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Times OF OMAN

GOLDEN JUBILEE

50 YEARS OF LEGACY

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HH the Honourable Lady visits Al Dhahirah Governorate

IBRI: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, visited Al Dhahirah Governorate on Monday afternoon.

Her Highness the Honourable Lady visited Al Muhallab bin Abi Sufrah Hall in the governorate, where she reviewed a comprehensive exhibition of governmental, community, and student-led projects and initiatives in the fields of applied sciences, economics, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and innovation. The exhibition serves as a testament to the pivotal role of community engagement in driving sustainable development.

Vision

Her Highness received a briefing from Najeeb bin Ali Al Rowas, Governor of Al Dhahirah, on the governorate's strategic vision and completed projects. She also listened to presentations from several speakers detailing ongoing initiatives and future developmental opportunities.

Her Highness the Honourable Lady further observed a series of visual presentations that highlighted key developmental indicators and prospects for the governorate, including presentations by Al Dhahirah National Company, the Ibri Charity Team and Al Wafa Social Centre.

Audience

Her Highness graciously held an audience with a distinguished delegation of women's representatives from Al Dhahirah Governorate. The warm and cordial meeting reflected the deep affection and profound esteem in which her presence is held by the people of the governorate.

As part of the visit, Her Highness the Honourable Lady toured the historic Ibri Fort, acquainting herself with its most prominent architectural and historical landmarks. She also went on tour of a special exhibition featuring initiatives from various sectors, including products from productive families and women entrepreneurs.

The exhibition displayed a collection of archaeological artifacts excavated from the Bat archaeological site — a UNESCO World Heritage location — alongside traditional artisan crafts and cultural displays that portray the rich Bedouin and urban heritage of Al Dhahirah Governorate.

Heritage value

Her Highness commended the exceptional heritage value of the fort, emphasising the importance of its preservation and its continued role as a cultural and tourist destination that educates future generations on the history and ancient legacy of the Wilayat of Ibri.

Following the tour, Najeeb bin Ali Al Rowas, Governor of Al Dhahirah, presented Her Highness the Honourable Lady with a commemorative gift. In return, Her Highness graciously penned a commemorative note to mark the occasion of her visit.

Ongoing tour

This visit to Al Dhahirah Governorate forms part of Her Highness's ongoing tour of the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. It underscores her steadfast support for the empowerment of women and youth, reinforces the framework of sustainable developmental partnership and reflects her commitment to engaging with community-led projects and initiatives, all within the overarching context of the renewed renaissance ushered in under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. - ONA

Oman commemorates a century since the discovery of oil and gas **A4**

SULTANATE'S RATING UPGRADED TO 'BBB-' WITH STABLE OUTLOOK

The international rating agency said that the upgrade reflects the sustained improvement in Oman's public and external balance sheet

Times News Service

NEW YORK: Fitch Ratings has upgraded the Sultanate of Oman's credit rating in its report issued yesterday from "BB+" to the investment grade level of "BBB-" with a stable outlook.

This upgrade results from the continued improvement in the state's public finance indicators, external financial position, and Fitch's growing confidence in Oman's ability to continue adhering to prudent fiscal policies that enable it to deal with oil price volatility, maintain a moderate budget deficit, and stable public debt levels.

In its report, the Fitch indicated that Oman has successfully entrenched fiscal discipline, managing to significantly reduce the volume of public debt to approximately 36 percent of GDP in 2025, compared to around 68 percent in 2020.

Fitch expects the state's general budget deficit to remain at safe levels, close to one percent of GDP during 2026–2027, assuming an average Brent crude price of $63 per barrel. Meanwhile, the fiscal break-even oil price is estimated at around $67 per barrel for the same period.

Regarding economic growth, Fitch projected GDP growth of approximately 4 percent in 2025, compared to about 1.6 percent in 2024, supported by strong non-oil sector growth of around 3.8 percent, alongside an acceleration in oil sector growth due to the easing of production constraints by the OPEC+ group. Domestic spending, foreign direct investment inflows, and growing tourism activity are likely to continue supporting non-oil growth to remain above 3.5 percent over the next two years, 2026-2027.

The report highlighted the qualitative shift in Oman's external financial position to a positive indicator, as it became a net creditor in 2024 at 2 percent of GDP.

This marks a significant shift compared to its status as a net debtor in 2021, resulting from government efforts to repay due debts, reduce public corporate indebtedness, the growth of external assets, and the improved soundness of the external financial position due to reserve growth.

Fitch confirmed that Oman's credit rating could rise further in the future if the general budget's ability to withstand oil price fluctuations is enhanced by broadening non-oil revenue sources, and if the financial position continues to improve through ongoing public debt reduction and repayment of dues, in addition to increasing the strength of external reserves and the growing size of assets in the sovereign wealth fund.

It is noteworthy that Oman's credit rating has been upgraded to investment grade by all major credit rating agencies.

Fitch's report, upgrading the rating to this level, represents another important achievement reflecting the success of the prudent economic and fiscal policies followed by Oman in recent years. -ONA

ART MEETS HERITAGE

Afrah Al-Ishaqi's designs capture the spirit of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani jewellery designer Afrah Al-Ishaqi is carving a distinctive place in the world of contemporary jewellery, blending traditional artistry with modern innovation to create pieces that reflect the soul of Omani culture.

Drawing inspiration from the country's landscapes, heritage, Islamic motifs and human stories, her designs stand out for their symbolism and refined craftsmanship.

Afrah bint Nasser Al-Ishaqi, a professor at the University of Nizwa and founder of the brand Jewelara, said her creative philosophy is rooted in cultural dialogue.

"My designs fuse cultures and arts by studying symbols and visual elements from various traditions, then reinterpreting them in my own style to produce modern pieces that honor their origins while adding a contemporary dimension," she explained.

Her creative process combines digital design tools with hand sketching and traditional manual techniques such as sawing, soldering, forming and polishing. Yet the journey is not without challenges. Afrah notes the delicate balance between artistic expression and commercial demands, as well as limited local access to certain materials and skilled artisans. >A2

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman-made thermal oxidizer unveiled

1 The first Thermal Oxidizer to be designed, engineered, manufactured, and tested inside Oman was unveiled yesterday. This reflects Oman's growing capabilities in developing advanced technologies. >A3

OMAN

Oman takes part in UNEA-7 conference

2 The Sultanate of Oman on Monday opened the proceedings of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet". >A3

MARKET

Omani oil exports top 256 million barrels

3 Oman's oil exports recorded a slight increase of 0.1 percent by the end of October 2025, reaching 256,557,800 barrels, compared to 256,318,800 barrels during the same period in 2024. >B1

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:04pm
Asr.....3:06pm
Maghrib.....5:26pm
Isha.....6:41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)..... 5:18am

AL BURAIMI

Traditional Weapons Shooting Championship kicks off

AL BURAIMI: The activities of the 11th Annual Traditional Weapons Shooting Championship commenced on Monday at the Al Buraimi Governorate Shooting Range.

Organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, represented by the Omani Committee for Traditional Weapons Shooting, in cooperation with Al Buraimi Governorate, the championship will continue until 13 December.

Accompanying events

The championship coincides with a series of accompanying events that add distinctive heritage and community atmospheres, including a camel parade, folk arts (Al Ayyala), a paragliding event, a classic car show, a productive families exhibition, and a traditional weapons exhibition.

This provides visitors with a comprehensive experience combining sports, heritage, and family activities.

The championship continues to enhance the presence of traditional shooting in Al Buraimi Governorate as an authentic part of Omani heritage, providing a competitive platform for shooters to showcase their skills in a professional, organised environment. -ONA

Awareness drive on climate risks commences today

The campaign aims to enhance knowledge about the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System

MUSCAT: The 4th edition of the "National Campaign to Raise Awareness About the Risks of Climatic Conditions and Tsunami Waves" will kick off in the Governorate of Muscat on Tuesday.

The three-day event will be organised by the National Emergency Management Centre, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Ministry of Information and the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, in cooperation with Muscat Governorate and the Ministry of Education.

The campaign aims to enhance knowledge about the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System. It will offer comprehensive guidance to members of the public about proper measures to be undertaken in emergency situations.

The campaign includes special programmes to enhance the preparedness of communities and improve the ability of individuals to deal with emergencies.

It targets representatives of government departments and private sector establishments, in addition to civil society institutions and charity teams, who will all participate in related meetings, symposiums and practical exercises.

Awareness bulletins

Muscat Governorate will also issue awareness bulletins and an exhibition featuring public awareness showpieces.

The campaign will be launched in pursuance of efforts to foster the culture of public awareness and rapid response to emergency situations, with the prime objective of saving lives and avoiding material losses.

The activities of the campaign begin in coastal governorates and extend to other governorates.

It is worth noting that the Sultanate of Oman figures high on the list of countries that accord attention to the risks of tropical cyclones and tsunamis. -ONA

OCO

Specialised training programme on humanitarian law

MUSCAT: Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO) on Monday launched a specialised training programme on International Humanitarian Law.

The two-day programme, organised in cooperation with the Secretariat General of GCC States, brings together representatives of Red Crescent societies in GCC states, OCO members and representatives of government departments.

The programme aims to spread awareness about the basic principles of International Humanitarian Law and hone the skills of personnel operating as part of GCC humanitarian bodies and societies.

It seeks to contribute to consolidating sound practices in the areas of relief aid, the protection of civilians and response to emergencies and disasters.

The first day of the programme included panel discussions and practical exercises that deepened the participants' understanding of how to align humanitarian missions with international rules.

Badr bin Mohammed Al Zaabi, Acting CEO of Oman Charitable Organisation, said that the programme reflects the OCO's approach to regional and international partnerships in the field of humanitarian missions, based on International Humanitarian Law as a framework for protecting people in times of crises and conflicts.

Al Zaabi added that, acting in cooperation with the departments concerned, the OCO seeks to foster better understanding of this legal system.

"The hosting of this programme reflects our belief in the importance of joint GCC action. It enhances the readiness of humanitarian institutions in the region to ensure their readiness to engage in prompt humanitarian action that is aligned with the applications of international humanitarian law", Al Zaabi explained. -ONA

JEWELLERY

Design inspired by Nizwa's heritage

< FROM A1

She stresses the need to raise awareness of the value of handcrafted jewellery and hopes to inspire emerging talent while strengthening the presence of art and design within her community. A commitment to sustainability lies at the heart of her work. Afrah prioritises eco-friendly materials and practices that reflect environmental and social responsibility, believing that the future of the industry depends on conscious design that respects both nature and people.

Her approach offers a modern vision of Omani jewellery—rooted in tradition but elevated through elegant, innovative interpretations. By integrating advanced techniques, she revitalises traditional craftsmanship without compromising its authenticity, resulting in pieces that preserve cultural identity while appealing to contemporary tastes. Each creation carries an emotional or symbolic story, blending noble materials with modern artistry to express inner beauty and leave a lasting impression. Jewelara, she says, seeks to translate emotions into distinctive designs that embody individuality and create timeless artistic legacies beyond fast-changing fashion trends.

Among her notable works is a piece designed for Her Highness Sayyida Basma bint Fakhri Al Said, inspired by Nizwa's rich heritage, and another created for Sayyida Wafa bint Hilal Al Busaidi, drawing from the delicate Omani frankincense flower.

Afrah's achievements continue to gain recognition. She has been honoured among distinguished Omani women on Omani Women's Day, celebrated at the Elegance Fashion Show in the Gulf and Arab world, and named Oman's Best Jewellery Designer for 2025. Her work has also been featured in Anaqati magazine, where she showcased Jewelara's identity with a blend of elegance, professionalism and passion for artistic detail.

RIYADH EXPO 2030

HM receives message from Saudi Crown Prince

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The message pertains to an invitation for the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the "Riyadh Expo 2030," which will be hosted by the Kingdom from 1 October 2030, to 31 March 2031, under the theme "Foresights for Tomorrow."

The message was handed over to Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he received at the general diwan of the ministry today Ibrahim bin Saad bin Bishan, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Oman. -ONA

INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Locally designed, manufactured thermal oxidizer unveiled

SOHAR: The first Thermal Oxidizer (TO) to be completely designed, engineered, manufactured, and tested inside the Sultanate of Oman was unveiled on Monday.

This step is a qualitative industrial achievement that reflects the Sultanate of Oman's growing capabilities in developing advanced technologies and heavy equipment for regional projects.

The device was manufactured for the Meliha Gas Processing Plant project affiliated with Agiba Petroleum Company in the Arab Republic of Egypt, in cooperation with SLB as the main contractor. Majees Industrial Services, through its brand "FLAROMAN", is handling the design, manufacturing, and production operations.

This achievement highlights the advanced competency of Omani engineers and technicians, contributes to supporting the localization of modern technologies, creating qualitative job opportunities,

and enhancing the competitiveness of Omani industries.

This solidifies the Sultanate of Oman's position as a regional supplier of high-tech industrial solutions within and outside the GCC countries.

Furthermore, local manufacturing of such devices allows for reducing project costs, accelerating execution timelines, and providing solutions specifically designed for regional operating conditions.

The Thermal Oxidizer is distinguished by several advanced technical specifications, including a burner management system, the ability to operate with natural or forced draft, and a processing capacity exceeding 9,000 kg/hour with a wide turndown range. It also features a powerful burner that allows for an air flow of nearly 55,000 cubic metres.

The device stands over 22 meters tall and has a design that ensures an operational lifespan of up to 20 years. -ONA

Oman supports global action on climate change in Nairobi UNEA-7 meet

Oman's presidency of UNEA-7 is a milestone in its environmental and diplomatic trajectory, and it reinforces its role in supporting international efforts aimed at protecting the environment

NAIROBI: The Sultanate of Oman on Monday opened the proceedings of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet".

The goal is to support the global environmental action track and activate multilateral efforts.

The session was opened at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, chaired by Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority and President of the current Assembly session.

The event saw the participation of representatives of member states, international organisations, and global environmental bodies.

The Chairman of the Environment Authority affirmed in his opening address that the convening of this session represents a crucial moment in the history of joint environmental action, noting that the world today faces intertwined challenges related to climate change, the degradation of natural lands, and the exacerbation of pollution and waste.

He indicated in his speech that the Assembly will discuss several pivotal issues this week, most notably: draft resolutions and decisions, the Ministerial Declaration, the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (2026–2029), in addition to the Programme of Work and Budget for the period (2026–2027), which will form the general framework for environmental action in the coming years.

He concluded by stressing that the success of the session will be achieved through the adoption of implementable resolutions, a unified Ministerial Declaration, and the provision of necessary resources to enable UNEP to support countries in achieving tangible results.

