

Times

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OF OMAN

50

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, STATE COUNCIL REVIEW DEVELOPMENT PLANS



This meeting comes within the framework stipulated by the Council of Oman Law

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, along with some of their highnesses and excellencies, members of the Council of Ministers, received at the Council's building in Muscat yesterday Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council and members of the Council's Office.

This meeting comes within the framework stipulated by the Council of Oman Law, aiming to enhance areas of continuous cooperation and coordination between the Council of Ministers, the Council of Oman, and all state institutions.

At the outset of the joint meeting, His Highness the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, praised the efforts exerted by the State Council in various aspects, and the views and proposals it presents, which are instrumental in advancing the national work towards further development and prosperity.

For their part, the Chairman of the State Council and the members of the Council's Office, appreciated the government's continuous keenness to enhance constructive cooperation with the Council. They affirmed their persistent endeavour to present specialised studies, constructive proposals, and enhance joint coordination between the two councils in a manner that contributes to implementing developmental



plans and programmes, keeps pace with the aspirations of the upcoming phase, and achieves the desired national objectives.

The meeting reviewed several topics aimed at unifying joint efforts, enhancing institutional partnership, and integration between state institutions to implement the general state policy, achieve the targets of the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026-2030), and preserve the extended achievements and gains across all parts of the Sultanate of Oman, with the prime aim of serving the nation and its loyal citizens under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan. — **ONA**



HM GIVES AUDIENCE TO PRIME MINISTER OF BHUTAN

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik gave an audience at Al Barakah Palace yesterday to Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan. — **ONA** • Details on **>A4**



Major financing agreement signed to develop largest cutting edge polysilicon plant in Sohar Free Zone

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a landmark signing ceremony held during the OAB CEO Summit 2025 on 17 November under the patronage of Salim bin Nasir Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced the signing of a financing agreement with United Solar Polysilicon FZC SPC (USP) to support the establishment of a state-of-the-art polysilicon manufacturing facility in Sohar Free Zone.

The agreement marks a milestone in Oman's renewable-energy landscape, positioning the Sultanate as a key global hub for sustainable technology manufacturing. The project, valued at USD 1.6 billion, will feature a production capacity of 100,000 tons per annum (TPA) of high-purity solar-grade polysilicon—making it the largest such facility in the

region – Middle East, Europe and Americas.

Under the agreement, Oman Arab Bank, together with another Omani financial institution, has extended USD 200 million in term financing to support the construction and development of the project.

Sulaiman AL Harthi, CEO of Oman Arab Bank, commented: "This partnership demonstrates OAB's ongoing role in financing projects that contribute to Oman's diversification and renewable-energy ambitions, and also to open opportunities to employ Omanis employees and their skill development in this high technology project. We are proud to support initiatives that drive sustainable growth, attract foreign investment, increase Omanisation, and strengthen the nation's industrial base."

Longgen Zhang ("Sam"), Chairman and Founder of United Solar Polysilicon, stated: "United Solar Polysilicon is proud to partner with Oman Arab Bank in realizing one of the most advanced polysilicon facilities in the world. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to sustainability, innovation, and the global energy transition."

Supported by Future Fund Oman, part of Oman Investment Authority—this strategic collaboration underscores Oman's growing appeal as a destination for large-scale green-energy investments.

The signing at the CEO Summit took place among senior industry leaders, reinforcing Oman Arab Bank's vision of fostering partnerships that align with national sustainability objectives and broader global energy transition targets.



Muttrah Square project takes shape **A3**

OMAN

Shura refers draft Sports Bodies Law

1 The Shura Council referred the draft Sports Bodies Law to the State Council. **>A2**

OMAN

Oman joins UAE to mark National Day

2 Oman joined the UAE yesterday in celebrating its 54th National Day. **>A3**

MARKET

Oman-Saudi review integration initiatives

3 Oman and KSA held a meeting to review integration initiatives **>B1**

CHANGAN

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5

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OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:02pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:40pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:14am

Shura Council refers draft Sports Bodies Law to the State Council

The law aims to enhance institutional performance and strengthen administrative and financial governance within sports sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council on Tuesday referred the draft Sports Bodies Law to the State Council to complete the legislative cycle. This took place during the Council's fourth regular session of the Third Annual sitting (2025–2026) of the Tenth Term (2023–2027), held under the chairmanship of Khalid Hilal Al-Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, and in the presence of their Excellencies members the Council members and Ahmed Mohammed Al-Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Council.

