WEAVING A BETTER FUTURE

HUNDREDS OF OMÁNI WOMEN ARE ACQUIRING NEW SKILLS ASPIRING TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT

KAREEM YOUSIF

Weaver's looms are on the path of a new awakening, as the country is celebrating the 46th National Day.

A clarion call to elevate their innate skills, an urge to show their potential, an initiative to recognize their abilities in making headway and around the Sultanate Governance.

These women, who know not that they could cause a change in their lives and trigger ripple effect to the society they live in, are now stitching clothes, doing embroidery and designing various clothes for Omanis and beyond, thanks to SV Pittie Sohar Textiles.

Chairman, SV Pittie Group, said Vinod Pittie, "...We are committed to building a nation of 4IR.

The Centre incorporates experiential learning through advanced textile machinery installed.

According to the report from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), the proportion of female employees increased from 31 percent of the total Omanis workforce in the public and private sectors in 2013 to above 35 percent in 2018.

Established as a 100 percent Export- Oriented Omani Textile Company, SV Pittie Sohar Textiles is a result of the government for creating a favourable and excellent business environment for investments and promotion of non-oil exports.

This company is exporting cotton yarn to countries such as China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and other countries and fetch in non-oil export revenue to the tune of $240 million every year.

The first of its kind in the region, several hundreds of Garments are working from dawn till dusk since December 2018 and in line of this has been committed to building capacity, providing training and employment for Omanis.

The commencement of large scale production at plant will be the beginning of a new industrial journey for the country, opening up a new sector in the country, and in placing Oman firmly and strategically in the global textile industry.

Billionaires’ wealth falls to $8.5trn

ZURICH: The world’s richest people became a little less rich off last year, according to a report by UBs and PwC, as geopolitical turmoil and volatile equity markets reduced the wealth of billionaires for the first time since 2015.

Billionaire’s wealth fell by $1.4 trillion globally to $8.5 trillion, the UBS/PwC Billionaire’s Report found, with a particularly sharp decline in Greater China, the second biggest home for billionaires after the United States — and the Asia-Pacific region more broadly.

Private banks including the world’s largest wealth manager UBS had little effect as U.S.- China trade tensions and global political uncertainties, as shown by the US equity market and a weaker local currency and as growth in the world’s second-largest economy slowed to its lowest level in nearly three decades in 2018, the report found knocking down the oligarchs’ list.

Despite the drop, China continues to produce a new billionaire every 25 days, UBS said in the report released on Friday.

Worldwide, the number of billionaires fell everywhere except in the Americas, where tech entrepreneurs continued to buoy the ranks of the United States’ super-rich.

“Billionaires’ wealth fell everywhere in 2019,” John Driscoll, head of wealth management in the Americas, said in a statement. “While the Asia-Pacific region continues to lead the world in terms of wealth increase, the United States is the only area to see growth in the number of billionaires.”

UBS and PwC said in their report that the world’s richest 500 individuals owned the equivalent of $5.3 trillion last year, 12 percent less than they did in 2018.

The report said the wealth of the 500 richest fell 12.8 percent to $8.5 trillion, based on UBS’s November 2018 valuation of the world’s biggest fortunes.

UBS also said it expects the trends to persist into 2020, estimating aggregate market values fell 15 percent in the first nine months of this year.

UBS and PwC, which first began tracking the world’s wealthiest people in 2014, said the number of billionaires has grown 380 percent in the past five years, from 1,050 to 4,417.

In this year, only China and the United States saw increases in the number of billionaires, the report said.

UBS’s chief economist, Daniel Kaltenschmidt, said the wealth gap between the world’s richest and the world’s poorest is narrowing.

The top 100 billionaires had 80.1 percent of the world’s total wealth, down from 84.5 percent in 2018, UBS said in the report.

The rise of China, which has 236 billionaires, more than any other nation, shows there are still opportunities for growth in emerging economies, the report said.
The better stories of the cancer monster continue, although some have been living with different types of it, colon cancer is still a danger. The disease is that nowadays it is spreading among young people in the thirty's.