The Sultanate of Oman's presidency of UNEA-7 is a significant milestone in its environmental and diplomatic trajectory, and it reinforces its effective role in supporting international efforts aimed at protecting the environment and promoting the sustainability of the planet. -ONA

OMAN

Oman commemorates a century since the discovery of oil and gas

The event reviewed the major transformations that have contributed to building the national economy and establishing an integrated infrastructure for the oil and gas industry, culminating in the Sultanate of Oman's future strategic directions in renewable energy and green hydrogen

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals on Monday commemorated the centenary of the discovery of oil and gas in the Sultanate of Oman. The ceremony was held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, at the Royal Opera House Muscat.

The event highlighted the historical milestones of the energy sector since the signing of the first exploration concession in 1925. It reviewed the major transformations that have contributed to building the national economy and establishing an integrated infrastructure for the oil and gas industry, culminating in the Sultanate of Oman's future strategic directions in renewable energy and green hydrogen.

In his address, Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, stated that the completion of a full century since the first practical step in oil exploration represents a defining historical milestone. This achievement embodies the efforts of successive generations who overcame formidable challenges and limited capabilities to establish a sector that now stands as one of the most vital pillars of the national economy and a key driver of sustainable development.

He noted that the journey began with the signing of the first concession agreement with the D'Arcy Exploration Company on 18 May 1925. This was followed by the foundational phase, marked by the drilling of the "Dauka-1" well in 1955, before the sector underwent a significant transformational leap in the "Fahud" region. The first shipment of Omani crude was exported from Mina Al Fahl port in 1967, with an average initial production of 5,000 barrels per day (bpd). Today, the sector produces nearly one million bpd, reflecting the accumulated expertise and the advanced development of the Sultanate of Oman's operational, administrative, and technical systems.

Al Aufi affirmed that Oman's enduring political stability has been instrumental in cementing investor confidence and attracting international partnerships. He emphasised that such regional and international collaborations have been a fundamental pillar of the sector's growth, citing the Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries project—launched last year with an investment exceeding OMR3.5 billion—as a prime example.

He reviewed the evolution of concession area management, which now encompasses 58 areas, including 34 operational blocks, with 16 companies developing fields and production under the highest governance standards. Current oil reserves are estimated at approximately 4.8 billion barrels, while natural gas production reaches about 150 million cubic metres per day, supported by an extensive infrastructure network spanning thousands of kilometres of pipelines.

Regarding In-Country Value (ICV), the minister confirmed that sector expenditure over the past decade amounted to OMR11 billion, with OMR700 million directed specifically to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) last year alone. In 2024, the Ministry launched the "Majd" ICV programme, which awarded its first accreditation certificate in the energy and minerals sector to Abraj Energy Services.

Al Aufi highlighted that the human element remains the sector's most valuable asset, with nearly 20,000 employees in operating companies achieving an Omanisation rate of 93 percent. The sector also recorded 285.5 million working hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI) in 2024, underscoring its deeply ingrained culture of safety.

He clarified that social responsibility has been a consistent priority for operating companies, which have collectively invested nearly OMR50 million over the past five years in community projects both nationally and within concession areas.

Concluding his speech, the minister stated that marking the oil and gas centenary is a tribute to a national journey forged by determination, knowledge, and hard work. It reaffirms Oman's commitment to further developing the sector, enhancing its economic role, empowering national talent, and confidently advancing into a new era of energy transition.

The ceremony featured the unveiling of a commemorative postage stamp marking the 100th anniversary of Oman's oil and gas journey. This stamp serves as a documentary symbol of historical significance, encapsulating a century of transformation and achievement. It stands as an archival record that honors this occasion and educates future generations about the milestones of the Omani energy sector.

The oil and gas sector has played a pivotal role in establishing the foundations of the national economy and driving comprehensive development in the Sultanate of Oman. As a primary source of public revenue, it has been a key engine for economic growth, enabling the expansion of investments and the development of infrastructure and services. Its impact extends beyond production and export, supporting and stimulating broader sectors intrinsically linked to economic prosperity, including transport, industry, communications, trade, investment and logistics. The sector's contributions—through taxes, fees, and various economic enablers—strengthen the state's capacity to implement its strategic development programmes.

In the context of sustainable development, the sector has reinforced its socio-economic presence through corporate social responsibility initiatives, support for community projects, and efforts to enhance quality of life. It also serves as a key enabler for education, innovation, and knowledge by supporting universities, colleges, scientific research, and specialised training, thereby boosting the knowledge economy and elevating the competitiveness of national human resources. The development and qualification of Omani talent has been a constant focus throughout the sector's history, achieved through targeted training, employment, Omanisation programmes, and the cultivation of specialised expertise.

The sector's role in supporting sustainability is evident as an active partner in reducing environmental impact and enhancing resource efficiency. This is achieved through the adoption of clean energy solutions and environmentally focused projects that balance production needs with ecological stewardship. Notable examples include Petroleum Development Oman's (PDO) "Miraah" project—one of the world's largest solar steam projects—the Wetland project, which created a green oasis in the desert, and the eco-friendly Nimr Water Treatment Plant. Further initiatives include the 100 MW "Amin" Solar Energy project, the 200 MW "Riyah 1" and "Riyah 2" wind projects, and the 100 MW Solar Energy project in the northern concession areas.

Operating companies also contribute to sustainable energy initiatives such as the Solar Energy for Schools project, Oman Shell's "Qabas" Solar Energy project, and the launch of the Sultanate of Oman's first Green Hydrogen station as part of Oman Shell's efforts. These endeavors reflect the sector's strategic direction toward low-emission solutions and the enhancement of both environmental and economic sustainability.

As part of the centennial celebrations, an exhibition commemorating 100 years of oil and gas discovery in Oman was inaugurated. The exhibition will be open to visitors from tomorrow (Tuesday), until this Wednesday. It offers documentary and visual content narrating the sector's evolution over a full century.

The exhibition features various sections, including a corner for models and samples related to the oil and gas industry, a display of four portraits of Oman's Sultans, and a Historical Documents corner presenting ten pivotal documents chronicling key stages of the sector's journey. Additionally, it includes an area with 100 infographic images and a dedicated infographic honoring individuals who have served in the sector. A historical timeline display spans two eras—from 1925 to 1970 and from 1970 to 2025—showcasing the most significant periods and projects across a century of development. -ONA

FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

Friendship between Korean and Omani people showcased

MUSCAT: The Embassy of the Republic of Korean in the Sultanate of Oman hosted "Korea-Oman Friendship Night," a cultural exchange event at the Madinat Seoul Hall in the Embassy's premises on December 4, 2025, inviting Omani fans of Korean culture and the Korean expatriate community members.

The event highlighted growing exchanges between the two countries in language education and training. A good number of Korean students take Arabic courses in Korean and Omani universities. Increasing number of Omani people are learning Korean language. The exchanges enrich cultural understanding and friendship between the two peoples. Several Omani Korean learners presented their language skills, and these participants were awarded prizes.

The event also celebrated the 9th anniversary of OK-Nuri, which is an Omani fan club of Korean culture. O and K represents Oman and Korea, respectively. The fan club has contributed to promoting people-to-people exchanges between the two countries by bringing Omani and Korean cultural features together so that the two peoples may appreciate and enjoy the rich, time-honored cultural heritages of the two countries.

The Embassy will continue to engage with Omani and Korean communities to further foster mutual friendship and partnership. Building on the exchanges, the 51-year-old diplomatic relations will continue to progress, embracing political, economic and trade, and cultural fields.

Shura to discuss CEPA draft of Oman, India

The session will review the perspective of the Economic and Financial Committee regarding the CEPA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council will discuss the draft Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of the Republic of India, referred to the Council by the Cabinet, during its session scheduled for Wednesday.

The discussion comes in accordance with Article (54) of the Law of the Oman Council, which stipulates that draft economic and social agreements the Government intends to conclude or accede to shall be referred by the Cabinet to the Shura Council to enable it to present its views and submit its conclusions to the Cabinet for appropriate action.

This was stated by Ahmed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council, who indicated that the Council will convene its Fifth Regular Session of the Third Annual Sitting (2026–2027) of the Tenth Term (2023–2027) on Wednesday, 10 December.

The session will review the perspective of the Economic and Financial Committee regarding the CEPA, based on the report the Committee prepared after examining the provisions of the agreement, its objectives, and the areas of economic cooperation it encompasses, in addition to the observations and views presented by the relevant authorities during the Committee's recent meetings.

The Secretary-General further stated that the session will also discuss the report of the Committee for Education, Research, Innovation regarding the motion on addressing behavioural challenges among school students.

He explained that the Committee reviewed the educational and technical aspects related to the issue and formulated recommendations aimed at enhancing the quality of school education in the Sultanate of Oman.

The session will likewise review the report of the Committee for Media, Tourism, Culture concerning the motion on establishing an auction for the sale of cultural and heritage artefacts.

The report includes an examination of mechanisms for regulating auctions of cultural and heritage items and the governance frameworks governing them, in addition to assessing their cultural and social impact.

DIVERSIFYING ECONOMY

Study calls for Oman's business education to be aligned with the economic realities

MUSCAT: A new international study has called for business education in Oman to be more closely aligned with the country's economic realities and Oman Vision 2040 priorities, arguing that reliance on imported Western models is no longer sufficient for a rapidly diversifying economy.

Syed Mujahid Hussain.

The research, conducted by Syed Mujahid Hussain, Ahmad Arslan, Sami Al-Kharusi and Said Al-Riyami from Sultan Qaboos University and the University of Oulu, was published in the International Journal of Education in Business (2025). Drawing on in-depth interviews with business school deans, CEOs, top managers and policymakers, the study highlights what it describes as an urgent need to "contextualize" management education to Oman's cultural, social and economic environment.

According to the findings, many Omani business schools offering BBA and MBA programmes continue to benchmark their curricula against global standards such as AACSB accreditation.

While this has strengthened international recognition, interviewees warned that it sometimes overshadows local relevance. Several respondents pointed to difficulties in balancing global expectations with the needs of Oman's labour market, along with challenges related to faculty capacity and the persistent mismatch between graduate skills and employer requirements.

Executives interviewed for the study said graduates often lack practical and entrepreneurial training, as well as soft skills, cultural awareness and sector-specific knowledge. These gaps, they noted, were particularly evident in industries central to Oman's diversification efforts, including oil and gas, telecoms and emerging green sectors. One policymaker stressed the importance of aligning education with workforce needs, saying, "We need to match not only knowledge but also attitudes and interpersonal skills," reflecting broader concerns about unemployment among young business graduates.

The study emphasises that contextualising business education—by integrating local case studies, Vision 2040 priorities and emerging fields such as artificial intelligence—could significantly enhance employability and innovation.

Respondents said stronger industry engagement, including internships, apprenticeships such as the "Eidad" programme and opportunities for students to co-create curriculum content, has already shown clear benefits in bridging the gap between theory and workplace realities. An educational leader interviewed for the study noted that "offering something relevant to Oman is a demand from the market."

Researchers argue that such reforms would help prepare graduates for roles across a multisector economy, reducing traditional reliance on public-sector employment and supporting Oman's shift toward high-tech, service-oriented and sustainable industries.

The study urges policymakers to expand vocational pathways and encourage private-sector investment in research and development, while calling on businesses to view collaboration with universities as a long-term strategic investment. The authors conclude that Oman's future competitiveness will depend not only on the number of degrees awarded but on the country's ability to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce capable of driving economic transformation while maintaining a strong sense of national identity.

LANDMARK WORK

New publication chronicles depth of Oman-Russia ties in 19th century

MUSCAT: The National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) has released a landmark historical work, "Oman-Russia Relations in the Nineteenth Century AD – A Documentary Study Based on Russian Archives."

This publication forms part of the Authority's strategic mission to enhance Omani and Arab scholarly resources with rigorously documented historical sources and to foster academic research into the Sultanate of Oman's rich diplomatic history.

This comprehensive volume presents a formidable scholarly compilation drawn from nearly 2,852 meticulously curated Russian documents, including official correspondence, reports, memoranda, cartographic materials and historical photographs.

It serves as an exhaustive reference that details the evolution of bilateral ties between the Sultanate of Oman and Russia during the 19th century.

The work notably underscores the strategic significance of Omani ports and their central role in the era's global maritime commerce.

Structured into three principal chapters, the publication systematically traces the progression of diplomatic and trade relations, provides an analytical overview of Russian activities in the Gulf region, and documents the political, economic, and social fabric of Omani society during this period.

It is further enriched by documentary appendices featuring reproductions of over 50 rare archival records from Russian collections, complemented by detailed indices to aid academic navigation.

Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al Dhoyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority, emphasised that this seminal work reflects the Authority's dedication to illuminating Oman's civilisational narrative through international primary sources.

"The Russian archives offer unambiguous evidence of the substantial historical relationship between our nations and vividly illustrate Oman's considerable political and commercial influence during the 18th and 19th centuries," he stated.

The book is heralded as a pioneering academic contribution that establishes the critical value of Russian archival material for Gulf historical studies. It inaugurates a projected series of publications designed to open new research avenues for scholars focused on Oman's international engagements.

The volume's author, Dr. Dharar Mohammed Fadhl Al Mawla, noted that its publication marks a significant advancement in providing Omani and Arab libraries with authoritative source material that reveals fresh perspectives on regional history.

"This book is the fruit of a decade-long endeavour dedicated to the translation and academic verification of rare Russian documents," Dr. Al-Mawla explained. "It contributes profoundly to our understanding of the depth of Oman-Russia relations and the Sultanate of Oman's multifaceted historical role, offering a vital alternative to the traditionally dominant British and French documentary narratives."

Adding expert commentary, Dr. Ahlam bint Hamoud Al Jahwari, Director Specialist for Documentary Studies at the Authority, highlighted the publication's academic importance.

"This work constitutes a major qualitative addition to documentary studies concerning both Arabian Gulf history and modern European history, as it systematically introduces a crucial corpus of Russian documents to the Arabic-speaking scholarly world for the first time," she said.

She further elaborated that the study of relations from 1792 to 1917 demonstrates the consistent development of political and economic bonds between Oman and Russia and reaffirms Oman's central position in historical trade and navigation networks.

The publication draws upon over 300 referenced sources, including documents, visual materials, maps, and memoirs, supported by appendices containing more than fifty rare records from one of the world's premier archives.

"The substantial scholarly content enables researchers to engage with an alternative narrative of the region's international relations, grounded in Russian archival evidence," Dr. Al Jahwari concluded.