The referral comes in accordance with Article 49 in exception to the provisions of article 38 of this law, the Sultan shall call Majlis Oman for the first meeting after the general elections for Majlis Al-Shura within a month from the date of the announcement of the results of those elections.

Approval of the Sports Bodies Law
During the session, Sultan Humaid Al-Husani, Deputy Heads of the Youth and Human Resources Committee and Rapporteur for the session, presented the Committee's report on the draft Sports



Bodies Law submitted by the government. He outlined the rationale behind the new legislation and its anticipated impact on the sports sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

He noted that the draft law complements ongoing efforts to modernise the legislative framework governing sports, representing a significant step toward developing the sports system through clear legal provisions defining relations between sports clubs, federations, the Olympic Committee, and relevant government entities. The law aims to enhance institutional performance and strengthen administrative and financial governance within the sports sector.

The Committee hosted a number of club presidents and government specialists during its study of the bill and reviewed sports laws in neighbouring countries to draw from leading international practices and ensure a modern legislative framework suitable for Oman's sports development needs.

In a related presentation, Mohammed Ali Al-Balushi of the Legislative and Legal Committee shared the Committee's views on penalty provisions and the alignment of the draft with existing national laws, as well as recommen-

dations for legal refinement.

The new Draft Law comprising nine chapters and sixty-nine articles updates the 2007 law regulating sports bodies. It seeks to reinforce governance, transparency, and administrative and financial independence, encourage sports investment, promote public-private partnerships, and support talent development to strengthen Oman's athletic base and contribute to social and economic progress.

Council members subsequently offered comments and observations, highlighting challenges faced by sports bodies and emphasising the need to empower these institutions to advance the sports industry in Oman. They also stressed the importance of preserving the social and cultural dimensions of sports, strengthening national identity, and enhancing youth and women's participation.

The session concluded with the approval of the draft law and its referral to the State Council.

Urgent statement on delayed implementation of Royal Grant
The session included an urgent statement delivered by Hamid Ali

Al-Nasri, Member of the Shura Council, regarding delays in implementing the January 2025 Royal Grant concerning the remaining payments of certain borrower categories under former Al-Rafd Fund programmes. The grant aims to support SMEs and young entrepreneurs affected by the pandemic.

He highlighted that despite the passage of nearly a year, implementation particularly for emergency loan recipients has not progressed, resulting in growing financial and legal pressures on SMEs. He pointed out several challenges, including the lack of a clear implementation mechanism, continued payment demands from Oman Development Bank, and the failure to suspend legal actions, including check-related cases.

The delay has led to serious consequences: classification of many SMEs as distressed, declining credit ratings, inability to secure financing or compete in tenders, business closures, job losses among Omani employees, and increased debt burdens.

He called on the government to immediately enforce the Royal Grant, halt all collection and legal measures against eligible SMEs, announce a clear and time-bound



implementation mechanism, and submit an urgent report to the Shura Council outlining the causes of the delay. He reiterated the strategic importance of SMEs as drivers of economic diversification and employment.

Urgent statement on incidents during theatrical performances at Al-Dan International Festival

Ali Khalfan Al-Husani, delivered another urgent statement addressing certain incidents observed during theatrical performances at the Al-Dan International Festival. He emphasised that protecting religious values, moral principles, and national identity is a legislative and societal responsibility.

He noted that widely circulated footage of a public performance attended by families and children contained scenes deemed religiously and ethically inappropriate. He expressed concern over weak oversight of public events and the negative impact such content could have on public morals and youth upbringing. He stressed that the scenes conflicted with Islamic principles and Omani cultural norms known for preserving religious integrity and moral conduct.

He called for an immediate investigation into the event organisers and the content presented, a review of approval policies for public

events, and stricter measures to prevent future violations involving religious symbols or practices inconsistent with national identity. He also highlighted the role of the media in awareness-building rather than normalizing inappropriate content.

Procedure for urgent statements

The press release concludes by noting that urgent statements are one of the oversight tools available to Shura Council members under Article (57) of the Council of Oman Law. Each member of Majlis Al-Shura may request in writing to the chairman of the majlis, within a sufficient time prior to the date of the session, to make a statement regarding an urgent and important matter relating to the public interest of the country, and to succinctly explain the particulars of the issue and the justifications for bringing it before the majlis.

