paris on Monday.

Vinicius scored 24 goals and provided 11 assists in 39 appearances that were key to help the Spanish powerhouse to a near-perfect 2023-24 campaign in which they reclaimed the LaLiga title and grabbed a record-extending 15th European Cup. The Brazilian scored in the Champions League final and was named as the competition's best player.

Bookmakers backed Vinicius to win the award ahead of Spain and Manchester City midfielder Rodri and Englishman Jude Bellingham. He is aiming to become the first Brazilian since Kaka in 2007 to win the award and just the third person not named Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to claim it since 2008.

This will be the first time since 2003 in which neither Messi nor Ronaldo made the final 30-man list of nominees.

Portugal's Ronaldo, who has won the award five times, also



Vinicius Junior is looking to become the first Brazilian since Kaka in 2007 to win Ballon d'Or

Vinicius scored 24 goals and provided 11 assists in 39 appearances to help the Real to a near-perfect 2023-24 campaign in which they won the LaLiga title and grabbed a record-extending 15th European Cup.

failed to receive a nomination last year after moving to Saudi Arabia. Messi, who won for a record eighth time in 2023, missed out despite Argentina's Copa America triumph. Previous winners Luka Modric (2018) and Karim Benzema (2022) are also not in France Football's shortlist.

Vinicius' closest challenger appears to be Rodri, the player Pep Guardiola said is "the best midfielder in the world".

Rodri was instrumental in helping City win their fourth consecutive Premier League trophy and was named the best player at



Vincent Kompany

Kompany 'do not want to lose sight' of what Bayern can achieve

Berlin, Germany - Bayern Munich will learn from their 4-1 Champions League defeat to Barcelona but the German team's belief in a successful season is intact, coach Vincent Kompany said on Saturday ahead of Sunday's league game against VfL Bochum.

"There are games where it is clear what happened. But that was a game with a lot of moments and not everything went wrong," Kompany, in his first season in charge, told a press conference.

"There were also good moments which we did not use or were not too concentrated."

Kompany said his team could have been more effective in the first half and refused to blame his defence for the four goals.

"We have the quality and players. I understand we lost and we have to accept the criticism. But I do not want to lose sight of what the boys can achieve if they take the next steps."



Abdelaziz Barrada

Former Marseille, Morocco player Barrada, 35, passes away

Marseille, France - Former Olympique de Marseille midfielder Abdelaziz Barrada has died at the age of 35, the club said on Thursday, with the Moroccan federation (FRMF) describing his death as a "great tragedy".

No official cause of death has been announced for the France-born player who earned 26 caps for Morocco and was part of the side that reached the U-23 Africa Cup of Nations final in 2011.

LFP rule in favour of Mbappe in wage dispute with PSG

Paris, France - Paris St Germain will take their wage dispute with Kylian Mbappe to court after the French football league's governing body (LFP) ruled in favour of the France captain on Friday.

French media reported the 25-year-old, who has not commented on the dispute, is seeking around 55 million euros (\$59.52 million) in salary and bonuses he says he is owed by the club.

The Ligue 1 champions, however, say Mbappe's contract was "legally amended" and that he reneged on commitments when he left the club to join Spanish giants Real Madrid in the close season.

PSG said last month Mbappe had refused an offer from the LFP to mediate on the issue. The LFP's National Joint Appeals Commission heard the parties on Oct. 15 and announced on Friday it had



Kylian Mbappe during his Paris St Germain days

ruled in favour of Mbappe.

"The club must pay him the salary he is claiming. This decision is not subject to appeal, but may be referred to the FFF (French Football Federation) Executive Committee," the LFP said.

However, PSG said they would be "forced to bring the case before the competent courts" while still trying to find an "amicable solution" with Mbappe.

"What is in debate, and will ultimately be heard before an appropriate tribunal, is that the original contract was legally amended in August 2023 relating to the 2024-25 season, and also fully recognised by the player including in January 2024 - until the player then decided to renege all his commitments upon leaving the club," a PSG spokesperson said.

Tchaouna racially abused at Twente

Enschede, Netherlands - Lazio winger Loum Tchaouna was substituted after being racially abused by fans during Thursday's 2-0 win at Dutch club Twente in the Europa League, the Italian club's coach Marco Baroni said.

Frenchman Tchaouna, who is Black, was clearly incensed before being taken off in the 89th

minute and imitated someone making monkey noises when explaining to the bench what had upset him.

Baroni said he was preparing to substitute Pedro but decided to take off Tchaouna after being unable to calm the 21-year-old, who joined Lazio from Salernitana in July.

"The howling at Tchaouna? Unfortunately I confirm that the player perceived this," Baroni



Loum Tchaouna

from Reuters about the abuse of Tchaouna sent outside normal business hours.

Lazio are one of a string of clubs sanctioned by UEFA for the racist behaviour of their supporters in European competition this season.