"This publication embodies a critical step in the Authority's ongoing efforts to translate and provide global historical records to the Arab research community in accordance with the highest international academic standards." -ONA

AL HAJAR ULTRA RACE

Himam Trail Race begins on Thursday

MUSCAT: The activities of the Himam Trail Race 2025 will kick off next Thursday, 11 December, in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, with the participation of more than 4,500 male and female runners from 68 countries.

On the first day, the Al Hajar Ultra race will take place, covering a distance of 120 kilometers. It starts from the Wilayat of Al Hamra, passes through historical routes, ascends towards Al Jabal Al Akhdar (the Green Mountain), and reaches the race village in Birkat Al Mouz in the Wilayat of Nizwa. This route is considered one of the most challenging in terms of geological and environmental diversity and elevation changes. -ONA

RESHAPING EDUCATION

Forum for Educational Management, Leadership Research Group begins

MUSCAT: The activities of the 5th International Forum for the Educational Management and Leadership Research Group commenced today at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) under the patronage of Dr. Jokha Abdullah Al Shukaili, CEO of Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Educational Quality Assurance.

Titled "Reshaping Education for a Sustainable Future with Innovative and Inspirational Leadership," the forum discusses 282 working papers and research papers.

It comes in partnership between Sultan Qaboos University, the Ministry of Education represented by the Directorate General of Curriculum Development and the Directorate General of Educational Supervision, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation represented by the Directorate General of Universities and Private Colleges.

With the participation of researchers and speakers from 17 countries, the forum seeks to rethink the form and functions of education amidst rapid global transformations, focusing on reshaping education to become more capable of preparing generations for the future, and more sustainable and innovative.

This is achieved by enhancing educational leadership, digital innovation, and learning sustainability, in line with "Oman Vision 2040" and the Sustainable Development Goals. -ONA

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REQUIRES EDUCATORS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

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MIDDLE SECTION (TGT) - Educators having B.Ed. and Bachelor/Master Degree in the relevant subject with minimum 4 years of teaching experience in the following subjects: **English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, French and Hindi.**

PRIMARY SECTION (PRT) - Educators having B.Ed. and Bachelor/Master Degree in the relevant subject with minimum 3 years of teaching experience in the following subjects: **English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and Hindi.**

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BAND MASTER - Educators with the required qualification (Bachelor/Master Degree or Diploma in Instrumental Music) from the recognized institutions or universities and minimum 5 years of experience in the relevant field. Candidates with relevant experience in Defence/Paramilitary or Police forces can also apply for the above position.

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All the academic and professional qualifications must be obtained through regular mode of education. Candidates with minimum qualifications, experience in reputed public/ international school with excellent track record of performance & achievements and below 45 years may send their applications by uploading the CV through the School Website (www.ismoman.com) by clicking on the tab "Career at ISM" in the home page or in the "Reach Us" Menu or by using the link https://recruitment.ismoman.org/ latest by 20th December 2025.

WORLD

DRC fighting worst cholera outbreak in 25 years, says UNICEF

In its statement, UNICEF cited one case in which 16 of the 62 children in an orphanage in the capital, Kinshasa, died within days of the disease breaking out there

NEW YORK: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is suffering its worst cholera outbreak since the start of the millennium, the UN's children's agency UNICEF said on Monday.

In its statement, UNICEF cited one case in which 16 of the 62 children in an orphanage in the capital, Kinshasa, died within days of the disease breaking out there.

"Congolese children should not be so gravely affected by what is a wholly preventable disease," UNICEF spokesperson John Agbor said.

In its statement, UNICEF appealed for about $6 million (€5.2 million) in 2026 to be able to keep up its rapid response operations.

The Congolese government also put forward a plan to eliminate the disease with a budget of $192 million, but it remains underfunded.

"Without additional funds and coordinated action, many more lives could be lost," Agbor said.

DATA POINTS FROM UNICEF'S REPORT

- 64,427 cases and 1,888 deaths reported since January
- Of those, 14,818 cases and 340 deaths were among children
- Around 23.4% of the cases involved children
- Cholera reported in 17 of Congo's 26 provinces
- Cholera 'a wholly preventable disease'

Water supply and sanitation in dire condition in Congo

Cholera, a severe and potentially fatal diarrhoeal disease, can spread quickly when, as is the case in much of the DRC, water supply and sanitation services are inadequate.

The statement said that only 43% of people in Congo have access to at least basic water services — the lowest rate in Africa — and just 15% use basic sanitation.

This situation has been exacerbated by conflict, with particularly the mineral-rich east of the country affected.

Last month, African health authorities also said cholera was surging in Angola, Burundi and elsewhere on the continent, with cases rising by 30% overall in comparison with last year.

Ebola cases

The UN agency said it has sent experts to join the DRC's own response team to help "rapidly strengthen disease surveillance, treatment and infection prevention and control in health facilities". It also said it would ship two tonnes of medical and lab supplies to the Central African country.

"We're acting with determination to rapidly halt the spread of the virus and protect communities," said Mohamed Janabi, the WHO's regional director for Africa. "Banking on the country's longstanding expertise in controlling viral disease outbreaks, we're working closely with the health authorities to quickly scale up key response measures to end the outbreak as soon as possible," Al Jazeera added.

The Ebola outbreak is the 16th to hit the DRC, with the last occurring in April 2022 in the northwestern Equateur province. Authorities announced that outbreak had ended after about a month and a half, Al Jazeera reported. — Agencies

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BOARDING SCHOOL

100 abducted schoolchildren released in Nigeria

ABUJA: Authorities in Nigeria said Sunday that they have secured the release of 100 schoolchildren who were kidnapped from a Catholic school last month.

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) said 315 pupils and staff were abducted by gunmen on November 21 from St. Mary's co-educational boarding school in the north-central Niger state.

Fifty students were able to escape in the following hours.

The fate of another 165 students and school staff, who are believed to still be in captivity, remains unclear.

The 100 schoolchildren who were released have arrived in the capital Abuja, a UN source told the AFP news agency. They will be handed over to local officials in Niger state on Monday, the source added.

Presidential spokesman Sunday Dare confirmed to AFP that the schoolchildren have been returned.

Local media, including broadcaster Channels Television, also reported on the release of the 100 children.

It was unclear whether the release was the result of military force or negotiations. It is also not known which group is responsible.

Niger state authorities as well as the CAN have said they have not been formally notified of the children's release. Nigeria's government has also not officially commented.

For years, Nigeria has been fighting an Islamist insurgency in the northeast of the country, while gangs of so-called "bandits" carry out abductions and ransack villages in the northwest.

The country is still scarred by the 2014 kidnapping of nearly 300 schoolgirls by Boko Haram militants. Some of the former students, most of whom were between the ages of 16 and 18 at the time, are still missing.

But a recent surge in abductions since last month has again highlighted the West African nation's poor security situation. Last week, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar resigned as defense minister as authorities look to respond. — DW

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SEISMOLOGY

Earthquake of 3.8 magnitude strikes Myanmar: NCS

NAYPYIDAW: An earthquake of magnitude 3.8 struck Myanmar on Monday, as reported by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

In a post on X, the NCS said that the earthquake occurred at a depth of 80 kilometres at 10:18 AM.

"EQ of M: 3.8, On: 08/12/2025 10:18:51 IST, Lat: 23.06 N, Long: 94.51 E, Depth: 80 Km, Location: Myanmar."

Earlier on December 5, an earthquake of magnitude 3.3 struck Myanmar.

In a post on X, the NCS said, " EQ of M: 3.3, On: 05/12/2025 20:23:04 IST, Lat: 27.07 N, Long: 96.33 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Myanmar."

Shallow earthquakes are generally more dangerous than deep earthquakes. This is because the seismic waves from shallow earthquakes have a shorter distance to travel to the surface, resulting in stronger ground shaking and potentially more damage to structures and greater casualties. Myanmar is vulnerable to hazards from moderate and large magnitude earthquakes and tsunamis along its long coastline. Myanmar is wedged between four tectonic plates (the Indian, Eurasian, Sunda, and Burma plates) that interact in active geological processes.

In the aftermath of the magnitude 7.7 and 6.4 earthquakes that struck central Myanmar on March 28, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned of a series of rapidly rising health threats for tens of thousands of displaced people in earthquake-affected areas: tuberculosis (TB), HIV, vector- and water-borne diseases.

A 1,400-kilometre transform fault runs through Myanmar and connects the Andaman spreading centre to a collision zone in the north called the Sagaing Fault. — ANI

SPEEDY RECOVERY MESSAGE

Bangladesh Nationalist Party extends unusual praise to Indian Prime Minister

DHAKA: In a path-breaking statement, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which is the largest political party in Bangladesh at present, has expressed high praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his wishes for the speedy recovery of its leader Begum Khaleda Zia.

PM Modi, in a post on X, had noted that Begum Khaleda Zia, a former Bangladesh Prime Minister, had contributed to her country's public life for many years.

BNP's senior leader Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat on Monday termed the message sent by PM Modi wishing Begum Khaleda Zia a speedy recovery a "great move."

"Well, it is a great move. I think the Indian government took the right decision to give this message. Also, BNP was reciprocal in a similar way of accepting this with gratitude," Ulfat, the President of the Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal, an affiliated organisation of the BNP, told ANI in an interview.

"Yes, Begum Khaleda Zia is one of the greatest women that we have not seen for a long, long time. What she did for the country after her husband's brutal murder was extraordinary. From a housewife, she became a politician, and through her personality, she not only won the heart and respect of almost every Bangladeshi but also got a lot of love from all over the world. So with India and Modi coming out with this message, I think it is very positive," he added.

Prime Minister Modi recently expressed concern over the health of former Bangladesh Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, extending India's support and wishing her a quick recovery.In a post on X, PM Modi wrote, "Deeply concerned to learn about the health of Begum Khaleda Zia, who has contributed to Bangladesh's public life for many years."

"Our sincere prayers and best wishes for her speedy recovery. India stands ready to extend all possible support in whatever way we can," he added.

BNP also expressed gratitude to PM Modi in a post on X, stating, "BNP expresses its sincere gratitude to the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, for his thoughtful message and kind wishes for the speedy recovery of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia."

"BNP deeply appreciates this gesture of goodwill and the expression of readiness to extend support," it added.

Begum Khaleda Zia was admitted to the capital Dhaka's Evercare Hospital on November 23 with a lung infection. The 80-year-old former Prime Minister has been suffering from various physical ailments, including heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, liver cirrhosis, and kidney complications, for a long time.

The BNP leader Ulfat stressed cooperation between India and Bangladesh for the benefit of the people of both countries.

"The two governments have to sit and decide for themselves. You see, we are a country that divides a large portion of India. There are seven states of India, called the seven sisters, in the eastern parts, and we are in between, except for the very tiny corridor, which is called the chicken's neck, and you have got the rest of India on the other side. So, the Indian government want to develop the seven sisters; they need Bangladesh. I am sure every government would want to sit and decide and make plans of how Bangladesh can give its territories to be used to develop the seven sisters - our ports, our other facilities, to help neighbouring states", Ulfat said.

"We, as a small state, a new state, would love an opportunity to be able to make friends not only with the seven sisters but with all of India, and the proper atmosphere and attitude must come from the government of India," he added.

Bangladesh is preparing to celebrate Victory Day on December 16, marking the liberation war against Pakistan in 1971."16 December was a great day for us because the Pakistanis created one of the biggest human tragedies on 25 March 1971, and that was a horrible night. They (the Pakistani army) cracked down on the unarmed, innocent people of Bangladesh," Ulfat noted. — ANI

MOLLIEN WING OF THE MUSEUM

Water leak damages hundreds of historic books in Louvre

PARIS: Officials at the Louvre Museum in Paris, France, on Sunday confirmed that a large collection of historically important books had been damaged in November as a result of a water leak.

The leak affected the Mollien Wing of the museum, where the Department of Egyptian Antiquities is located.

Deputy Administrator Francis Steinbock downplayed the leak, discovered on November 26, saying that "300 to 400 works" from the late 19th and early 20th centuries had been damaged. Steinbock went on to describe the historic books as "extremely useful but by no means unique."

"No heritage artefacts have been affected by this damage," said Steinbock, adding, "at this stage, we have no irreparable and definitive losses in these collections."

Steinbock said the damaged books will be "dried, sent to a bookbinder to be restored, and then returned to the shelves."

Those claims were directly rebutted in an article on the incident that was published on Saturday in the specialist online magazine La Tribune de l'Art.

The article said that some book bindings had been irreparably damaged and further accused museum administrators of ignoring repeated requests from the Egyptian department for building improvements and other measures to protect the collection.

In October, the world awoke to news of a brazen Sunday morning heist in which four made off with bags of historic crown jewels worth over $102 million (€87.6 million). Arguably, the jewels' historical provenance would make them priceless and officials fear that they have most likely been destroyed and sold for their materials. — DW

US must not interfere in Europe's politics: European Council President

Though the new US strategy policy has met with some dismay in the EU, the Kremlin has praised the document, saying it aligns with much of its own worldview

BRUSSELS: European Council President Antonio Costa said on Monday that a new National Security Strategy put forward by the US Trump administration contains unacceptable threats to meddle in Europe's internal political affairs.

The strategy paper, published last week, criticised Europe for being over-regulated and at risk of "civilizational erasure" through immigration, while saying the US would be "cultivating resistance to Europe's current trajectory within European nations."

Though the new US strategy policy has met with some dismay in the EU, the Kremlin has praised the document, saying it aligns with much of its own worldview.

"What we cannot accept is the threat to interfere in European politics," Costa told a conference in Brussels.

"The United States cannot replace European citizens in choosing which parties are good and which are bad," he said.

Costa also criticized passages in the strategy paper that seemed to condemn recent attempts by the European Union to bring US tech giants to account for the propagation of disinformation and hate speech online.

"The United States cannot replace Europe in what its vision is of freedom of expression," he said.

"There cannot be freedom of speech without freedom of information," he said. "There would be no freedom of speech if citizens' freedom of information is sacrificed to defend the techno oligarchs in the United States."

'Europe must be sovereign'

"This strategy continues to talk about Europe as an ally," Costa went on. "That's fine, but if we are allies, we must act as allies."

"The United States remains an important ally, the United States remains an important economic partner, but Europe must be sovereign," he added.

Costa also said it was a worrying sign that Moscow had welcomed Washington's change in strategy direction as being "largely consistent" with its own view of how the world should be.

The strategy's statements on ending the war in Ukraine, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion, were also not conducive to producing the "just and durable" peace Europe is seeking, Costa said.

The approach outlined in the statement was "only for the end of confrontations and stable relations with Russia," he said.

As head of the European Council, Costa chairs summits of the bloc's 27 national leaders.