The chairman of the majlis shall present to the majlis the requests of the members before starting with the agenda to vote on them without debate. If a majority of those attending agree, the chairman shall permit those who made the requests to make their statements without debate. The urgent statement shall not relate to a matter referred to the committees of the majlis or to a draft law under consideration by the majlis.

WILAYAT OF IBRA

Cultural Platforms Programme launched

IBRA: The Cultural Club organised the Cultural Platforms Programme on Tuesday in the Wilayat of Ibra in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, marking the third milestone of the programme. The programme will run for two days.

This programme comes within the framework of the Club's efforts to enhance the cultural presence in the Wilayats of the Sultanate of Oman, expand the circle of community participation, and link academic and cultural institutions with knowledge pioneers and those interested in cultural affairs.

The Cultural Platforms Programme involves presenting a series of lectures and holding scientific workshops and discussion sessions featuring an elite group of researchers and academics in the fields of literature, folk poetry, urban heritage, and children's education.

The programme of events, held at the University of Al Sharqiyah in the Wilayat of Ibra, included on its first day a lecture on "Urban Features in the Wilayat of

Ibra" presented by Dr. Nasser bin Saleh Al Ismaili. This was followed by a discussion session titled "Al Mazra'ah Village: History and Architecture" with Yacoub bin Mohammed Al Rawahi, and a lecture titled "The Importance of Children's Literature in School Education" presented by Dr. Yousef bin Sulaiman Al Maamari from Abdullah bin Zaid Basic Education School for Boys.

The programme will continue its activities with a workshop on short story analysis presented by Dr. Yousef bin Sulaiman Al Maamari, a lecture titled "Critical Views on Folk Poetry" presented by Dr. Said Al Wahaibi, and a discussion session on "Omani Folk Literature" by Dr. Ali bin Hamad Al Farsi and Dr. Bassam Barqawi from the University of A'Sharqiyah. There will also be an evening discussion session titled "Stylistic Phenomena in Omani Poetic Verse" with the participation of a number of academics and critics in the fields of poetry and literature.

 Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

SHURA COUNCIL

Draft Urban Planning Law referred by government still being studied

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Services and Public Utilities Committee of the Shura Council continued its study of the Draft Urban Planning Law referred by the government, and hosted on Tuesday Fouad Al Kindi, Chairman of the Oman Society of Engineers, with the aim of reviewing the Society's technical observations and drawing on its professional input regarding provisions of the draft law. This comes in line with the Council's established approach of engaging civil society institutions in the legislative process.

At the outset of the meeting, Ahmed Al Yahyaie, Chairman of the Committee, underscored the importance of the role that civil society institutions—particularly specialised professional associations—play in enriching the technical dimensions of legislative proposals. He emphasised that the Council believes that engaging specialised expertise in the discussion of draft laws constitutes a fundamental pillar of sound legis-



lative practice. He also noted that the Oman Society of Engineers represents a professional voice conveying the expectations and observations of stakeholders in the engineering sector, contributing to enhanced integration between legislative, institutional, and societal efforts.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed a number of articles and provisions of the draft law, particularly those related to technical and regulatory aspects of urban planning. Discussions covered planning controls, mechanisms for regulating land-use planning, and frameworks for coordination among competent authorities. The Committee also reviewed compa-

table legislation applied in a number of regional countries, with the aim of examining successful models and assessing their relevance to the Omani legislative context in a manner that serves the public interest and enhances the quality of urban planning.

Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the insights and observations presented by the Chairman of the Oman Society of Engineers. They affirmed that the Draft Urban Planning Law represents a key piece of legislation supporting the National Spatial Strategy and aligned with the directions of Oman Vision 2040. Accordingly, the draft law requires com-

prehensive and careful study to ensure that its provisions are consistent with sustainable development requirements and sound planning for future urban communities. Members reiterated that the Committee is working toward formulating a comprehensive vision for the draft, taking into account both technical and practical considerations in order to develop a robust legislative framework.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Ahmed Al Yahyaie, Chairman of the Committee, and in the presence of Committee Members, during the Committee's third regular meeting of the Third Annual Sitting (2025–2026) of the Tenth Term (2023–2027). This session forms part of a series of continuous meetings held by the Committee to review draft laws, as it seeks to develop a holistic approach that takes into account urban and economic developments while meeting the requirements of sustainable and integrated urban development in the Sultanate of Oman.

YOUTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Ways to empower community-based sports teams discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Youth and Human Resources Committee of the Shura Council held its second meeting on Tuesday within the Third Annual Sitting (2025–2026) of the Tenth Term (2023–2027), under the chairmanship of Younis Al Mandhari, Chairman of the Committee, and with the participation of Committee Members.

The meeting began with a discussion of the submitted proposal regarding the development and empowerment of community-based sports and cultural teams. The Member who introduced the proposal reviewed the justifications for adopting it and the objectives it seeks to achieve, emphasising the need to provide an enabling



regulatory environment that supports the advancement of such teams and strengthens their role within the community.

Committee Members commended the foundations outlined in the proposal, following which discussions were held on governance mechanisms for these teams, the government's vision for devel-

oping the community and sports system, and the legislative and regulatory updates required to ensure the achievement of intended outcomes. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the Council of Ministers' response to the Committee's report on the Wage Protection System, noting the observations and updates contained

therein, which reflect the progress made in implementing priority social programmes.

Members exchanged views on aspects requiring further monitoring or development, in a manner that enhances integration between legislative and executive roles in support of existing social policies in the Sultanate of Oman.

In the same context, the Committee examined the Council of Ministers' response to its report concerning the proposal on preventing the travel of foreign workers without the employer's approval, as part of its ongoing follow-up of matters within its legislative remit.

Domestic Workers Regulation

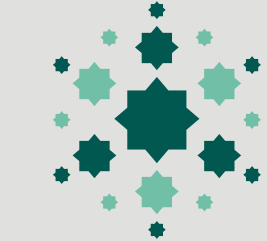
The meeting also included a review of the Ministry of Labour's decision regarding the Domestic Workers Regulation and the related organisational controls governing the relationship among stakeholders.

Members also reviewed the Ministry's "Tawteen" platform, which links jobseekers to available opportunities, enhances the effi-

ciency of the national labour market, and supports the upskilling of the workforce.

The Committee further considered a proposal to host specialists from the Sector Skills Unit for the industrial sector to examine the latest developments in skill requirements and explore ways to strengthen alignment between education outcomes and labour market needs.

Additionally, the Committee discussed the executive plan for its work programme for the Third Annual Sitting, focusing on identifying priority files for the coming period, as well as coordinating meetings and engagements that will support the Committee's efforts in reviewing matters referred to it.



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Construction contract for landmark Muttrah Square project awarded

The project was the winner of the inaugural edition of Bilarab Bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality has awarded the construction contract for the Muttrah Square project, winner of first place in the inaugural edition of Bilarab Bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design. The project will introduce a vibrant urban character to the Wilayat of Muttrah and provide visitors with enhanced opportuni-

ties to enjoy panoramic views of the corniche and Muttrah Fort. Located in a strategic part of Muscat Governorate, the Muttrah Square project spans 7,500 square metres, enhancing the historical and touristic value of the wilayat through its unique landmarks and timeless legacy. At the heart of the square lies an iconic bridge, 5 metres wide, designed to appear as though floating over the sea. Its form draws inspiration from the sword of Imam Al-Salt bin Malik Al-Kharusi. The bridge frames Muttrah's landmarks in a U-shaped panoramic view and is surrounded by a multi-functional plaza featuring a dancing fountain, and lighting that mirrors the rhythm of the sea. The surrounding courtyard will serve as a family-friendly open space with green areas, pedestrian pathways, and more. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, stated that the Muttrah Square project represents a

key pillar of the Municipality's vision to beautify the wilayat and enhance its tourism appeal, while preserving its cultural richness and historic identity. He emphasised that the project is more than just an urban development - it embodies an ambitious vision to revive the visual memory of the six wilayats of the governorate and to achieve harmony between authenticity and modernity. Chairman of Muscat Municipality also said that the Muttrah Square is a landmark project designed to infuse the capital with high-quality urban elements that elevate the quality of life, enrich the tourism experience, and align with the aspirations of the National Urban Development Strategy 2040, which aims to build cities that are vibrant, liveable, and identity-driven. He affirmed that preserving cultural heritage does not conflict with architectural innovation but can merge with it to create spaces that reflect both the spirit of the past and the promise of the future.