Although it is still rare, when it affects about 4 per cent of adults over the course of their lives, colorectal cancer is becoming increasingly common in young people, even with a lower incidence rate among the elderly.

The first reports of rise in the number of younger patients appeared a decade ago, when the researchers attributed the rise in colorectal cancer among young people to several factors, including high rates of obesity, medications and lifestyle factors such as lack of physical activity, drinking alcohol and smoking.

Looking at various studies, colorectal cancer is more likely to develop in those with family history of colorectal cancer, such as siblings or parents who have the disease, as well as those who have had colorectal cancer diagnosed at a young age. In addition, obesity and smoking are other non-invasive tests that can help and detect specific types of cancer.

For that reason, many of Cancer Societies around the world believe it is an invasive procedure, it deters people from colorectal cancer, as well as processed and red meat.

Symptoms such as rectal bleeding at a young age could be caused by colorectal cancer, as well as processed and red meat. A day or two of such complaints patients includes constipation, bloody stool, bleeding, bloating, diarrhea, gas, cramps and pain. A lot of delays in diagnosis for cancer is preventable if cancer is detected early, or at least the survival rate increases dramatically.

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The hosting of the premium awards ceremony could be the best promotional programme for the Sultanate to advertise itself as the choicest tourist destination in the region.
An adventure like sleeping outdoors at the beach or casually talking to a friendly Oman is another favourite whenever Andrea is on a tour anywhere within this beautiful country.

**Problem:** Andrea says she could connect with them as she grew up in the mountains among nature and in a small village.

**Solution:** She grew up in the mountains in the beautiful canton of Wallis. But almost half of her life she has studied or traveled and worked abroad.

**Conclusion:** She followed her ambition and completed Tourism Studies in French with an MSc in English and has mostly been working in the field of tourism or language schools having traveled to over 50 countries.

**Reflection:** Whenever I use small tiles in the streets, I often recollect my own small village. In addition, Oman is as diverse and multicultural as are my own interests and I like to spend time with Omanis to share special moments and learn about them. Andrea first solo trip at 18 was a flight to Riga to visit a pen pal. Since then they have kept in touch. Long term relationships with all kinds of people are important to her.

"I never fail to meet with local people during my travel. It is not only the best way to discover non-touristic locations, but also to live like them as well as to understand their experiences in daily life together with finding out the truths behind all coloured pictures and traditions. Every country has far more to show than its best places," she remarks.

She lived for more than a month in Nepal and India and undertook yoga and meditation teaching certificate courses.

Oman, Andrea confesses stole her heart away, and had to come back to visit again.

"I took this decision while in the desert, with a friend and a tour guide, having five minutes of peace, gazing at the stars."

**Where there’s a will, there’s a way!**

A recent study published by the New York Times shows that cats are more social animals than we think. While dogs are known to be social creatures, cats are seen as aloof. Their relationship with their owners is thought to be more of a food dependency.

The study measured bonds formed between cats and their owners in an experiment usually used on dogs and primates. Surprisingly, 65 per cent of the cats showed an attachment similar to that of dogs and human children.

The study also showed that cats recognize their name and are sensitive to human emotions. Andrea, as her cat owners is old news.

When it comes to name recognition, my old fat cat Mansoor responds to different names given to him by different individuals at home. And so do the outdoor cats, who recognize their names and respond specifically to it.

As for attachment, few cats go beyond that and develop a funny obsession with the owner like that of my two stray cats Dina and Naeemo. Both are outdoor cats who decided to become indoor ones, just because they liked the tour guide.

Dina was a few weeks old kitten when he started following me everywhere, jumping on my lap or on the ground to give every focal to the rest. Whenever the door opened, Dina would run inside looking for me and meowing in an amusing manner that sounded like “Mummaaa.”

At home we thought it was funny while myincting country found it spooky, why would a cat call me Mummy? As he became older his obsession intensified.