Meanwhile, the German government has rejected criticism of Europe contained in the new US national security strategy, saying it continues to view Russia as a threat to its security.

Strategy paper criticised

German government spokesman Sebastian Hille said Berlin rejected "the sometimes critical tone directed at the EU."

"Political freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression, are among the fundamental values of the European Union," he said. "We see accusations in this regard as ideology rather than strategy."

Hille added that Germany disagreed with the analysis because it did not classify Russia as a threat.

"We do not share this assessment. We stand by NATO's joint analysis, which holds that Russia poses a danger and a threat to transatlantic security."

However, the spokesman added that Germany was keen to work with Washington within NATO and on issues relating to Ukraine.

"In view of the major security challenges we face, transatlantic cooperation is of central importance for our shared security, now and in the future," he said.

Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul also pushed back against elements of the new US strategy on Friday. — DW

INDIGO CRISIS

Major airports across India report extensive cancellations of flight

NEW DELHI: Air travel across India has been in chaos with widespread IndiGo flight disruptions on Monday, and major airports across the country reported extensive cancellations.

Ahmedabad Airport reported 18 IndiGo cancellations by 8 AM, including nine arrivals and nine departures. However, airport authorities confirmed that terminal and airside operations remained smooth and that passenger facilitation was being handled. 21 IndiGo flights operated during this period, including seven arrivals and 14 departures.

At Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL), a total of 127 IndiGo flights were cancelled, with 65 arrivals and 62 departures affected.

Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) also saw a severe impact, with 77 IndiGo flights disrupted as of today, including 38 arrivals and 39 departures cancelled, according to airport authorities.

Furthermore, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) recorded the highest number of cancellations so far today, with 75 departures and 59 arrivals, 134 flights in total, being called off.

Meanwhile, passengers at Chennai International Airport, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) and Gujarat's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad, Assam's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport were stranded in terminal areas as they waited for updates on their flights.

Jaipur International Airport also reported multiple IndiGo cancellations, including flights to Hyderabad, Chennai, and Delhi. However, airport authorities confirmed that the situation remained calm, with no major issues reported among passengers despite the cancellations.

Earlier on Monday, amid continuing flight delays and cancellations affecting IndiGo operations across major airports in the country, the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi issued a fresh passenger advisory urging travellers to check their flight status before heading to the airport.

"No compromise on safety": Aviation Minister Naidu on IndiGo crisis in Rajya Sabha

Meanwhile the Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Monday addressed the ongoing IndiGo crisis in the Rajya Sabha, saying the issues faced by passengers were linked to the airline's internal crew rostering and operational planning, and not the Aircraft Maintenance and Scheduling System (AMSS).

The Aviation Minister emphasised that "there will be no compromise on safety".

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Naidu stated that stringent Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) exist to protect passengers affected by flight delays and cancellations.

"For all passengers who have faced difficulties due to delays and cancellations, strict Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) are in place. Airline operators have to follow these requirements. Regarding the software issue, an inquiry has been made. Continuous technology upgradation happens in this sector. Our vision from the government is to have top global standards for the aviation sector in the country," he said.

The Minister Naidu explained that the problems at IndiGo were related to crew rostering and internal operational planning, which the airline is responsible for managing on a day-to-day basis.

He added that thorough consultations have been held with all stakeholders concerning Flight Time Limitations (FTTL) guidelines, and emphasised that there will be no compromise on safety. — ANI

AMERICAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

Brazil steps up diplomacy to contain risk of possible US strike on Venezuela

SÃO PAULO: The Lula administration has placed the escalating Venezuela-US tensions at the top of Brazil's diplomatic agenda, following intelligence assessments warning of a possible US airstrike on Venezuelan territory. As first reported by Valour Economico, officials at the Planalto Palace believe recent American military activity in the Caribbean signals preparations for a potential offensive, prompting political, defence and humanitarian alerts within the Brazilian government, as reported by Brasil 247.

According to internal evaluations, President Lula is manoeuvring on two parallel tracks: first, trying to prevent any initial strike, and second, preparing diplomatic strategies to contain regional fallout should an attack occur. Despite Washington's hardening tone, Brasilia still hopes to maintain a channel of communication between Caracas and the United States.

As cited by Brasil 247, The Valor Economico report notes that Brazilian authorities have interpreted the US deployment of assets including the aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford in Caribbean waters as a shift to a more assertive posture. Washington has also confirmed strikes on boats it alleges were used by Venezuelan traffickers, leaving several dead. In recent statements, US President Donald Trump warned that Venezuelan airspace should be treated as "closed," urging American citizens to exit the country.

The Venezuelan crisis featured prominently in last week's call between Lula and Trump, which also covered sanctions and trade issues. Trump, however, did not disclose details of any planned action. Meanwhile, Brazil continues to use diplomatic channels to urge President Nicolas Maduro to adopt a tone of restraint and openness toward dialogue. Maduro has recently signalled willingness for "peace" and "conversation," including holding a phone call with Trump, though no specifics have been released.

Behind closed doors, Brasilia is studying possible scenarios should the US conduct targeted strikes. One proposal involves persuading Maduro to avoid disproportionate retaliation that could justify broader US military action. Brazilian advisers believe any US operation would likely focus on the infrastructure Washington associates with narcotrafficking.

Countries including France and the Netherlands have expressed concern, while divisions within South America complicate coordinated action. Brazil is particularly worried about three immediate risks: mass displacement toward its northern border, the precedent of narcotrafficking-based interventions, and the potential collapse of the Maduro government, leading to regional instability.

In case of an attack, Brazil is considering leading a coalition to prevent escalation, though such an initiative may face resistance within the region. — ANI

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS

Afghan community in the US urges fair probe into DC National Guard shooting

WASHINGTON DC): The head of the Afghanistan-US Relations Office in the United States has called for a serious and comprehensive investigation after the shooting that took place near White House on Thanksgiving Eve, which resulted in the death of one US National Guard, as per a report by Tolo News.

A wave of concern and questions has arisen within the Afghan community in the United States, and even beyond. In response, the head of the Afghanistan-US Relations Office in the US has called for a serious and comprehensive investigation into the case.

As per Tolo News, Saber Naseri, head of the Afghanistan-US Relations Office, stated, "We have not seen any video proving that the individual, identified as Afghan, attacked an American. I visited the area where the incident took place, asked questions, and I want to obtain the video to verify whether Lakanwal committed this act or not."

Tolo News further reported that migrant rights activists have warned that the US should not subject thousands of Afghan migrants to discrimination due to the actions of one individual.

It cited political analyst Wahed Faqiri, who said, "One of the key principles of American law is that crimes are individual, not collective. That's why Afghans are calling on the U.S. government to uphold its own principles and avoid generalizing the actions of one individual to the entire Afghan community."

This comes as the US Citizenship and Immigration Services issued a fresh set of guidelines in the wake of the shooting of two national guards by an Afghan person on the eve of Thanksgiving in the United States. The new policy guidance would authorise USCIS officials to consider country-specific factors from 19 countries when reviewing immigration requests.

In an official statement, USCIS said that it will consider relevant country-specific factors when using its broad discretionary authorities regarding aliens from 19 high-risk countries after halting refugee resettlement from Afghanistan and the entry of Afghan nationals in the first year of the Trump administration. — ANI

SPORTS

BEAT COMOROS 2-1

Brave Oman exit FIFA Arab Cup despite their first victory

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman bowed out of the FIFA Arab Cup 2025 with pride intact on Monday, earning their first win of the tournament, a 2-1 triumph over Comoros in their Group B match at Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar, but falling short of a place in the knockout stages.

Issam Al Sabhi was Oman's star of the night, striking twice in the first half to give Carlos Queiroz's side hope of a late surge from Group B. But Morocco's narrow 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the simultaneous fixture sealed Oman's fate, sending the North Africans through alongside the already-qualified Saudis.

Morocco's win meant that they topped the group with seven points from two wins and one draw while Saudi Arabia finished runners-up with six points from two wins. Oman ended third with four points from one win and a draw, the only loss coming against Saudi Arabia. Comoros failed to open their account. Al Sabhi broke the deadlock in the 30th minute, pouncing on a costly error by the Comoros goalkeeper.

The forward doubled the lead minutes before halftime, rising above the defence to power in a superb header that put Oman firmly in control. Comoros pulled one back in the 68th minute, but neither team could add to the scoreline as Oman saw out a deserved victory.

The Red Warriors had reignited their campaign on Friday with a gritty goalless draw against 2022 FIFA World Cup semi-finalists Morocco, a result that briefly kept their quarter-final hopes alive.

Yet Queiroz lamented missed opportunities, particularly after Morocco were reduced to 10 men following Abderrazzaq Allah's 53rd-minute dismissal.

Heading into the Comoros clash, Oman knew that their destiny did not rest solely in their own hands.

A win was essential - and delivered on Monday - but they also needed Saudi Arabia to defeat Morocco. Herve Renard's Saudi side, already assured of qualification after wins over Oman and Comoros, could not provide the helping hand. Despite the disappointment, Oman left Doha with heads held high, buoyed by their fighting spirit.

Gill, Hardik 'healthy and fit' ahead of first India-SA T20I

Gill had suffered a neck injury during the first Test against the Proteas, while Hardik had injured his left quadriceps during the Asia Cup

CUTTACK: Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya "are looking healthy and fit" ahead of the first T20I against South Africa, India captain Suryakumar Yadav said ahead of the series opener in Cuttack on Tuesday. "Both [Gill and Pandya] are looking healthy and fit," Suryakumar said.

Gill had suffered neck spasms during the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata, while Hardik was out with a quadriceps injury he suffered during the Asia Cup in September.

Gill is yet to play since his injury, but Hardik made a comeback in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Playing for Baroda, he picked up a wicket in each game, but more importantly, bowled four overs both times.

With the bat, his 77 not out off 42 against Punjab helped his team chase down 223.

"What you saw in the Asia Cup also, when he [Hardik] was bowling with the new ball, he opened up a lot of options, combinations for us with respect to the playing XI," Suryakumar said.

"That's what he brings to the table. His experience, the way he has done well in all big games, all ICC events, ACC events. I think that experience will count a lot and his presence will definitely give a good balance to the side."

With Gill back in the side, Suryaumar made it clear that Sanju Samson would have to compete with Jitesh Sharma for a spot in the middle order.

He also emphasised that all batters apart from the openers need to be flexible with respect to their position in the order.

"Sanju, when he came into the circuit, he batted higher up the order," he said.

"Now the thing is, other than the openers, everyone has to be flexible. He did really well when he opened the innings but Shubman had played before him in the Sri Lanka series, so he deserves to take that spot.

"But we gave Sanju opportunities. He was ready to bat at any number, which is actually good to see a player being flexible to bat anywhere from No. 3 to 6. That's one thing I have told all the batters that other than openers, everyone has to be very flexible. Both [Samson and Jitesh] are in the scheme of things.

"It's always good to have lovely players like both of them. One can open, one can bat lower down the order. In fact, both can do all the roles. It's an asset to the team and a good headache to have." - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by February 2026 reaching $64.56, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 65 cents from the price of Friday, which was $63.91. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 5,893.02 points, down by -0.38% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.23% at 517.91 points. DIDIC, up 9.69%, was the top gainer while Shell Oman Marketing, down 5.42%, was the top loser.

Oman's oil exports surpass 256mn barrels by end of October

Preliminary statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated that the average oil price decreased by 13.1 percent, reaching 71.7 US dollars per barrel by the end of October 2025, compared to 82.6 US dollars per barrel during the same period in 2024

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's oil exports recorded a slight increase of 0.1 percent by the end of October 2025, reaching 256,557,800 barrels, compared to 256,318,800 barrels during the same period in 2024.

Preliminary statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated that the average oil price decreased by 13.1 percent, reaching 71.7 US dollars per barrel by the end of October 2025, compared to 82.6 US dollars per barrel during the same period in 2024.

In contrast, the average daily oil production increased by 0.4 percent, reaching 997,400 barrels per day by the end of last October, compared to 993,900 barrels per day during the same period last year. The total production of the Sultanate of Oman's oil reached 303,240,400 barrels by the end of October 2025, compared to 303,149,600 barrels during the same period in 2024.

Natural gas production exceeds 47.5bn cubic metres

The Sultanate of Oman's production of natural gas — including domestic production and imports — witnessed a growth of 0.8 percent, reaching 47.5026 billion cubic metres by the end of October 2025, compared to 47.1055 billion cubic metres during the same period in 2024.

Data issued by the NCSI showed that the production of associated gas rose by 10.9 percent by the end of October 2025, reaching 10.5995 billion cubic metres, compared to 9.5558 billion cubic metres in the corresponding period of 2024.

Moreover, the production of non-associated gas (with imports) declined by 1.7 percent, reaching 36.9031 billion cubic metres by the end of October 2025, compared to 37.5497 billion cubic metres by the end of October 2024.

Regarding consumption, the consumption of natural gas in industrial projects decreased by 3.5 percent, reaching 23.2352 billion cubic metres by the end of October 2025, compared to 24.0815 billion cubic metres for the corresponding period in 2024.

Gas usage in power generation plants rose by 1.6 percent by the end of October 2025, reaching 13.1255 billion cubic metres, compared to 12.9224 billion cubic metres during the same period in 2024. The data also showed that gas consumption in oil fields (including industrial areas, Oman Mining Company, and Oman Cement) grew by 10.3 percent, reaching 10.9074 billion cubic metres by the end of October 2025, compared to 9.8933 billion cubic metres in the corresponding period of 2024.