WILAYAT OF A'SEEB



Mosque Programmes concludes in Muscat

MUSCAT: A celebration was held on Tuesday in the Wilayat of A'Seeb in Muscat Governorate to mark the conclusion of the Mosque Programmes in their twelfth session (1446-1447 Hijri) / 2025, organised by the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science. The event was held under the auspices of Habib bin Mohammed Al Riyami, Chairman of Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science. Al Riyami stated that the Mosque Programmes represent one of the most important pathways for establishing the role of the mosque as a centre of intellectual and spiritual enlightenment in society. He added that they are an extension of a firm approach based on promoting

values and achieving integration between the mosque's mission and the needs of the individual and society. This year's programmes featured a wide diversity that included lessons, lectures, evening events, summer courses. These covered religious, jurisprudential, and theological topics, in addition to psychological, health, and social axes, and issues of national identity, thought, economy, and contemporary medicine. The programmes also hosted an elite group of academics, literati, thinkers, specialists, and scholars. The total number of programmes and activities reached more than 500 events distributed across the Royal Mosques in the various governorates of Oman. - **ONA**

SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES

SAF personnel receive certificates

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), on Tuesday handed over certificates of commendation to some SAF personnel at Al Murtafa'a camp. The certificates were presented to the SAF personnel in recognition of their proficiency in accomplishing the tasks entrusted to them and in appreciation for their tangible contributions to the national duty. The Chief of



Staff of the SAF congratulated those who merited the commendation, encouraged them to maintain their status and wished them further success in their professional life. - **ONA**

ON 2 DECEMBER

Oman joins United Arab Emirates in celebrating 54th National Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday joined the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in celebrating its 54th National Day, which falls on 2 December, as part of the distinguished relations linking the two countries. The Secretariat General of National Celebrations organised a joyous celebration at the Al Khatm border crossing in Al Buraimi Governorate. The event included diverse segments, most notably musical pieces performed by the Royal Oman Police Music Band, a visual presentation of the celebration organised in Al Khuwair Square on 24 November, followed by a musical piece, a student performance, and various artistic displays. The Secretariat General of National Celebrations, in cooperation with the Royal Oman Police, also organised a national celebration at the Al Wajajah border crossing amidst participation from citizens. The celebration began with the reception of a number of officers, officials, and citizens from the United Arab Emirates, and the exchange of congratulations on this occasion. The event witnessed the presentation of many artistic musical displays, and musical compositions performed by the Royal



Navy of Oman Music Band. Furthermore, the art of "Al Ham-bal" was performed on the backs of camels in North Al Batinah Governorate. The performance was done while carrying the flags of the two countries. The celebration concluded with a song whose lyrics conveyed the depth of the historical and deep-rooted relations, good neighborliness, and familial ties between Oman and the UAE. These celebrations reflect the depth of fraternal relations and good neighborliness between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, and serve as an exemplary model of cooperation and cohesion between the two countries. - **ONA**



AL BARAKAH PALACE

His Majesty gives audience to Prime Minister of Bhutan



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik gave an audience at Al Barakah Palace yesterday to Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

The Prime Minister conveyed greetings and best wishes of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of the Kingdom of Bhutan to His Majesty the Sultan. The King also wished the Om-



ani people further progress and prosperity. On his turn, His Majesty the Sultan asked the Prime Minister to convey his greetings and best wishes of success to the King.

His Majesty also wished the people of Bhutan further growth and prosperity. The audience discussed prospects of cooperation between the two countries and touched on op-

portunities to develop investment partnerships across various economic and commercial spheres, in a manner that serves interests of their peoples and enhances the paths of economic diversification

and sustainable development. The audience was attended by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office. — **UNA**

IMMENSE PATRIOTIC SPIRIT

National Day of Oman celebrated at Pakistan School Muscat with great zeal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pakistan School Muscat (PSM) celebrated the National Day of Oman with immense patriotic spirit and enthusiasm.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest H.E. Sheikh Najeeb bin Saleh Mohammed Al Zadjali, Member Majlis Al Shura, and Guest of Honour Dr. Saif Al Busaidi, Advisor to the Ministry of Labour, Oman, along with the Chairman Board of Directors Mr. Ameer Hamza, distinguished guests including representatives from the Ministry of Education; Mr. Ishrat Hussain Bhatti, Commercial Attaché, Embassy of Pakistan, and Mr. Louis, Head of Academics, Qurum International School, Dr. Said Saleem Al-Kitani, Associate Dean for Community Engagement, MCBS, Embassy officials, members of the Board of Directors, Senior Principal, Principal, faculty members, students, parents, and community members.