While having workers painting my house, Dina used to climb the scaffolding to the balcony of my room to get an eye view. He became so obsessed finally paid off, when he fell one day and broke his leg. We had to keep him indoors for six weeks and by that time even I was tired of fetching him out. We gave in and now Dina is always found lying on my bed, kicking the rest of the cats out of “his room.”

Naeemo is a true love of Andrea. She fought hard and had an extra track up her sleeves. To top her rivals in the balcony and send them flying off like a good-old-ship driving instructor. Thanks to her nine lives, the cats survived her surprise manoeuvres — suffering from shock only. Naeemo still fortunes and remains my brother’s room from every cat’s eyes dislike the floor. When there is a window there is a way.

Dina is a certifiable small minion and the author of The World According to Yuki. radhakrishnak@yahoo.com
Each and every security officer is committed to preventing minor skirmishes or large-scale riots after the court delivers its verdict

Senior Home Ministry Official

In the higher reaches of Shopian and Baramulla, J&K, there has been a series of border clashes. The border is a sensitive area where tension remains high. The security agencies are on high alert, and they are deployed to prevent any untoward incident.

Delhi:

Delhi, the national capital, has been on high alert due to the impending Supreme Court verdict on the Ayodhya dispute. The court is scheduled to deliver its verdict on November 9, and the city is on edge as the entire country is waiting for the outcome.

Scope:

The Supreme Court’s verdict is expected to have far-reaching implications for the future of India and the world. The verdict will determine the ownership of the disputed land, and it will impact the relationship between the two communities.

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Bloomberg considers run for president

HEIN KONG: Thousands of Hong Kong residents held vigils on Friday night for a student who died during recent protests, as media mogul and philanthropist Michael Bloomberg fueled speculation he might run for president.

The vigils were held after the student, identified locally as Chow Tsz-lok, died early on Friday. The Hong Kong government said he had died of natural causes after falling from a rooftop. But Chow’s family said he had been beaten by police.

Bloomberg, the billionaire media mogul and philanthropist who served three terms as mayor of New York City, is considering a run for the 2020 US Democratic presidential nomination, a move that could disrupt the field just three months before the first nominating contest.

The move is being scrutinized for its potential to erode support for candidates such as Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who is in second place in the early polling, and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who is in third place.

“People are looking for a signal that nothing of the kind happened,” said Warren, who has emphasized a commitment to ending mass incarceration and police violence.

The student’s death has raised questions about police tactics in recent protests that have turned violent and seen officers use tear gas, rubber bullets and batons.

“He says he’s supporting protests and that we should keep going but he hasn’t helped. The speech wasn’t a difference either way,” said one woman protesting in Hong Kong, who was killed in recent clashes.

“All we need is truth, only truth,” Osamu Sato, a 23-year-old student, told a vigil in Kowloon, a central district of Hong Kong.

“His mother of a student. They took his body,” she said, giving her name as Utsumi Atsuko, for mother of the student.

The demonstrators, mostly unarmed youths, demand measures for the demands of the political system and a concept of rule that has dominated state institutions since the UK-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

“The violent response from authorities is nothing public anger. Snaps from military that have participated in the crackdowns were deployed last month, Reuters reported.

“Live is still being used and even tear gas canisters, fired directly at protesters’ heads instead of being lobbed into crowds, have killed at least 12 people, according to Hong Kong-based Human Rights Watch said on Friday.

Doctors at hospital have shown patients scenes of tear gas canisters embedded in the shirts of dead protesters.

Santini warned against the exploitation of the sense by “internal and external forces” which he said sought to destabilize Iran for their own goals. He did not elaborate.

He said these in power must come up with a meaningful response to the demonstrations.

The US government has accused Iran of encouraging the protests, but the government has denied the claim.

“Unfortunately for the poor, promises to try corrupt officials and creation of more job opportunities for graduates have failed to placate protesters, whose demands include a new electoral system and the removal of all current political leaders,” said Santini.