Finally, gas used in industrial areas (including gas consumption at Sultan Qaboos University and the Ministry of Defence) recorded a growth of 12.6 percent, reaching 234.5 million cubic metres by the end of October 2025, compared to 208.3 million cubic metres during the same period in 2024. - ONA

Campaign Period: 01.09.2025 – 29.12.2025. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *50% of Insurance amount (Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance - Oman only, excluding diesel grades) on Yaris, Corolla, Camry, Camry HEV, Crown, Supra, GR86, Raize, Veloz, Urban Cruiser, Corolla cross, Corolla Cross HEV, RAV4, RAV HEV, Highlander HEV, Fortuner, Prado, Land Cruiser, Hilux S/C and D/C and Lite Ace Insurance benefit under the campaign would be 50% of Insurance amount for Private vehicles only. Balance amount is to be paid by customer. Additional premium as per Insurance norms will be collected from the RAO Taxi/ D.S etc... Discount in Lieu of Insurance (DI), equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the applicable insurance amount, may be granted to all eligible customers as an additional special discount. Said discount shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number in the event of any decimal points. To avail of the DI, customers are required to submit a formal written request. By electing to receive the DI, the customer expressly waives eligibility for any insurance coverage otherwise applicable to the model under the campaign. **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier Excl Diel Grades) covering 5 services at 10,000 kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Yaris, Corolla, Camry, Camry HEV, Crown, Raize, Veloz, Corolla cross, Corolla cross HEV, RAV4, RAV4 HEV, Highlander, Fortuner, Prado, LC wagon, Hilux 4X2 and 4X4. **5 Years / 60,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 12,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Supra **5 Years / 75,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 10 services at 7,500 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for GR86, Urban Cruiser @ 50% of VAT amount would be provided for the following models (excluding diesel grades): Yaris, Corolla, Camry HEV, GR86, Raize, Veloz, Urban Cruiser, Corolla Cross, Corolla Cross HEV, Fortuner, Prado. Balance amount to be paid by Customer. Discount in lieu of 50% VAT may be given as an additional Special Discount. Said discount shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number in the event of any decimal points. Customer must request in writing to avail of the benefit. # Thiqah Loyalty Points: OMR 50 worth Thiqah loyalty points (500 Points) would be credited in the account of the customer. The points can be redeemed against any expense incurred on Service/Repair at any of the Toyota Service Centers of SBA in Oman until 31.12.2026. These loyalty points are not transferrable and cannot be redeemed for cash. $ Raffle: 10 Units 26 YM Yaris Deluxe (NGC102L-TEXMKV-V2) ; Colour - White. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

DIDIC, up 9.69%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 5.42%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,893.02 points, down by -0.38% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.23% at 517.91 points. DIDIC, up 9.69%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 5.42%, was the top loser. Shares of Asyad Shipping were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 5041 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 37.8 million, with more than 158.8 million shares changing hands. Out of 76 traded securities, 33 advanced, 22 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 2226K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 1422K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 804K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 9,724.60 points, up 0.95%. Prices of DIDIC, Oman Arab Bank, Ahli Bank, Liva Group, Dhofar Insurance were up by 9.69%, 6.06%, 5.00%, 5.00%, 4.55% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank, Global Financial Investments, Bank Dhofar, Bank Nizwa were down by 3.09%, 1.81%, 1.41%, 1.32%, 0.93% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,556.47 points, up 0.47%. Prices of Construction Materials, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy, A'Saffa Foods were up by 3.03%, 2.50%, 1.84%, 1.59%, 0.43% respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Gulf Mushroom Products, Al Maha Ceramics were down by 1.39%, 1.33%, 1.08% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.54% before closing at 2,415.63 points. Prices of Gulf Hotels, SMN Power Holding, Majan College, Barka Water & Power Company, Al Maha Markting were up by 4.29%, 4.09%, 3.47%, 2.29%, 1.26% respectively. Prices of OQ Gas Networks, Muscat Desalination, National Gas, Ooredoo, OQ Exploration & Production were down by 1.53%, 1.16%, 1.15%, 1.02%, 0.79% respectively.– **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev . Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	5,928.28	5,878.42	5,893.02	5,915.73	-22.71	-0.38
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,724.60	9,600.18	9,724.60	9,632.65	91.95	0.95
Industry Index	7,557.25	7,511.89	7,556.47	7,520.77	35.70	0.47
Services Index	2,431.11	2,412.60	2,415.63	2,428.81	-13.18	-0.54
MSX Shariah Index	520.01	516.65	517.91	519.11	-1.20	-0.23
MSX TR INDEX	8,910.53	8,835.59	8,857.54	8,891.68	-34.13	-0.38
FINANCIAL TR IDX	11,553.16	11,405.35	11,553.16	11,443.92	109.24	0.95
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	9,317.43	9,261.51	9,316.47	9,272.46	44.02	0.47
SERVICES TR IDX	3,170.35	3,146.21	3,150.16	3,167.35	-17.19	-0.54
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
158,805,775	37,801,745	5,041	32,116,294,628	33	22	21	76

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	100	62	1	0.615	0.615	0.615	0.615	0.600	0.015	2.500	0.615	0.601	0.615	0.100	76,812,245
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	80,318	26,895	12	0.331	0.337	0.331	0.337	0.330	0.007	2.121	0.337	0.330	0.335	0.100	315,334,808
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	3,288	8,200	8	2.500	2.500	2.470	2.495	2.450	0.045	1.837	2.495	2.490	2.680	0.100	223,801,500
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,144,251	1,142,502	40	0.950	1.004	0.950	0.961	0.946	0.015	1.586	0.961	0.961	0.968	0.100	89,962,249
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	6,297,600	449,585	194	0.070	0.074	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.069	0.075	0.100	24,928,911
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	51,195	4,749	7	0.092	0.093	0.091	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.087	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	8,370,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,091,391	102,314	49	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	3,010,000	1,113,680	7	0.369	0.370	0.369	0.370	0.368	0.002	0.543	0.370	0.370	0.369	0.100	601,600,151
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	7,292	3,442	1	0.472	0.472	0.472	0.472	0.470	0.002	0.426	0.472	0.472	0.499	0.100	56,640,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	813,338	875,549	58	1.072	1.077	1.072	1.075	1.074	0.001	0.093	1.075	1.073	1.075	0.100	806,250,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	23,870	7,146	8	0.300	0.300	0.295	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.280	0.299	0.100	30,000,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	150,746	26,687	24	0.177	0.178	0.173	0.178	0.178	0.000	0.000	0.178	0.175	0.178	0.100	39,160,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	84,980	15,895	11	0.189	0.189	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.100	8,011,639
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	64,332	10,413	14	0.162	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.100	115,733,827
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	27,682,084	9,491,974	583	0.344	0.346	0.341	0.343	0.344	-0.001	-0.291	0.343	0.342	0.343	0.100	2,574,694,192
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	11,704,040	3,978,089	659	0.340	0.345	0.337	0.340	0.341	-0.001	-0.293	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.100	261,868,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	616,468	198,908	49	0.323	0.324	0.320	0.322	0.323	-0.001	-0.310	0.322	0.322	0.323	0.100	76,124,020
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	126,646	20,487	12	0.163	0.163	0.161	0.162	0.163	-0.001	-0.613	0.162	0.162	0.178	0.100	109,331,764
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,486,745	160,383	25	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.108	-0.001	-0.926	0.107	0.107	0.108	0.100	239,353,974
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	271,421	79,274	27	0.295	0.295	0.292	0.292	0.295	-0.003	-1.017	0.292	0.292	0.295	0.100	190,075,715
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	77,950	16,413	6	0.213	0.213	0.210	0.210	0.213	-0.003	-1.408	0.210	0.200	0.211	0.100	42,000,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	12,952,949	2,514,758	587	0.196	0.196	0.192	0.193	0.196	-0.003	-1.531	0.193	0.193	0.193	0.100	835,810,417
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	19,840,219	3,253,757	504	0.166	0.166	0.162	0.163	0.166	-0.003	-1.807	0.163	0.162	0.163	0.100	1,078,611,142
Total	23	87,581,223	23,501,162	2,886												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV.	8,000	2,068	3	0.258	0.283	0.258	0.283	0.258	0.025	9.690	0.283	0.253	0.283	0.100	140,383,888
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	1,563	169	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.101	0.007	6.931	0.108	0.103	0.108	0.100	18,792,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	61,464	10,631	12	0.167	0.175	0.167	0.175	0.165	0.010	6.061	0.175	0.175	0.180	0.100	350,480,083
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	3,079,353	517,103	14	0.148	0.168	0.148	0.168	0.160	0.008	5.000	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.100	454,742,454
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	50,000	14,850	5	0.290	0.315	0.290	0.315	0.300	0.015	5.000	0.315	0.290	0.315	0.100	125,487,918
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	1,125	259	1	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.220	0.010	4.545	0.230	0.206	0.242	0.100	26,760,727
OM0000001111	GULF HOTELS (OM)	31,934	116,444	2	3.500	3.650	3.500	3.650	3.500	0.150	4.286	3.650	3.650	0.000	1.000	12,513,375
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	255,008	58,042	60	0.222	0.230	0.222	0.229	0.220	0.009	4.091	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.100	45,716,552
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	259,775	39,078	29	0.150	0.151	0.148	0.149	0.144	0.005	3.472	0.149	0.149	0.152	0.100	13,410,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	23,683	3,146	3	0.132	0.134	0.132	0.134	0.130	0.004	3.077	0.134	0.131	0.132	0.100	37,415,911
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	5,498	349	5	0.063	0.068	0.063	0.068	0.066	0.002	3.030	0.068	0.062	0.068	0.100	4,250,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,000	40	2	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.039	0.001	2.564	0.040	0.038	0.042	0.100	3,400,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	51,784	9,169	13	0.175	0.179	0.175	0.179	0.175	0.004	2.286	0.179	0.172	0.179	0.100	28,640,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	72,343	6,656	9	0.091	0.093	0.091	0.093	0.091	0.002	2.198	0.093	0.091	0.093	0.100	60,318,900
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,699,451	94,099	66	0.053	0.057	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.001	1.887	0.054	0.054	0.058	0.100	16,585,902
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	64,066	3,668	11	0.060	0.060	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.056	0.058	0.100	14,250,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	33,300	5,072	6	0.150	0.153	0.150	0.153	0.151	0.002	1.325	0.153	0.150	0.152	0.100	93,043,360
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	20,109	1,589	3	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	11,275	11,686	10	1.036	1.048	1.035	1.048	1.035	0.013	1.256	1.048	1.035	1.048	0.100	72,312,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	90,091	12,177	7	0.135	0.136	0.135	0.136	0.135	0.001	0.741	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.100	42,896,712
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	35,250	4,928	10	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.001	0.719	0.140	0.140	0.142	0.100	21,000,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	5,555	4,515	8	0.810	0.815	0.810	0.815	0.810	0.005	0.617	0.815	0.815	0.815	0.100	49,939,125
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	5,791	2,801	6	0.483	0.485	0.483	0.485	0.485	0.000	0.000	0.485	0.483	0.485	0.100	160,473,264
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	329,315	32,937	44	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.090	0.105	0.100	29,855,293
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	23,900	4,794	5	0.201	0.205	0.200	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.190	0.205	0.100	3,612,851
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	80,000	19,200	15	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.239	0.240	0.100	17,162,122
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	63,186	5,437	8	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.088	0.100	19,112,640
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	18,000	5,490	1	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.000	0.000	0.305	0.300	0.305	0.100	21,468,950
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	49,622	7,146	7	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.143	0.144	0.100	10,875,168
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	301,602	45,946	17	0.152	0.153	0.152	0.152	0.153	-0.001	-0.654	0.152	0.152	0.153	0.100	222,315,422
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	7,652,532	2,887,067	219	0.379	0.379	0.376	0.376	0.379	-0.003	-0.792	0.376	0.376	0.377	0.010	3,008,000,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	7,000	1,937	5	0.277	0.277	0.276	0.276	0.279	-0.003	-1.075	0.276	0.275	0.289	0.100	15,180,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	24,868,827	4,534,989	559	0.184	0.184	0.181	0.182	0.184	-0.002	-1.087	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.040	629,627,335
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	29,228,459	5,355,128	571	0.184	0.185	0.181	0.182	0.184	-0.002	-1.087	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.000	947,991,459
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	92,979	8,022	10	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.079	0.086	0.100	7,310,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	65,000	5,500	14	0.084	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.081	0.084	0.100	13,221,784
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	37,593	5,876	11	0.157	0.158	0.155	0.155	0.157	-0.002	-1.274	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.100	91,672,716
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	1,885,594	283,583	316	0.153	0.153	0.150	0.150	0.152	-0.002	-1.316	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	455,969,780
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	10,136	3,031	5	0.300	0.300	0.296	0.296	0.300	-0.004	-1.333	0.296	0.296	0.300	0.100	13,546,676
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	15,000	1,065	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.069	0.071	0.100	1,491,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	265,425	25,163	27	0.096	0.098	0.094	0.094	0.097	-0.003	-3.093	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	11,456,250
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	200	136	1	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.719	-0.039	-5.424	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.100	64,600,000
Total	42	70,861,788	14,150,984	2,122												

OIL PRICES

Oil hits two-week high on US rate cut hopes

SINGAPORE: Oil prices yesterday climbed to their highest level in two weeks, driven by investor expectations of an imminent US interest rate cut that could support economic growth and boost global energy demand. Markets also remain on edge over geopolitical risks that threaten crude supplies from Russia and Venezuela.

Brent crude futures edged up 4 cents, or 0.06%, to $63.79 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose 7 cents, or 0.12%, to $60.15 per barrel.

Both benchmarks settled on Friday at their strongest levels since 18 November 2025

Gold edges up on Fed policy easing hopes

Gold prices edged higher yesterday, supported by growing bets that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this week, a move that would add further pressure on the dollar and enhance the appeal of the non-yielding metal.

Spot gold rose about 0.3% to $4,206.99 per ounce, while US gold futures for December delivery slipped 0.2% to $4,236.30 per ounce. Among other precious metals, silver was steady at $58.25 per ounce, platinum gained 0.3% to $1,646.56 per ounce, while palladium fell 0.5% to $1,455.55 per ounce. **-ONA**

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Oman's central bank issues treasury bills worth OMR10.3mn

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR10.3 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills include OMR0.2 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.750 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.750 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.25893% and 3.26710%, respectively.

Additionally, treasury bills amounted to OMR1.1 million was also allotted for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.100 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.100 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.60989% and 3.64267%, respectively.

Also, treasury bills for an amount of OMR9 million was allotted for a maturity period of 182 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.097 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.065 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.81712% and 3.89120%, respectively.

Financial instruments

Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides theadded advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.50% while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5%.

Furthermore, Treasury Bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. **– ONA**

RECOGNITION

AWASR wins 'Company of the Year – Telecom Sector' at Business Leadership Summit

MUSCAT: AWASR announced its recognition as the "Company of the Year – Telecom Sector" at the Times of Oman Business Leadership Summit 2025, an event held yesterday at the St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Mohammed bin Thuwaini Al Said. It brought together senior government officials, leading CEOs, industry specialists, and over 200 business leaders to explore topics such as economic resilience, sustainability, and leadership amid rapid digital change.

Organised by Muscat Media Group and Gulf Leaders Circle, the summit was held under the theme "Leading the Future of Business. It emphasised strategies for managing global uncertainty while fostering innovation, AI, and new business models.

The summit featured keynote sessions, high-level discussions, and fireside conversations with influential leaders from Oman and abroad. Topics covered included digital transformation, sustainability, innovative growth strategies, and leadership approaches that enable organisations to thrive amid disruption.