The Serie A club were fined 45,000 euros (\$49,230) and will be forced to close two sections of their stadium for their next Europa League home game.

Zheng to meet Kenin in Tokyo title clash

Tokyo, Japan - Zheng Qinwen saw off a spirited challenge from Diana Shnaider to secure a hard-fought 7-6(5) 6-3 win in their Pan Pacific Open semi-final on Saturday and set up a title clash against American Sofia Kenin.

Zheng sealed a spot in the final in Tokyo for a second time in her career, where she will be looking to make amends for her 2022 defeat to Liudmila Samsonova.

The Olympic champion wasted little time in the semi-final, breaking twice in quick succession to race into a 4-0 lead and put Shnaider on the backfoot, but a drop in Zheng's level gave

the Russian an opportunity to claw her way back into the contest.

Shnaider won three straight games to leave the opening set at 4-3, before defending three set points to hold under pressure for 5-4 and then saving another to break Zheng's serve for a second time and level at 5-5.

Zheng recovered to force a tiebreaker, where the 22-year-old won three consecutive points to take the opening set.

Early in the second set, Zheng's first-serve percentage plummeted and Shnaider broke for 2-1, but the top seed broke right back and again for a 4-2



Zheng Qinwen

lead which she would not relinquish.

"It was not an easy match. Especially because I was way forward with a lot of set points, and then the end of the set, in the tiebreaker, it was not easy," Zheng said.

"I'm just happy I'm always there (in the match). It doesn't matter what happens today on court. I'm happy to be back in the

final again because I was here two years ago."

Earlier, 2020 Australian Open champion Kenin eased past British number one Katie Boulter 6-4 6-4 in just under 90 minutes to reach her first singles final since San Diego last year.

Kenin, 25, also finished runner-up at the French Open in 2020 and reached a career-high number four that season, before injuries, illness and off-court issues saw her drop down the rankings.

"I think she's a really good player and she has a good ground stroke and she has some great drop shots," Zheng said of Kenin.

ENTER SANTNER

Spinner takes 13 wickets as New Zealand win second Test to hand India rare series defeat

Pune, India - India collapsed to a humiliating series defeat at home, their first for 12 years, when they were bowled out for 245 by New Zealand in their chase of 359 on the third day of the second Test on Saturday as Mitchell Santner took six wickets.

Man of the match Santner ended with 6-104 for a match haul of 13 to set up New Zealand's 2-0 series win, their maiden series victory in India.

Senior spin partner Ajaz Patel claimed the last two wickets, including Ravindra Jadeja for 42, to seal the 113-run win.

It was a stunning defeat for India, who were dismantled by eight wickets in seamer-friendly conditions in the opening match at Bengaluru, as they suffered their first series loss on home soil since falling to England in 2012.

Their proud run of 18 successive home series wins since that 2-1 humbling was snapped by the inspired Black Caps, who were by far the better side in both matches and will target a clean sweep in the finale at Mumbai from Friday.

"It's a really special feeling. Very proud to be in this posi-



New Zealand's Mitchell Santner celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Indian captain Rohit Sharma

New Zealand played better than us. We failed to capitalise on certain moments in the game, we failed to respond to those challenges and we sit here with this result.

ROHIT SHARMA

tion," said new permanent skipper Tom Latham, who took over from Tim Southee after a 2-0 defeat in Sri Lanka.

"It's not just me but a team effort. This game was a clear example of everyone pitching in when they needed to and everyone standing up at different times. I'm stoked for the guys.

"It's really special. When you come here, you always want to

soil turner at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium where spinners wreaked havoc.

They made a blazing start as Yashasvi Jaiswal smacked some spectacular boundaries, but his dismissal for 77 by Santner and Rishabh Pant's shocking run out for a duck after lunch left India in deep trouble at 127-4.

Santner, who had earlier removed Rohit Sharma for eight and Shubman Gill for 23, continued to torment India as the left-arm spinner trapped trump card Virat Kohli lbw for 17 and set the alarms bells ringing in the home changing room.

Sarfraz Khan was unable to recreate his batting heroics from the opening match, per-

ishing for nine after missing a low delivery from Santner to hand the bowler back-to-back five-wicket hauls.

The shoulders really dropped when Washington Sundar fell for 21 to Glenn Phillips late in the afternoon session, and Santner had Ravichandran Ashwin caught for a solid 18 as India were staring down the barrel at 206-8.

"It's disappointing," Rohit said. "It's not what we expected but you've got to give credit to New Zealand. They played better than us. We failed to capitalise on certain moments in the game, we failed to respond to those challenges and we sit here with this result."



Pakistan players celebrate with the trophy after winning the three-match Test series on Saturday

Pakistan dismantle England to win series

Rawalpindi, Pakistan - Spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan combined to destroy England and bowl Pakistan to a comprehensive nine-wicket victory in the deciding third Test and secure a memorable 2-1 series victory on Saturday.