Photo taken on Thursday shows a large bushfire burning 22,000 hectares in the Southern National Park near Lithgow, 100km west of Sydney —AFP

AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES: Australian bushfires wipe out half of koala colony

Thousands hold vigils as HK student’s death triggers outrage

“Thousands hold vigils as HK student’s death triggers outrage” — Reuters

BAGHDAD: Fresh clashes between Iraqi security forces and anti-government protesters broke out on Friday despite a call for calm by the country’s top Muslim cleric, as authorities struggle with the country’s biggest crisis in years.

Security forces fired tear gas and shot stun grenades to disperse protesters blocking central Baghdad and makeshift body armour on a main road in the city. Fresh protests came after sending demonstrators scattering, some wounded, reporters said.

More than 240 police and military personnel and paramilitary groups have died, according to the pro-government Al-Shammar committee, a group that monitors violence.

A police officer and founder of Bloomberg L.P., served as New York’s mayor from 2002 to 2013 and has been a leading advocate and philanthropist on the issues of climate change and gun violence. “If Mike runs, he would be a new choice to Democrats built on unique record running America’s biggest city, building a business from scratch and taking on some of America’s toughest challenges as a high impact philanthropist,” William said — Reuters

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**Lebanese women denounce a double burden**

Lebanese students were the national flag and chant slogans as they gather outside the Ministry of Education and Higher Education during ongoing anti-government protests, in the capital Beirut on Friday. 

"It's in the larger narrative that this has been a primary effort from the start of the beginning," the official said. 

"A speaker at the House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy did not immediately respond to a request for more information about the Republican focus on the whistleblower.

"The Republican issue with the whistleblower is that there seems to be an attempt to use the whistleblower as a political tool to try to distract from the actual request to investigate and to talk about the current matter at hand. It's an attempt to try to talk about a matter before it actually takes place," said Republican spokesperson Ron Bonjean.

President Trump is accused of trying to get Ukraine to link a military aid package to the impeachment inquiry that had long been considered a star witness of the whistleblower to be named. 

Democrats say they are still studying the whistleblower's account of the call in a review of the president's actions. 

"They're trying to use the impeachment hearings as a political tool to try to deflect attention away from the actual request and away from the Democratic-led proceedings," Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said. "They want to use their tribe and defend the president, because if they don't, then they need something to go on. This grossly strong Trump ventures something as if the current actual request to investigate the whistleblower would be to distract attention away from a functional and effective House investigation," Pelosi said in a statement.

"The lesson is also to help schoolchildren to comprehend the moral dilemma that any investor of ammunitions faces," the Education Ministry said.

"Every year a quarter of a million people die from a bullet or an AK-47, according to the ministry. "When people have been killed from a Kalashnikov assault rifle rather than from artillery fire, aircraft bombings or landmines, "the problem is a cultural issue," the ministry said.

"The lessons are also to help schoolchildren to comprehend the moral dilemma that any investor of ammunitions faces," the Education Ministry said.

"They are a part of a propaganda effort intended to stifle fear of an outside enemy to distract from increasing social and economic hardships within the country. "To preserve control over the population the Kremlin attempts to instill the Orwellian idea of the besieged fortress — Russia surrounded by enemies," said Snegovaya, an adjunct fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis.

"As a young Lebanese woman, I demand a secular system and for religious courts to be abolished," she said.

"The Russian government is considering banning that schools nationwide provide lessons on how to maintain an arsenal of the “life safety fundamentals” taught during the Cold War. 

"When people have been killed from a Kalashnikov assault rifle rather than from artillery fire, aircraft bombings or landmines, "the problem is a cultural issue," the ministry said. 

"These women have been at the forefront of Lebanon's mass street movement since October 17, demanding an overhaul of a political system seen as corrupt and inefficient. They have also threatened to escalate to a divorce from the nation's anti-system protests than any man. 

"I can't get my mother's nationality, which his country, invaded by Nazi German forces, suffered tens of thousands of deaths. 

"I don't have the right to vote in elections, which his country, invaded by Nazi German forces, suffered tens of thousands of deaths."