The day ended with the Times Business Leadership Awards, honouring companies and leaders who have shown outstanding contributions to business excellence and economic growth.

AWASR received the Company of the Year, Telecom Sector award in recognition of its leadership in enhancing digital connectivity nationwide, expanding high-speed fibre networks, and driving forward Oman's digital transformation agenda.

Representing AWASR at the ceremony, Badriya Al Ismaili, VP – HR & Support Services, received the award on behalf of the company.

Eng Adnan bin Mohammed Al Alawi, CEO of AWASR, stated: "We are proud to be recognized at this important summit under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Mohammed bin Thuwaini Al Said. This award highlights our team's dedication and our commitment to providing reliable, high-quality connectivity that supports individuals, businesses, and Oman's digital economy."

He further stated: "AWASR will persist in investing in cutting-edge infrastructure, innovative technologies, and customer-focused solutions to align with the Sultanate's vision for a digitally empowered future."

These summits highlight the increasing significance of collaboration, innovation, and strategic leadership in shaping future growth.

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Contact: 72722029 - Email: sreenair83@gmail.com

FINANCE

Chartered Accountant with 16+ yrs Exp-as Finance Head (Halliburton, ASAAS, ATC, ME). Expertise in IFRS, Reporting, Consolidation, MIS, Budgets, Tax, ERP. Seeking senior finance role in Oman.

CONTACT: 96741587
Email-umarustad@gmail.com.

MANAGER

Finance and accounts Manager well experiened, MBA finance with 16years experience in Oman. Looking for senior position in Accounts and finance.

Contact No. 95920740
Email ID: hameed1527@hotmail.com

MANAGER

FINANCE MANAGER well experienced M.Com with 20 yrs of Oman experience looking for senior position in finance and accounts, can join in short notice.

CONTACT: 95392251

FINANCE

Experienced Senior Accountant 10+ years in financial accounting, auditing, VAT, and reporting seeks opportunity in Oman. MBA-Finance. Skilled in Tally ERP, Excel, Autoline, reporting, audit, tax, and compliance.

Contact: 94792025 / vjinuraj@gmail.com

FINANCE

Financial & Management Accountant with 15 yrs exp in manufacturing, trading, contracting, oil and gas, insurance, construction, IT. Skilled in accounting, auditing, VAT, payroll, budgeting, cost control, and financial reporting.

Contact: 92106856,
Email: lizmarytherese@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

FINANCE

Indian Male B.Com, MBA, with 18 yrs in healthcare, trading, logistics, IVMS up to finalization with MIS, LC, LTR software expertise, ERP, tally, Odoo & online Accountings, valid Omani D/L, can be join with short notice period.

Contact : 99279626

ENGINEER

Indian, B.Tech-Mech Engineering Holder having 13 years of experience in Oman specialized in Steel Fabrication looking suitable position.

Contact: Mobile : 95945230
Email : Arungopalakrishnan85@yahoo.com

MEDICAL

Pharmacist with 16 yrs exp. in retail & hospital pharmacy in Muscat & India. Previously registered with MOH, Oman with work License, NOC with D/L, currently in Muscat

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CHANGE OF NAME

I **FARZANA MOODER** (holder of Indian Passport No. **V9131683**) Son of/ daughter of MOHSIN ALI having permanent residence in 16, Hakimi Township, Mangrul Road, KHARGONE, Madhya Pradesh PIN: 451001 (M.P India) (Complete postal address in India) and presently residing in Bldg NO. 212, Flat No 413, 3rd Floor, SPAR Building, Darsait, Muscat (Near Indian School Darsait) (Complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from **FARZANA MOODER (old name)** to **FARZANA AZMI (new name)** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.O. Box No 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate Of Oman.

I **MOODER** (holder of Indian Passport No. **V9133893**) Son of/ daughter of MOHD BHAI having permanent residence in 16, Hakimi Township, Mangrul Road, KHARGONE, Madhya Pradesh PIN: 451001 (M.P India) (Complete postal address in India) and presently residing in Bldg NO 212, Flat no 413, 3rd Floor, SPAR Building, Darsait, Muscat (Near Indian School Darsait) (Complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from **MOODER (old name)** to **MOODER AZMI (new name)** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.O Box No 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate Of Oman.

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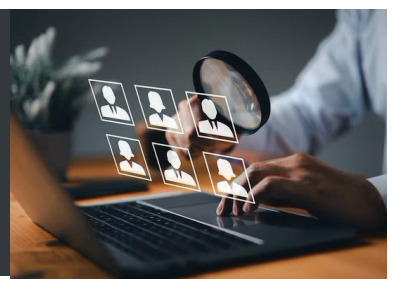

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Indian Male Chartered Accountant Inter holder and M. com graduate with more than 8 yrs Oman experience Looking for suitable position. D/L and NOC.Contact 78793414 Email iqbalpmr@gmail.com

Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp. 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277

Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Indian male,MBA finance, 15 yrs experience in accounting up to finalisation, VAT submission. Immediate joining. Contact: 96290882, Email: ajithakes@gmail.com

MBA Finance Senior accountant, 13-yrs GCC experience looking for a job upto finalization. Contact 98869499

Accounts cum supervisor with 8yrs experience & D/L looking job.Contact: 95273377

14 yrs GCC expirenced Senior Accoutant, looking for suitable position (Oman D/L). Contact : 93150057

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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Indian male, Bcom, MBA Finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Contact:97436925. Email sasdsrk@gmail.com

Looking for Accounts data entry, purchase, stores, with D/L Contact. 92505721, mail: sagarjohn28@gmail.com

Indian Male, M.com (Finance), 10 years accounting experience in Oman. Seeking suitable postion. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141

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Indian Male MBA, Senior accountant, admin having 10 yrs experience. Contact : 95416322, Email: aabynarayan@gmail.com

MBA Finance & B com Computer with experience of 2yrs as an accountant in Muscat Oman, having Oman D/L. Presently in Oman. Contact: 93965857

Indian Male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Contact: 97436925. Email: sasdsrk@gmail.com

Indian Male, B.com, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs. Contact: 97436925. Email: sasdsrk@gmail.com"

ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male, 15 yrs experience in Oman seeks job for admin, secretary or any suitable post. Holding Oman D/L M: 94019955.

ADMINISTRATION

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Indian Male 45 yrs, with 20 yrs of experience in commercial, purchase and warehouse Logistic operations, seeks operational job. Mob: 91425510

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Sri Lankan Management Executive, 13 yrs operations and business development experience in distribution, manufacturing, service industries. Contact: 93297579

Indian Female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79166904/97498882

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Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job. Contact: 99116288

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian Female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email: induchandran01@gmail.com

IT

MCA graduate seeking a suitable job opportunity in Oman. Available in Muscat. Contact: 91488059

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Diploma in Electrical Engineering looking for Fire Fighting site supervisor/ suitable job. Contact: 95933453, Email: haquefaizan3786@gmail.com

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Sales Engineer Indian Male, 7 yrs experience in sales.Seeking suitable job opportunities NOC & Oman D/L available. Contact 94150903 Email:vaseem9633@gmail.com

B. Tech Civil Engineer with 15+yrs experience. Society Engineering certificate ,valid Omani D/L. Looking for a suitable position. Available for immediate join. NOC available. Mob: 78790123,91693008

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BE Civil Engr. Indian Male, 11yrs experience in Oman,holding Oman D/L seeks placement. Contact: 93867573, Email:pineasdhas@gamil.com

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Indian Male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch Manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact: 98132055

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male 41 yrs MBA, B.com having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities in Oman. Contact: +971529546753

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading. whatsapp:+96895839964

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SALES/MARKETING

28 yrs experience in Sales, marketing and procurement in the consumer durables and FMCG. Indian MBA, strong relationships with major retailers in Oman. Contact: 93340457

Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales(FMCG/ retail) with D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact: 95548480

Indian Male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 94566786

Indian Senior Sales & Operations, 7+ yrs exp, with D/L. Seeks suitable position. Cont: 71713865 | Email: praveenmkg@gmail.com

Indian male 15+yrs FMCG experience in sales and retail in Oman with valid D/L. Contact: 92772821.Email pawandhanariya@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Indian Female Diploma in Pharmacy more than 15 yrs experience in Oman, looking for suitable position in Muscat location. Contact 76460156 Email id: chandrakalasunilkumar68@gmail.com

Indian Female with 5yrs of strong clinical & administrative experience & skills in Dental,seeking roles in medical, dental, healthcare, admin fields, valid Oman Resident Card. Immediate joining. Contact : 79424264 . Email: nancydas055@gmail.com

WORLD

SAARC CHARTER DAY

Pakistan committed to principles, objectives of SAARC Charter, says PM Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan remained firmly committed to the principles and objectives of the SAARC Charter as it believed that genuine cooperation, guided by sovereign equality, mutual respect and constructive engagement, can unlock South Asia's vast potential and ensure a better tomorrow for all.

In a message on 40th anniversary of SAARC Charter Day observed on December 8, 2025, he said, "As we commemorate, the 40th anniversary of the SAARC Charter Day, I extend my warmest greetings to the peoples and the governments of all SAARC member-states. This auspicious occasion, reminds us of our shared aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity across the region of South Asia."

"When SAARC was established, over four decades ago, it was meant to provide an essential platform, to promote dialogue, foster cooperation and strengthen the bonds that bring our nations together," he added.

He said, "While these goals have, regrettably, remained elusive due to political considerations, within the region, I commend the SAARC Secretariat for striving hard to provide its dedicated assistance as well as for its efforts to advance the organisation's goals and creating opportunities for meaningful collaboration among the member states."

"In an era of growing regional cooperation, the necessity of economic, digital, and people-to-people connectivity in South Asia could hardly be overemphasised.

Together, we must work to enhance linkages that facilitate trade, investment, innovation, and cultural exchange in our region," he continued. "Our region also faces common challenges such as poverty, climate induced natural disasters,food and energy insecurity and public health issues. These challenges transcend borders and require collective responses based on mutual trust, goodwill, and a spirit of mutual cooperation. It is only by acting together, that we can build a resilient and inclusive future, for our peoples," he further added. — APP

UN aid coordination agency slashes appeal for 2026 to $23 billion

The appeal comes after the aid and development sector took a major hit as the US sharply cut funds, while aid workers have come increasingly under attack in conflicts

NEW YORK: The United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Monday it was downsizing its annual aid appeal, seeking $23 billion (€19.7 billion) for 2026.

The appeal comes after the aid and development sector took a major hit as the US sharply cut funds, while aid workers have come increasingly under attack in conflicts

The figure is needed to save 87 million lives, UN Humanitarian Chief Tom Fletcher told reporters "We drive the ambulance toward the fire on your behalf. But we're also now being asked to put the fire out. And there's not enough water in the tank. And we're being shot at."

A year ago, the UN sought $47 billion but received only $12 billion, "the lowest in a decade," said Fletcher.

Now, the UN aims to follow a plan that "sets out where we need to focus our collective energy first. It is, therefore, based on excruciating life and death choices," Fletcher said.

The UN ultimately hopes to raise $33 billion to help 135 million people in 2026, but is aware it might fall short as countries move to cut development aid to increase defence budgets.

Fletcher said extremist politicians were also misleading people into thinking that their taxes were largely funding aid, a claim far from the reality.

"I know budgets are tight right now, families everywhere are under strain, but the world spent $2.7 trillion on defense last year, on guns and arms. I'm asking for just over 1% of that," he added.

Where does the money go?

The new appeal is "laser-focused on saving lives where the shocks hit hardest: wars, climate disasters, earthquakes, epidemics, crop failures," Fletcher said.

OCHA identified the top three areas where aid is desperately needed in 2026:

$4.1 billion for 3 million people in the Palestinian territories

$2.9 billion for 20 million people in Sudan

$2.8 billion for 8.6 million people in Syria

Ukraine, Haiti and Myanmar were also high on the list. — DW

BORDER REGION

Thailand launches airstrikes after Cambodian shelling kills Thai soldier

BANGKOK: Thailand launched airstrikes on Cambodian military positions on Monday morning after Cambodian shelling killed a Thai soldier and injured several others along the tense border region, according to media report.

According to the Royal Thai Army, Cambodian forces fired shells and rockets at Thai military and civilian areas around 7 am in the Chong Bok area of Nam Yuen district. One Thai soldier was killed, and four others were injured in the attack.

Maj Gen Winthai Suvaree said Thai troops returned fire and later used fighter jets to strike Cambodian locations to halt the incoming attacks, Bangkok Post reported.

"The target was at Cambodia's arms supporting positions in the area of Chong An Ma Pass, because those targets had used artillery and mortar launchers to attack the Thai side at Anupong Base," he added as per CNN.

The 2nd Army Region also reported that around 8.30 am, rockets fired from Cambodian BM-21 launchers hit Ban Sai Tho 10 in Ban Kruat district of Buri Ram province.

Cambodia, meanwhile, accused Thailand of initiating Monday's violence.

"It should be noted that this attack occurred after the Thai forces engaged in numerous provocative actions for many days," the Cambodian army said, claiming Thai forces struck first at around 5.04 am.

Cambodia's Ministry of National Defence accused Thai military forces of launching "brutal and inhumane" attacks on Cambodian troops along the border in Preah Vihear province, calling the incident a serious violation of the peace agreement signed during the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur. — ANI

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

THREE-DAY EVENT

BRIDGE Summit 2025 opens in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: The BRIDGE Summit 2025 opened on Monday in Abu Dhabi, bringing together more than 60,000 creators, media and content professionals, artists, producers, publishers, entrepreneurs, investors, universities and research centres. The event features over 400 international speakers and 300 exhibitors taking part in the region's largest media and content gathering.

The summit, taking place at the ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi until 10th December, presents a varied programme of more than 300 activities, including 200 panel discussions and 50 workshops.

Interactive platforms and designated areas for deal-making and strategic partnerships form a key part of the summit's offering, which aims to strengthen production ecosystems, enhance value chains and promote knowledge exchange among leading global stakeholders.

Prominent leaders and decision-makers gather at the three-day summit to engage in dialogue and share expertise. The event seeks to translate these interactions into meaningful partnerships and investments that enhance entry into global creative economy markets.

Emerging creative sectors, including gaming and augmented and virtual reality, take centre stage at the summit alongside design, architecture, crafts and cultural outputs. The event also engages media organisations, academic institutions, research bodies and innovation hubs. — ANI/WAM

CELEBRATION

Syria marks a year since fall of Assad as divisions remain

DAMASCUS: Thousands of Syrians on Monday took to the streets to mark the first anniversary of the fall of Bashar Assad's regime.