Pakistan had been on the ascendancy since claiming a handy first-innings lead of 77 on a track where spinners from both sides dominated.

Noman (6-42) and Sajid (4-69) bundled out England for a paltry 112 in their second innings to leave Pakistan needing only 36 to win the series.

Pakistan lost the wicket of Saim Ayub before wrapping up victory in the extended morning session on day three of the contest.

Home captain Shan Masood hit Jack Leach for four fours in a row before smacking a six in the first ball of the next over from Shoaib Bashir to seal their victory.

"Like London buses they come together," Shan said referring to their back-to-back wins in the series.

"The first win came after a long time and it was backed up by

a series win. It's special."

"To be here and standing as the winning team, it's the most special thing for us... So many characters in this series and everyone has chipped in."

Noman and Sajid claimed 19 of the 20 England wickets while Pakistan did not use their lone seamer Aamer Jamal in the match, in a stark indication of how spin-friendly the surface was.

Sajid, who finished with a 10-wicket match haul, was adjudged player of the series.

He and Noman claimed 39 of the 40 English wickets in the last two tests since their selection after the series opener.

Resuming on 24-3, England lost wickets at regular intervals with Noman and Sajid running through their batting line.

Only Joe Root (33) looked comfortable against Pakistan's rampaging spinners and once he fell to Noman, Pakistan's victory was just a matter of time.

England captain Ben Stokes' dismissal, offering no shot to an incoming Noman delivery that trapped him lbw, summed up their approach in the match.

Shami and Kuldeep out of India's squad for Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Mumbai, India - Seamer Mohammed Shami will not play in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against Australia while spinner Kuldeep Yadav has been sidelined with a groin injury as the country's cricket board (BCCI) announced an 18-member squad on Friday.

Shami, who has not played for India since the 2023 one-day World Cup due to an ankle injury, hasn't been named in the Rohit Sharma-led squad for the five-match Test series starting from Nov. 22 in Perth.

India have opted for Akash Deep as a third seamer behind Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj while spinner Kuldeep will miss the Test series due to a chronic left groin issue.

"Kuldeep Yadav... has been referred to the BCCI Centre of Excellence after the end of the ongoing Test series against New Zealand for long-term resolution of his chronic left groin issue," the BCCI said in a statement.

India also announced the Twenty20 international squad for their four-match T20 series against South Africa, starting from Nov.8 in Durban.

All-rounder Ramandeep Singh, pace bowler Vijaykumar Vyshak, and left-arm seamer Yash Dayal have received their



Mohammed Shami

Khan, Dhruv Jurel (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar

India's squad for T20Is against South Africa:

Suryakumar Yadav (c), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal.

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Contact: +968-92383882, Email: khanimteyaz1979@gmail.com

BIRTHDAY WISHES

PRAHAR

Happy Birthday Dear Prahar!!!
Wishing you the best on your birthday dear son. Keep growing and be happy always.
With love Tapanpappa, Bhumimom, Netra, Kaushalbabai, Sanatdada, Sarlaba, Vishalmasha, Yashumashi, Garvitbabo, Anandmama, Juhimami and Durvabeno

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BIRTHDAY WISHES

MANVITH VASANTH

Wish you many many happy return of this day. May God shower His richest blessing on you. With lots of love from Dad, Mom, Grand Mother and Grand Father, uncles Ravi, Vishu and families



Tamara de Lempicka's *Young Woman in Green*, painted between 1927 and 1930



Ringlets, breezy fabrics, red lips and shadowy architectural backgrounds all make up Lempicka's visual lexicon

BARONESS *with a Brush*

Curators are unravelling the mysteries of the late Polish art icon Tamara de Lempicka

With her portraits of red-lipped women painted like sculptures in resplendent jewel tones, the Polish painter Tamara de Lempicka has posthumously become an Art Deco icon.

Her figures are sumptuous and moody, seemingly longing for something more as they pose in front of crowded skylines or behind the wheel of a car, scarves and draped gowns billowing in the wind.

Though Lempicka never found sustained critical success during her lifetime (she died in 1980), she's collected today by superstars including Barbra Streisand and Madonna — the latter who displayed some of Lempicka's paintings onstage during her 'Celebration' tour last year.

Lempicka's market has soared, with a painting of cabaret singer Marjorie Ferry setting her auction record at £16.3mn (US\$21.3mn) in 2020. A century after the height of her career, Lempicka's life and work are fascinating the art world more than ever.

Lempicka has never received a major museum retrospective in the US - until now. A new show at the de Young, a part of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, will showcase more than 150 works.

"She captured optimism as Europe was rebuilding itself after the First World War," explained curator Furio Rinaldi - who organised the show with art historian and Lempicka biographer Gioia Mori - in a video call with CNN.