"I demand a secular system and for religious courts to be abolished," she said.

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"The Kremlin is considered a star witness of the whistleblower to be named."

"If I were a man and I had a weapon, I would be fighting for my country, against the enemy, " Kalashnikov is quoted as saying in a biography. "To preserve control over the population the Kremlin attempts to instill the Orwellian idea of the besieged fortress — Russia surrounded by enemies," said Snegovaya, an adjunct fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis.

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China’s October exports fall, but less than expected as trade war grinds on

Containers are stacked at the port in Qingdao, in China’s eastern Shandong province. — AFP

BEIJING: China’s exports and imports contracted less than expected in October, providing some relief for thefx as Beijing readies a partial trade deal with Washington.

But even if a US-China trade deal is agreed soon, economists say it is unlikely to help boost exports and manufacturing for some time yet and could still mean more turbulence for Beijing to avert a sharper downturn.

China’s October exports fell for the third straight month, down 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, content data showed on Friday, less than a 3.9 per cent fall forecast in a Reuters poll and September’s 5.2 per cent contraction.

“Even if the ‘phase one’ US-China trade deal crosses the finish line, it is unlikely to alleviate the near-historical facing exporters and outbound shipments look set to remain weak in the coming months,” said Martin Ramanathan, China economist at Capital Economics.

He attributed the rise in exports to a pick-up in US demand after both countries outlined an interim deal and Washington temporarily reduced a tariff hike so set for October 15.

“They were other bright spots in the data. Exports to the United States in October fell 1.5 per cent, less than 4.5 per cent in the previous month, according to Reuters calculation based on customs data. Betty Wang, senior China economist at ANZ, acknowledged such exports may have been boosted in Chinese firms rushed out hi-tech shipments after the US government put some of the country’s tech firms on a trade blacklist.

“A partial deal is reached this month, it is widely expected to include a US pledge to stop tariff hikes scheduled for December 15 on about $161 billion worth of Chinese imports, including oil products, laptop computers and toys. So, US President Donald Trump has only cancelled a scheduled October 15 tariff increase on $250 billion goods.

China’s imports shrank for the sixth consecutive month, though the 6.4 per cent drop was shallower than an expected 9 per cent and September’s 8.1 per cent decline.

That left China with a trade surplus of $42.6 billion in October, versus September’s $39.6 billion surplus. Analysts had forecast a $60.1 billion surplus.

Despite the modest drop in imports, domestic demand appeared to remain weak, with imports kept low to support Turkey.

The trade data line up with recent readings on shrinking factory activity and bank producer prices. The downward trend to lingering weakness in domestic demand and the limited impact of policy stimulus so far. Beijing and Washington have been locked in a trade feud for more than a year, but hopes have risen that an initial deal may be signed soon.

To an extent, China’s economy had shown resilience amid a less encouraging backdrop for the world economy, the trade ministry wrote.

The Chinese commerce ministry, without giving details, said the two countries had agreed to cut tariffs on each other’s goods as part of the phase one trade deal.

Euromoney article on growth.

Germany’s export-driven economy. — Reuters

BRUSSELS: The European Commission lowered its euro zone growth projections, warning that the 19-country currency area is facing a “protracted period of more subdued growth” due to external factors including US-China trade tensions.

The euro zone area is now expected to expand by 1.1 per cent this year — a downward revision of 0.1 percentage points — and by 1.2 per cent in 2020 — 0.2 points lower than previously projected, according to the European Union’s executive.

“So far, the European economy has shown resilience amid a less supportive external environment,” commented Valdis Dombrovskis, vice-President. “But it is clear that external risks continue to weigh on growth.”

Germany’s export-driven economy. — Reuters

Dombrovskis urged a step up in structural reforms, easing the rules for SMEs and lowering barriers for inward investment.

Fifty-euro notes are seen at the Belgian Central Bank in Brussels. — Reuters

Germany is expected to expand by 0.4 per cent this year and 1 per cent in 2020, below the euro zone average, presenting a drag on the bloc’s economy while smaller countries are expected to do a lot of the heavy lifting on growth.