Assad fled to Russia after an Islamist-led offensive a year ago.

The Syrian capital, Damascus, is hosting a military parade and a speech by interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who led the offensive that ousted Assad.

People gathered at Damascus's landmark Umayyad Mosque for dawn prayers, raising flags and chanting slogans in celebration of the anniversary. Al-Sharaa was also at the mosque, telling people after the prayers to get together to rebuild their country.

"The current phase requires the unification of efforts by all citizens to build a strong Syria, consolidate its stability, safeguard its sovereignty and achieve a future befitting the sacrifices of its people," Sharaa said.

The rebel-turned-president said reconstruction efforts would extend "from north to south and east to west," adding that his government seeks to ensure justice and support vulnerable communities.

European Council President Antonio Costa has pledged continued EU support as Syrians take "steps toward a more stable and inclusive future."

"The EU stands with Syria, supporting a peaceful, Syrian-led process focused on justice, reconciliation and the rights of all Syrians," Costa said on Monday. "Challenges remain, but we are committed to political dialogue, urgent humanitarian support and Syria's recovery and reconstruction."

Al-Sharaa has managed to rally Western backing, not only from the EU, but also from the US. Last month, he became the first Syrian president to visit the White House since 1946. Many countries see Syria's stability as integral to the region's security. Some, including Germany, also seek to have the Syrian nationals who sought refuge in their countries return to Syria, as anti-immigration politics rise. Although the fall of Assad's regime marked a significant breakthrough in Syria, the country's fragile transition faces challenges.

Religious minorities have come under attack several times in the past year, while Israel continues to strike Syrian territories.

Alawites are largely boycotting Monday's celebrations in protest against the "oppressive" new authorities. The Kurdish administration, which controls parts of northeast Syria, has also prohibited public gatherings and events on Sunday and Monday, citing security concerns.

The Kurdish administration is trying to safeguard its regional autonomy, while in the south, some Druze are seeking independence in the province of Sweida after hundreds were killed in July clashes with government forces. — DW

LIFESTYLE

Long thought to be an assortment of mysterious holes near Stonehenge, researchers have now used new technologies to better understand the culture that dug a circle of ditches around the monument in southern England

NEW DISCOVERY: THE 'SACRED BOUNDARY' SURROUNDING STONEHENGE

Some 4,500 years ago, people dug a series of deep, wide pits in the area near Durrington Walls in southern England. They were gemometrically arranged, forming a 2-kilometre (1.2-mile) wide circle that enclosed over three square kilometres (1.16 square miles).

Long mistaken for naturally occuring features, the circle of human-made shafts has now come to be understood as a colossal project that lends new dimensions to the Stonehenge landscape.

An invisible ring around Durrington Walls

Durrington Walls is just a stone's throw from the small English town of Amesbury, and just three kilometres, or about half an hour on foot, from Stonehenge. Each pit or shaft is approximately 10 metres (32.8 feet) wide and 5 metres deep.

Of the 20 pits discovered so far, a new study suggests that at least 15 form a huge, even circle around the henge of Durrington Walls. A henge is a type of prehistoric earthwork consisting of a ring-shaped bank, fortified with an inward ditch, encircling a flat circular area.

They were likely used for ceremonial purposes, to congregate or perform rituals. At the centre of Durrington Walls used to be a circular structure of wooden posts, driven deep into the ground and surrounded by a settlement.

The pits were discovered years ago, but the newest research is just now uncovering more details, and providing deeper understanding. Scientists have now been able to date the structure to about 2480 BCE using optically stimulated luminescence (OSL).

The OSL method is a fairly precise way of pinpointing a sediment's last exposure to light — and by extension, the last time it was covered or buried — by measuring the natural radiation captured in certain minerals like quartz and feldspar. This technique relies heavily on the quality of the sample and has a margin of error of about 5-10%.

The recent study shows that the circular structure did not accidentally form over centuries, but was the result of intentional efforts in a planned, momunental project. The pits were actively used as part of the cultural landscape — and traces of humans, plants and animals indicate deliberate coordination.

A 'sacred boundary' mapped with astounding precision

None of the shafts examined can be attributed to natural erosion of the chalky landscape — the pits' sheer size and number clearly suggest they were dug by humans. They form a near-perfect circle, and are spaced at even intervals. The width and distance of the pits follow a clear pattern.

This means that the humans involved were able to mark distances, count steps or measurements, and work out a coordinated plan — all before they started digging. And so, what at first glance seemed like an assortment of strange holes became a rare testament to the fact that numbers, measurements, and large-scale planning were already part of the daily lives of Neolithic people living in the area.

Neolithic monuments across Europe

Neither Durrington Walls nor Stonehenge are isolated structures. They belong to a network of Neolithic monuments spanning the British Isles, from the stone circles and circular ditches of Salisbury Plains to other henge formations with pits and ditches as far as Ireland and Scotland — and further still.

Similar discoveries show that around 2700 BCE and 2200 BCE, prehistoric groups from southern Britain, northern Europe, central Germany and the Iberian peninsula were in active exchange.

What's known as the bell-beaker culture, with its eponymous bell-shaped ceramic vessels, even established a trans-regional network of trade and exchange, as the archeologist Franziska Knoll of the State Office for Heritage Management and Archeology Saxony-Anhalt told DW.

Knoll has been investigating the circular sanctuary of Pömmelte just south of Madgeburg in central Germany. Here, too, are circular structures that echo those of Durrington Walls — although, at just 2 metres deep, they do not match the scale — with cattle bones, ceramics, stone axes and other objects intentionally deposited within.

The pits in Durrington Walls will not be excavated in the near future for financial reasons. But Knoll hopes to soon find out what exactly was deposited in the British shafts. Although she was not involved in the present study, she says she's like to learn more about when exactly the pits were dug. - DW

SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool forward Salah is destroying his legacy, says Rooney

MUSCAT: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah is destroying his legacy, says former Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney.

Salah said on Saturday he felt like he had been "thrown under the bus" by Liverpool and that his relationship with head coach Arne Slot had broken down.

Rooney believes that Slot must now show his authority and not involve Egypt international Salah in Tuesday's Champions League game at Inter Milan or next Saturday's home match with Brighton.

"Arne Slot has to show his authority and pull him in and say 'you are not travelling with the team, what you said is not acceptable'," said Rooney in his latest podcast episode.

"Take yourself off to AFCON and let everything calm down. If I was him there would be no way he would be in the team."

Rooney said Salah needed to either iron out his differences with Slot, or leave Liverpool.

"It needs to be sorted out quickly either way," he added.

Salah, 33, has scored 250 goals in 420 Liverpool appearances but has failed to start the past three matches and was an unused substitute in Saturday's 3-3 draw at Leeds United.

After the game, Salah told reporters at Elland Road: "I said many times before that I had a good relationship with the manager, and all of a sudden we don't have any relationship.

"It seems like the club has thrown me under the bus. That is how I am feeling. I think it is very clear that someone wanted me to get all of the blame."

Salah, whose 29 Premier League goals helped propel Liverpool to the Premier League last season, signed a new two-year contract in April.

Rooney questioned why Salah, who signed for Liverpool from Roma in 2017, would come out publicly with his comments.

"He is absolutely destroying his legacy at Liverpool," added the five-time Premier League winner.

"It would be sad for him to throw it all away. He's gone about it all wrong."

Liverpool have struggled to hit the heights of Slot's first season in charge. They sit ninth in the table, 10 points behind leaders Arsenal, after winning just seven of their opening 15 games.

Salah has scored four times in 13 top-flight appearances.

Rooney said Salah was wrong to say "I don't have to go every day fighting for my position because I earned it".

The former England forward added: "Time catches up with all of us, and this season he hasn't looked as his best, at his sharpest.

"You want to see him roll his sleeves up and say 'ok then, I'll show you'.

"To have the arrogance to say he doesn't have to earn his place because he has already earned his place, you need to be at your best every week to try and stay in the team.

"If I was one of his team-mates, I wouldn't be happy at all with what he said because this is where Liverpool need him most.

"If anything, he has thrown Liverpool under the bus with his words.

"He's been absolutely incredible for Liverpool, but this was disrespectful to his team-mates, manager and fans.

"I would imagine he will be very quiet around the training ground and that will bring a negative energy in itself to the new players Arne has bedded in.

"I am sure over the next couple of years he will regret saying what he has." **(With inputs from BBC Sport)**

Alonso under pressure as Celta earn shock win over nine-man Real Madrid

The defeat leaves Los Blancos four points behind leaders Barcelona in Spanish La Liga

MADRID: Real Madrid fell to a shock 2-0 defeat against Celta Vigo in Spanish La Liga on Sunday as they ended the match with nine men and saw the pressure increase on manager Xabi Alonso.

The defeat means second-placed Real, who host Man City in the Champions League on Wednesday, remain four points behind leaders Barcelona having won just one of their last five La Liga matches. "We are all angry, evidently this was not the game we wanted, it was not the result we wanted," Alonso said.

"We have to try and turn the page as quickly as possible. It's only three points. We have the Champions League game against City to react to, and get this bad taste out of our mouths."

Seven minutes after the break, substitute Williot Swedberg flicked a clever finish into the bottom corner with his first league goal of the season giving Celta an unlikely lead.

In the 64th minute, things went from bad to worse for Real when they were reduced to 10 men after Fran Garcia was shown two yellow cards in the space of a minute.

Real were reduced to nine men in the 92nd minute after Alvaro Carreras was shown two quick-fire yellow cards, one for dissent and the other for foul and abusive language.

Swedberg added a second after Carreras' dismissal as the hosts imploded. It is Celta's first win over Real in La Liga since May 2014, a run of 22 games without victory.

Earlier in the week, Alonso said he had held talks with club president Florentino Perez about the club's dip in form and he was shown a yellow card as tensions continued to rise inside the Bernabeu. Real spurned chances with Arda Guler firing narrowly wide from close range and Kylian Mbappe chipping a shot just over the bar.

This is Real's first match since Trent Alexander-Arnold was ruled out for two months with a thigh injury as his disrupted debut season continues and defender Éder Militao went off in the 23rd minute after injuring his hamstring in a further blow to Real's defensive ranks.

Focus turns to a huge clash in the Champions League on Wednesday when Alonso's side host Manchester City.

Elsewhere, Elche ended a run of seven league games without a win thanks to a comfortable 3-0 triumph at home to Girona, who remains deep in relegation trouble.

Roberto Fernandez's 38th-minute penalty made the difference as Espanyol won 1-0 at home to a tired-looking Rayo Vallecano.

Hugo Duro saved a point for Valencia with a 93rd-minute equaliser at home to Sevilla. **- Agencies**

BRAZILIAN STAR

Neymar faces surgery after Santos survival

RIO DE JANEIRO: Neymar is set to have knee surgery after playing in pain to help boyhood club Santos avoid relegation from Brazil's Serie A. The 33-year-old played the full 90 minutes as Santos claimed a 3-0 win over Cruzeiro on Sunday to avoid an immediate return to the second tier after promotion last season.

He did not give any details on his expected recovery, adding: "I need to rest and then I will have this knee surgery."

Neymar returned to Brazil in January after making just seven appearances over 18 months for Saudi Pro League club Al Hilal.

He has played a crucial role in Santos' survival by scoring five goals in their last four matches of the season. "I came for this, to try to help in the best way I can," said Neymar. "These have been tough weeks for me.

"I thank those who were with me to lift me up. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't have played these matches because of this knee problem."

Injuries have limited Brazil's all-time top scorer, who has netted 79 goals in 128 appearances, from featuring for the national side since a defeat by Uruguay in October 2023.

In October this year, Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti said the forward must regain full fitness and be in form to be recalled to his squad for 2026 World Cup. **- Agencies**

SPANISH DEFENDER

Ramos confirms Monterrey exit

MEXICO CITY: Veteran Spanish defender Sergio Ramos has parted ways with Monterrey after the club's defeat to Toluca in the semifinals of the Liga MX Apertura tournament.

The 2010 World Cup winner said he had decided not to seek an extension to the season-long deal he signed last February.

"Yes, it is my last match," the 39-year-old said after Monterrey and Toluca drew 3-3 on aggregate, a result that saw the latter progress due to a superior regular-season record.

Ramos made 32 appearances and scored seven goals across all competitions for Monterrey, including four games and a goal at the expanded edition of the FIFA Club World Cup in the United States.

"We are sad, but with a clear conscience knowing we gave everything on the pitch," the Real Madrid great said in a message to fans on social media. "Now it's time to learn, get back up, and understand that this is also part of football.

"The biggest regret is not being able to give the fans another final, because they deserve it the most. Thank you always for your support." **- Xinhua**

DRAW AGAINST WEST HAM

Rutter's late goal rescues point for Brighton

LONDON: Georginio Rutter's stoppage-time equaliser for Brighton cancelled out Jarrod Bowen's superb finish as West Ham missed the chance to escape the Premier League relegation zone on Sunday.

With 91 minutes on the clock, West Ham were unable to hold out for a win that would have lifted them out of the bottom three, as Rutter finished from close range.

The video assistant referee (VAR) checked whether Rutter handled the ball before finishing - but the goal was allowed to stand.

The Premier League Match Centre said: "The referee's call of goal was checked and confirmed by VAR - with it deemed that Rutter's arm was in a natural position and he did not deliberately handle the ball, and the contact with the arm was not immediately prior to him scoring."

Konstantinos Mavropanos was inches away from then snatching a winner for the Hammers but he could only head wide from a corner with the last action of the game.

West Ham captain Bowen had given the Hammers the lead in the 73rd minute after he latched on to a Callum Wilson pass and finished from an incredibly tight angle.

Brighton almost responded immediately. A cross looped up off Max Kilman and looked goal-bound, but Alphonse Areola was able to push the ball on to the woodwork.

The Seagulls continued to push for a leveller as Charalampos Kostoulas made a near-post run to meet Rutter's cross, but he could not direct his shot on target.

In a drab first half, Bowen tried to stamp his authority on the game - dancing his way through the Seagulls' defence to force Bart Verbruggen into a stunning stop. Crysencio Summerville latched on to the rebound for the Hammers, but the goalkeeper saved.

In another match, Crystal Palace defeated Fulham 2-1. **- Agencies**

Hojlund brace powers Napoli back to the Serie A summit

Napoli moved a point clear of Inter after handing Juventus their first league defeat since Luciano Spalletti took charge of the Turin club

NAPLES: Rasmus Hojlund fired Napoli to the top of Serie A with both goals in Sunday's 2-1 win over Juventus and former idol Luciano Spalletti on Sunday, who left empty-handed from the site of his greatest triumph.