"There was an electrifying sense of hope (for) a future and world

where women had a new role; they entered the workforce in a massive way," he said. "The fashion changed because they needed garments that allowed much more movement and freedom of expression and Lempicka really captured the essence of this new woman - liberated, sexually free, financially independent."

Gifted painter

But Lempicka is often not given her due, Rinaldi explained, with her impact simplified. "She's been perceived - mostly by art historians - as a phenomenon of the Art Deco period, of the world of decoration and fashion," he said. "But actually she was much more than that. She's an incredibly gifted and outstanding painter, possibly one of the best of her generation."

Lempicka was born at the end of the 19th century to a wealthy Polish family, though her exact place of birth is still unknown. She later settled in St Petersburg, but was forced to flee the Russian Revolution and made her way to Paris in 1919.

There, Lempicka blended a number of styles to make her own. Over her career, she took notes from the Russian avant-garde, the flat planes of cubism, the elegance of fashion illustration and advertising, and the composition and form of the Italian Renaissance and French Neoclassical painters.

But she was an outlier of major art movements and wasn't always taken seriously on account of her aristocratic background - she was bitingly nicknamed the 'Baroness with a Brush' in print in 1941.

Today, it's difficult to stage a large showing of Lempicka's work,



Preparatory drawings for this portrait of poet Ira Perrot show she was originally presented nude, but Lempicka eventually settled on a silky, fashionable white dress.

Rinaldi explained, since her paintings and drawings are mostly in private collections, rather than in museums, and can change hands repeatedly.

"That had a great impact on her critical appreciation, because she's not represented in museums and she's not really seen as part of the canon," he said.

An air of mystery

In 2021, the de Young acquired a drawing by Lempicka - a study of a young girl with ringlets and arched eyebrows she composed in 1937. It made the institution the first in the country to purchase one of her works, Rinaldi said. But three years on, the de Young's curators have organized a full show filled with

rarely and never-before-seen works.

They have also uncovered new information about the enigmatic artist, who often concealed or exaggerated details about her life and had a penchant for communicating through dramatic press releases.

Rinaldi pointed to her savvy sense of self-promotion. "She made great use of the media of the time," he said. "She lied about some things. She introduced her daughter as her younger sister — sometimes silly things, sometimes more serious things. But certainly it shows a woman who's fully in control of her life and her identity, who's crafting her own persona."

Some of Lempicka's exaggerations were meant to place her in key historical moments, such as her claim that she arrived in New York from Europe on the very day the stock market crashed in 1929, catapulting the country into the Great Depression (she had actually arrived several months earlier). But other misrepresentations were an armour of sorts, like her Polish Catholic identity, when evidence points to Moscow as her birthplace, and research has recently revealed her Jewish heritage.

"Her grandparents are buried in the Jewish cemetery in Warsaw, but her parents converted to Christianity and baptised their children," Streisand wrote. "It was safer not to be Jewish, and Lempicka clearly understood that. She painted her only daughter, Kizette, in her First Communion dress and made sure she was identified as Catholic."

New revelations

In the show 'Tamara de Lempicka', the curators reveal her birth name



Lempicka's *Sainte Thérèse d'Avila* is a painted rendition of the Italian sculptor Bernini's 17th-century altarpiece *Ecstasy of Saint Teresa*.

for the first time - Tamara Rosa Hurwitz. They also confirm her birth year as 1894, four to eleven years earlier than Lempicka claimed when she was alive. And there's new works on display for the very first time, including the 1928 painting 'Spring', of two women, one appearing to whisper to the other as she cradles small white blooms.

The exhibition spans from early Russian folkloric-influenced compositions in the 1920s to the sultry nudes and modern, aristocratic portraits that became her calling card, to the quieter tabletop scenes she began painting during World War II. It includes the first painting that caught Streisand's eye from a book cover the singer spotted in 1979 - a self-portrait of Lempicka, her gaze fixed on the viewer, driving a green Bugatti.

Lempicka received her first solo show in 1930 in Paris, and exhibited regularly around the city in the early years of her career. But that decade and the following, her style was 'not aligned' with Surrealism or Abstract Expressionism, which prevailed as the dominant art movements, Rinaldi noted.

"As maybe a defensive reaction, she really goes back to an extreme appreciation for the Old Masters, and she starts producing these religious scenes or very humble, simple still lives," he observed.

(Courtesy: cnn.com)

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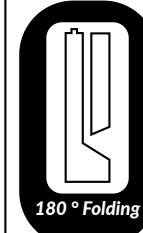
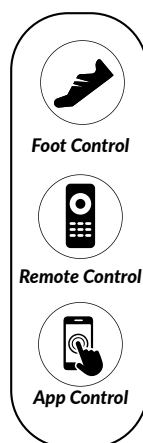
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