German public finances are in good shape, with a budget surplus that is not so tight. “It starts getting a bit cold it might be necessary to turn up the heating,” EU Economy Commissioner Pierre Moscovici told reporters, while warning that this is not an invitation for other countries such as Italy — to tear up the EU’s budget rules.

Italy, which has the euro zone’s second highest debt ratio, is under close scrutiny as it seeks to return to the markets this year while walking a tight line on EU fiscal reforms. The commission is due to give its assessment of next year’s budget plans later this month.

According to Thursday’s data, Italy’s deficit is expected to slide from 2.2 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) this year to 2.7 per cent in 2021, with debt rising further to almost 124 per cent of GDP by the end of 2022. The country is expected to borrow €56 billion this year, €6 billion more than forecast, in a budget that would be the largest in Europe this year.

The European Union has warned that it would not accept a budget that increases public debt, while saying it would not put up any money, and that it could use its own resources, such as the Stability and Growth Pact, if needed.

Discussions with Rome about its 2020 budget cannot be completed with last year’s confrontations, when Italy’s popular government sought to avoid EU rule, Moscovici said, while adding that his message to the country is unchanged. — dpa

Japan Oct tax hike impact milder than expected

TOKYO: More than two-thirds of Japanese companies are finding less pain from a tax increase last month than from the previous increase five years ago, which precipitated a recession, a Reuters poll found.

The results of the Reuters Corporate Survey support the view of the government and Bank of Japan that the economy looks likely to avoid a recession in the first quarter of next year, consumption, thanks to steps taken to offset how the tax increase would affect the public. The surveys show the overwhelming majority of Japanese companies remain cautious about boosting spending, with many planning to keep wages and hiring flat or even cut them. The survey offers the first corporate gauge of the impact of increasing the national sales tax to 10 per cent from 8 per cent, a move Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said was critical to curbing Japan’s enormous public debt.

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Betty Wang, senior China economist at ANZ, acknowledged such exports may have been boosted in Chinese firms rushed out hi-tech shipments after the US government put some of the country’s tech firms on a trade blacklist.

“Those member states that have fiscal space will become the motor for growth,” said Aurelia Sarti, Italy’s economic commissioner for the euro zone. “We need to use the tools we have.”
Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China. saying, and is looking to hold a hearing into the move — as mandated the initial public offering, Bloomberg News cited unnamed sources as Kong authorities battle months of sometimes violent protests that have be the city's biggest listing for nine years.

Honda first-half net profit slumps 19 per cent

The comments from Guedes and other officials added to signs that Brazil was ready to turn the page on the oil laws that have put Petróleo at the center of offshore development for years, hurting competition and racking up for the firm.

Disney quarterly profits top Wall St estimates as streaming gains begin

Disney has become the biggest Hollywood player with the acquisition of studio and TV assets from Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox.

Promising oil prospects in Brazil's pre-salt area, where billions of barrels of oil are trapped under a layer of salt beneath the sea floor, are getting pricey even for oil majors with strong interest
Leonard’s late surge lifts Clippers

Leonard was certainly feeling well and he’s a thrill-a-minute. “Zlatan is such an interesting player,” said former Galaxy striker David Beckham, who is working at Majan Electricity and is undergoing his coaching at I-sports in Bengaluru under the watchful eyes of Krishna Kumar and Yashukumar.

Janani Anantha Kumar, Janani’s father said, “I was trying to hold it in, but I couldn’t. I was going to cry but I couldn’t hold it in.”

“When the pressure came, we didn’t break, we just kept pushing,” said Leonard, who was the focus of attention after setting the Clippers loss to ending Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks goal early in the third quarter. “I knew there was going to be a video but I didn’t know what to do. I was trying to hold it in, but I couldn’t,” Walker said of his reaction to the tribute video — and a standing ovation from Hornets fans. “I told myself I wasn’t going to cry but I couldn’t hold it in.”