Denmark striker Hojlund headed home the winning goal with 12 minutes remaining at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.

The 22-year-old also put Napoli ahead early on in Naples, his first club goal since netting the winner against Genoa in early October.

Napoli are one point ahead of Inter Milan after condemning Juve to a first league defeat since Spalletti took charge of the Turin giants in late October, but will be surpassed on goal difference by AC Milan on Monday night if the seven-time European champions beat Torino.

"All I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you to the players," said coach Antonio Conte, who looked close to a shock exit after a dismal defeat at Bologna before the last international break.

But Napoli have won five on the bounce in all competitions since then and travel to Portugal next to take on Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League on Wednesday.

"They've grown so much. It makes me very proud because they understand what we're trying to do and the period we're going through, and they respond in an incredible fashion," Conte added.

Juve are now eight points off the title race after 14 matches as Spalletti, who led Napoli to a first Scudetto in over three decades in 2023, struggles to get a tune out of his new players.

Juve had looked good for a result when Kenan Yildiz coolly rolled home his sixth goal of the season after brilliantly exchanging passes with Weston McKennie.

They had been the better team of the second half up to that point, but failed to capitalise on that moment, with Yildiz's substitution in the 76th minute being quickly followed by Hojlund's winner.

McKennie handed Hojlund his big chance by simply heading a speculative cross right to the powerful centre-forward, who made no mistake from close range.

It was a bad end to a match which started with loud boos for Spalletti from Napoli fans who were angered by his joining Juve after previously saying he would never manage another club following his historic title win.

"We were better after our goal, but it was schoolboy stuff; we didn't push the situation as a team," Spalletti said.

"We need to step it up and quickly, otherwise things become difficult... We need to take stock."

Roma, defeated by Napoli last weekend, lost further ground in the title race with a painful 0-1 loss at Cagliari, which left it four points behind Napoli.

Down to 10 men for most of the second half after Zeki Celik brought down Michael Folorunsho, Roma left Sardinia with nothing due to Gianluca Gaetano's neat finish at a corner in the 82nd minute.

"We made a few clear mistakes, both for the red card and their goal, and it's difficult to get a result when things like that happen," said Roma coach Gian Piero Gasperini.

Bologna are two points behind Roma in fifth after a 1-1 draw at Rome's other team, Lazio, Jens Odgaard poking home the leveller five minutes before the break.

Lazio's draw meant promoted Cremonese — with a 2-0 win over Lecce in the day's early fixture — will be in the top half of the table at the end of this round of fixtures. Davide Nicola's team prevailed thanks to Federico Bonazzoli's penalty and a first Cremonese goal for Antonio Sanabria, both of which came in the second half. - Agencies

FORMER UNION BERLIN MANAGER

Mainz turn to Swiss Fischer as coach

BERLIN: Mainz 05 moved to reshape their season on Sunday by appointing Urs Fischer as head coach, handing the former Union Berlin manager a contract running until 2028 as the club looks to halt its slide and secure Bundesliga survival.

Fischer succeeds Bo Henriksen and takes charge with immediate effect, beginning preparations for an upcoming UEFA Conference League fixture later this week. He is joined by longtime assistant Markus Hoffmann and video analyst Sebastian Podsiadly, a coaching team he has worked with for several years.

"Urs Fischer has consistently shown at every professional station that he can organise and develop teams," said Mainz sporting director Christian Heidel. "With his calm but empathetic manner, he knows how to reach a dressing room. His record and experience made him a highly sought-after coach, and we are delighted that he committed to Mainz without hesitation."

The 59-year-old returns to the Bundesliga after more than a year away from management. Fischer began his coaching career at FC Zurich before guiding Thun to their first-ever Europa League qualification. He later won multiple domestic titles with Basel, including two league championships and the Swiss Cup.

His most prominent success came at Union Berlin, where he led the club from the second division into the Bundesliga and, in successive seasons, into the Conference League, Europa League and finally the Champions League. In 2023, Fischer was named German coach of the year. He left Union in November of that year and had been without a club since.

"There are no easy tasks in football, but that is exactly what makes it interesting," Fischer said. "The discussions with Christian Heidel and Niko Bungert convinced me. Mainz fits me as a club, and I am convinced we can turn things around together as a team."

Mainz currently are at the bottom of the Bundesliga table, with six points from 13 games. - Xinhua

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Borussia Dortmund tighten top-three grip after victory over Hoffenheim

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund produced a controlled, efficient display to secure a 2-0 home win over Hoffenheim on Sunday, strengthening their hold on a top-three position in the Bundesliga.

The visitors arrived in good form and began confidently, staying compact and matching Dortmund's intensity during an even first half that produced few clear chances. Both sides pressed aggressively in midfield, with disciplined defending, limiting openings in the final third.

Dortmund broke the deadlock just before halftime with their sharpest move of the match. Julian Brandt found space inside the penalty area and finished from close range after a well-timed overlap down the right created the opening.

The home side took greater control after the break, dictating the tempo and restricting Hoffenheim's attacking rhythm. Their superiority was rewarded shortly after the hour when Nico Schlotterbeck reacted quickest to a set piece, sliding the ball into the corner to double the lead.

Hoffenheim pushed for a response and made attacking changes, briefly threatening with a late effort that flew over the bar, but Dortmund's defence remained composed as the hosts managed the closing stages with little alarm.

The result extends Dortmund's strong home run and keeps them firmly in the fight near the top of the table, while Hoffenheim saw their recent momentum checked despite a competitive display.

"We are of course satisfied because we won. We kept a clean sheet and allowed nothing tonight. We defended well and it was a deserved victory. Nothing spectacular, but an important home win for us," said Niko Kovac.

Elsewhere in the 13th round of the Bundesliga, the northern derby returned for the first time since February 2018 and ended in dramatic fashion. Werder Bremen scored first before Hamburg responded with two goals. Justa Njinmah's late equaliser appeared to rescue a point for Bremen, but Yussuf Poulsen struck in the closing moments to give Hamburg a 3-2 victory. - Xinhua

HENRY, SANTNER, SMITH OUT

New Zealand lose key trio for rest of West Indies Test series

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand's bowling spearhead Matt Henry (calf strain), seam-bowling all-rounder Nathan Smith (side strain) and spin-bowling all-rounder Mitchell Santner (groin injury) have all been ruled out of the rest of the home Test series against West Indies.

Glenn Phillips, who joined the squad in Christchurch early as a substitute fielder, has officially been added to the Test squad for the remainder of the series, New Zealand Cricket confirmed on Monday.

This after he proved his match fitness in the Plunket Shield before joining the squad for the first Test, and he could be in contention to be selected in the XI for the second Test.

In another bit of good news for New Zealand, Daryl Mitchell, who put in a long shift as a substitute fielder in the first Test, is set to be available for the second and slot back in as their middle-order mainstay.

Wicketkeeper-batter Tom Blundell had already been sidelined from the second Test in Wellington after suffering a hamstring injury while batting on day one in Christchurch. Mitchell Hay has been added to the squad and could make his Test debut.

Also, a day after uncapped seamer Michael Rae was called up to the Test squad, Kristian Clarke, a seam-bowling allrounder from Northern Districts, was added to it.

With Kyle Jamieson and Will O'Rourke managing "return to play" protocols, New Zealand were left scrambling for last-minute replacements, with the Wellington Test set to begin on November 10.

Both Rae and Clarke were pulled out of the third round of the Plunket Shield. Clarke didn't bowl for ND in the final innings against Otago in Hamilton, with rookie James Naylor stepping in as his replacement.

Clarke, 24, is uncapped in Test cricket, but was recently part of the ODI series against England as a replacement player after Henry had suffered a separate calf injury. He has now earned his maiden Test call-up as a like-for-like replacement for Smith.

Clarke hails from Te Awamutu, a small town in the Waikato region and played for Waikato Valley in the Hawke Cup before rising up the ranks in New Zealand cricket. His brother Matti Clarke has also played for Waikato Valley in the Hawke Cup.

While Blair Tickner, who was the reserve seamer at Hagley Oval, comes into the selection frame for Wellington, there might be a toss-up between Rae and Clarke for a potential Test debut at Basin Reserve.

The first Test was drawn after West Indies, faced with a 530-run deficit in the fourth innings, held on for 163.3 overs to pull off a draw, with Justin Greaves (202 not out) and Shai Hope (140) their main men with the bat

NZ squad for second Test: Tom Latham (capt), Devon Conway, Kane Williamson, Will Young, Rachin Ravindra, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Hay (wk), Michael Bracewell, Zak Foulkes, Jacob Duffy, Blair Tickner, Michael Rae, Kristian Clarke. - Agencies

IN PICTURES

Christmas decorations bring strong festive vibe in Warsaw, Poland
Visitors are seen next to a holiday light installation in the Old Town in Warsaw, Poland. Christmas decorations bring strong festive vibe to the city. Xinhua

Annual "Santa Dog Walk" event held at City Park in Budapest, Hungary
Participants walk with their dogs during an annual "Santa Dog Walk" event at the City Park in Budapest, Hungary. The Christmas-themed event brings together dog owners from across the city for a seasonal walk, promoting responsible pet ownership and encouraging outdoor activities for families and their pets. Xinhua

11th Villa-Zapata carnival held in Mexico City
A costumed performer is pictured during the Villa-Zapata carnival in Mexico City, Mexico. The 11th Villa-Zapata carnival was hosted in Mexico City where folkloric dances, traditional music, and street processions were seen along the Paseo de la Reforma avenue during the event, promoting traditional Mexican culture while paying tribute to revolutionary leaders Emiliano Zapata and Francisco Villa in the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920. Xinhua

Trailer launch of Netflix web series "Single Papa"
Film actor and director Kunal Khemu, actors Manoj Pahwa and Suhail Nayyar, and actresses Prajakta Koli, Ayesha Raza, and Neha Dhupia during the trailer launch of Netflix web series "Single Papa", in Mumbai. ANI Photo

Highlight of Fashion Week 2025 in Vancouver
Models present creations by Ay Lelum Sparrow during the closing night of Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week 2025 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The show highlighted the spirit of Canada's West Coast, marking the celebration of indigenous culture and creativity. Xinhua

Draw ceremony of WTT Finals Hong Kong 2025
Players attend the draw ceremony of the WTT Finals Hong Kong 2025 in Hong Kong, south China. Xinhua

Various animal species reside at Australia's Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary
This photo shows a jumping kangaroo at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Brisbane, Australia. Established in 1927, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary houses more than 100 koalas and approximately 70 other native Australian species. Xinhua

People enjoy festive atmosphere in downtown Beirut for upcoming Christmas
People enjoy the festive atmosphere for the upcoming Christmas at Martyrs' Square in downtown Beirut, Lebanon. Xinhua

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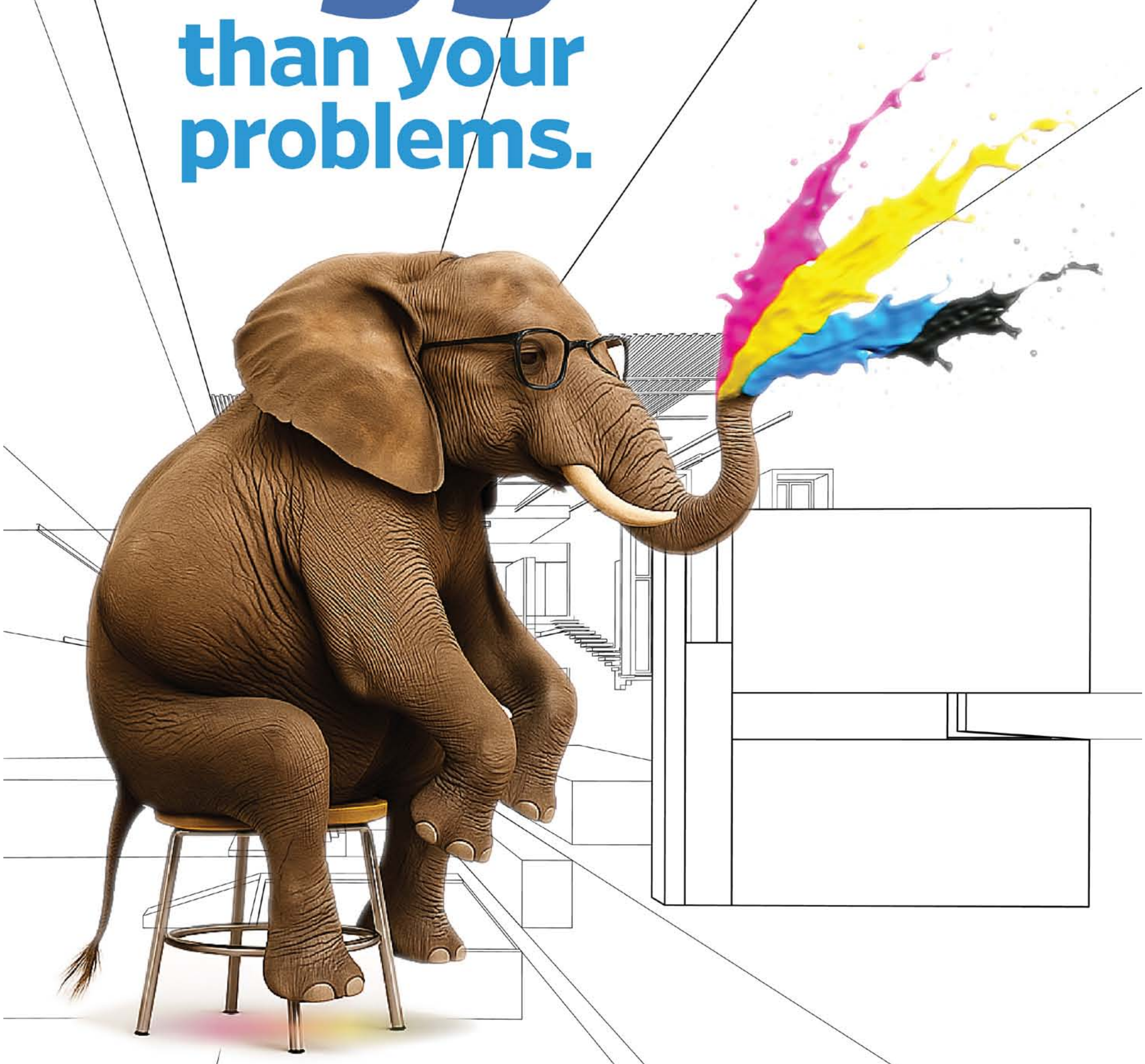

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