“I know there was going to be a video but I didn’t know what to expect.”

Leonard’s night off against the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday did not appear to be paying dividends as he got off to a slow start against the Trail Blazers, scoring just seven points in the first half in which Los Williams’ 14 points helped the Blazers take a 47-40 lead into the interval.

But hours before tip-off on Thursday, the league fined the Clippers $221 million for controversy stemming from Leonard’s fitness.

In announcing the fine, the NBA said they still thought Leonard’s absence on Wednesday was confirmed to league rules, but officials were told that Blazers told reports that it was “just a health thing really.”

Leonard was certainly feeling well and he’s a thrill-a-minute.

LOS ANGELES: Zlatan Ibrahimovic is set to rejign Italian side AC Milan after his successful stint at LA Galaxy, Major League Soccer Commissioner Don Garber has said.

“Ibrahimovic was named in the MLS Best XI in 2016 and 2019 after netting 53 goals in the competition. The season with Galaxy ended after they suffered a 5-3 defeat by local rivals Los Angeles Football Club in the MLS Western Conference semi-final last month — Reuters

The lanky player is aiming to give his best in the forthcoming Asian Badminton Sub-Junior Championship.

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LOS ANGELES: Well-rested Kawhi Leonard scored 18 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Portland Trail Blazers 101-107 on Thursday in Angeles Clippers beat the Portland Trail Blazers 101-107 on Thursday in the NBA.

Portland Trail Blazers forward (33) shoots ahead of Los Angeles Clippers forward Maurice Harkless (12) and forward Jumper Jones (4) during the second half at Staples Center – USA Today Sports

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Australia crush Pakistan to clinch T20 series

PERTH, Australia: Batting’s opening pair Aaron Finch and David Warner hit out as Australia secured an emphatic 89-run win over Pakistan in the third Twenty20 International on Friday to clinch the series 2-0.

The Australian quicks worked together to reduce the visitors to a paltry 115/9 and then wobbled the visitors further with two quick wickets to finish the game off in a display of power-hitting from the home team.

Australia’s batting lineup was set off to a blistering start with 49 off three overs and then 112 off five overs by Finch and Aaron Finch, respectively.

They continued their stellar form with a partnership of 51 in four overs by David Warner and Glenn Maxwell, who registered his first Fifty in the series.

The visitors’ bowlers were unable to contain the home team’s batsmen, who continued to score at a rapid pace.

Australia’s victory set up a winner-takes-all finale in the fifth and final match in the series.

Scoreboard

Pakistan: 115/9 in 20 overs

Australia: 204/3 in 19.5 overs (Glenn Maxwell 36, David Warner 19)

England blast Pakistan to clinch T20 series

NAPIER, New Zealand: A ruthless partnership between Alex Hales and Dawid Malan helped England to an emphatic 182-run victory over Pakistan in the fourth Twenty20 International on Friday to clinch the series 3-1.

The visitors were bowled out for 83 as the home team chased down the target with ease.

Malan and Hales scored 95 and 76 respectively to help England in their march to victory.

Scoreboard

England: 182/1 in 19 overs

Pakistan: 83/8 in 20 overs

England captain Eoin Morgan hit a century and Dawid Malan also scored a fifty as England raced to the victory.

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Australia’s Malan and Morgan blazed Pakistan to an overwhelming win

Napier, New Zealand: A ruthless partnership between Alex Hales and Dawid Malan helped England to a comfortable victory over Pakistan in the fourth Twenty20 International on Friday to clinch the series 3-1.

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LONDON: Novak Djokovic can end his season with a flourish by equalling Roger Federer’s record haul of six titles at the ATP Finals and pipping Rafael Nadal to the year-end number one spot.

Germany’s Alexander Zverev shocked Djokovic in last year’s final at London’s O2 Arena but the Serbian will start as the firm favourite after cantering to victory at last week’s Paris Masters.

Djokovic and Nadal have shared the spoils at this year’s four Grand Slams, refusing to yield to the next generation. Nadal, who has never won the ATP Finals, dethroned his old rival from the top of the rankings this week and will be hoping to seal the year-end spot despite injury doubts ahead of the tournament, which starts on Sunday.

Federer, Nadal and Djokovic were the top three seeds when they first competed together at the tournament way back in 2007. Twelve years later little has changed at the top of men’s tennis, although they will be wary of the challenge from Russia’s Daniil Medvedev, who has won two Masters titles since August and pushed Nadal to five sets in the US Open final.

Austria’s Dominic Thiem, Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, Germany’s Zverev and Italian Matteo Berrettini make up the rest of the field of eight players.

Nadal is bidding to clinch the year-end number one spot in the ATP rankings for a fifth time — he is currently 640 points ahead of Djokovic — but comes into the tournament under a cloud.

The Spaniard said this week that he had had a scan in Mallorca after straining an abdominal muscle and would work on adapting his serve but he remained bullish about featuring at the ATP Finals after missing out last year with an injury.

The season-ending event in London, featuring the year’s best eight players, is contested in a round-robin format with the best four players and doubles teams reaching the knockout semi-finals stage.

— ATP
Inter, Napoli under pressure as Juventus take on ailing AC Milan

MILAN: Inter Milan and Napoli return to the Serie A fray after a disappointing week of European football for the Italian giants as leaders Juventus look to pull clear after punching their ticket to the Champions League last 16.

Inter have 20 points from 11 games, one point ahead of Inter Milan, with reigning Roma a further six points adrift in third.

Napoli are seventh after a run of three league games without a victory. A win over struggling AC Milan would allow Juventus to keep ahead of Inter, who host mid-table Verona after their 2-1 Champions League defeat by Borussia Dortmund.

After the frustrations of throwing away a two-goal lead against the Germans, Antonio Conte’s side were held to a draw against Verona, who scored through their former striker Mattia Destro in the last minute.

“Before this match we had a group of positive emotions,” Conte said after the match.

“Afterward, we had to answer questions from the technical staff to understand exactly what happened in the match.”

“We had a lot of chances to score in the second half but we could not take them. We have to improve our finishing and make better decisions.”

Despite the stalemate, Napoli managed to hold onto their lead at the top of the table and continue their remarkable start to the season. The team has won all six of their Serie A matches to date, amassing 18 points from a possible 18.

Zinedine Zidane’s Juventus continued their excellent form, secure a 3-0 win over Genoa, and further extend their lead at the top of the table. The victory means they now have 12 points from their opening four league games, with only Inter Milan and Napoli managing to win all of their league matches.

The match against Genoa was an easy win for Juventus, with three goals scored by different players. Ronaldo opened the scoring, followed by goals from Morata and Dybala.

Zidane’s team remain the team to beat in Serie A, as they have not lost a single match so far this season. Their impressive form is a testament to their quality and the team’s cohesive play.

On the other hand, Napoli’s recent form has been impressive, with back-to-back wins against Lazio and Sampdoria. However, they will have to remain vigilant against the challenges that lie ahead.

Inter Milan, meanwhile, have struggled in recent weeks, with just one win from their last four league games. The team’s performance will be crucial in their upcoming fixtures, as they look to bounce back from their recent losses.

Juventus, meanwhile, will have to continue their winning run if they want to maintain their position at the top of the table. A win against Inter Milan will not only extend their lead but also put pressure on their rivals to perform.

The match between Inter Milan and Napoli promises to be a thrilling contest, with both teams fighting for their top-four positions. The game will be a test of both teams’ determination and will be closely watched by football fans around the world.

Key stats:
- Inter Milan: 20 points from 11 games
- Napoli: 18 points from 6 games
- Juventus: 12 points from 4 games

Inter Milan vs. Napoli: 3:0 (Juventus vs. Inter Milan: 2-1)

The match is expected to be a high-scoring encounter, with both teams looking to prove their dominance in Serie A.

Follow us for more updates and analysis on the Serie A matches and other football news.