Awarded certificates

PSM students from the Computer Department who secured positions in an IT event organised by Mazoon College were awarded certificates by the honourable representatives of the Ministry of Education.

The students who participated in the Model United Nations (MUN) were also awarded with MUN certificates by the Chief Guest in recognition of their commendable participation.

Youngsters of PSM presented a vibrant Fancy Dress Show show-



casing traditional Omani attire, which was warmly applauded by the audience. Students gave out performances through Omani national songs and tableaux, celebrating the true spirit of the National Day.

The winners of the Art Competition were also honored with certificates by the Guest of Honour, Dr. Saif Al Busaidi.

Mementos were presented to the esteemed guests in recognition of their presence. The Chief Guest commended the school management for organising such a memorable event. The programme concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and heartfelt wishes for the progress and prosperity of Oman.



IN MANAGEMENT OF PRIVACY

NCSI awarded key ISO certification

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) has obtained the ISO 27701 certificate related to the privacy information management system.

The certificate, granted by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), constitutes an extension of the ISO 27001 certification for the Information Security Management System (ISMS).

Dr. Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Barwani, Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for Statistics and Information, said that the NCSI's obtaining the ISO 27701 certification was a direct outcome of the Centre's ongoing efforts to establish a secure statistical and information environment that is capable of protecting personal data and applying the highest privacy standards in digital platforms.

Al Barwani added that this accomplishment reflects the NCSI's commitment to develop comprehensive systems and apply policies that ensure the transparent management and processing of data, enhanced by compliance with criteria associated with global standards, including the protection of data privacy.

The ISO 27701 certification is distinguished by establishing a comprehensive framework for managing and processing personal data in a secure and transparent manner.

It also enables organisations to abide by privacy legislation like the GDPR. It thereby contributes to defining clear roles and responsibilities for controllers and data processors within an organisation, thus consolidating the efficiency of governance and improving regulatory procedures. It is worth noting that the ISO/IEC 27701:2022 certification is granted by the ISO, a UKAS Accredited Certification Body in the United Kingdom that specialises in developing management systems, training, performance evaluation, service quality and internationally applied quality measurements. — **ONA**



Oman ranks No.1 in ‘Quality of Life Index’ ranking regionally

This advanced ranking affirms Oman's status as one of the best destinations, significantly outperforming other GCC and Middle East countries



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman occupied first place at the level of Asia and the Middle East region, according to the latest report of Numbeo Global Quality of Life Index for 2025 (mid-year).

The ranking was based on the

assessments of the populations within the countries listed in the global platform.

The Sultanate of Oman registered the highest score in the regional index, earning 215.1 points, thus significantly outperforming other GCC and Middle East countries. Qatar took second place (189.4 points), followed by the United Arab Emirates (174.2 points) and Saudi Arabia (173.7 points).

The index is the largest global database that counts the volume of user participation as a measure to assess living conditions in cities and countries around the world.

The index does not depend solely on official statistical data. It offers significant weight to opinion polls and direct personal assessment by residents and citizens, based on vital criteria that include the levels of safety and security, the costs of living and their ratio to income, the quality of health services and medical care, climate and environmental conditions and the levels of traffic, infrastructure and pollution.

This advanced ranking affirms Oman's status as one of the best destinations in the region. It is a direct outcome of sound sustainable development policies and social stability in the country. — **ONA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Omani-Kazakh Joint Committee discusses trade ties

MUSCAT: The Omani-Kazakh Joint Committee yesterday held a meeting during which it discussed prospects for developing bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, economy and investment.

The meeting was co-chaired by Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs (Oman), and Alibek Kuantyrov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The two sides discussed means of cooperation through the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, water resources and logistics, in addition to prospects for opening direct flight routes between Oman and Kazakhstan.

Exchange of expertise

They also agreed to exchange knowledge and expertise in the fields of information technology and artificial intelligence (AI) and to cooperate in the diplomatic and academic spheres.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel Al Maskari, Head of the Department for the Gulf Cooperation Council and Regional Neighbourhood at Oman's Foreign Ministry, Aidarbek Tumatov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Sultanate of Oman, and other officials from the two countries. — **ONA**



FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

General Assembly of Association of National Numbering Agencies begins

MUSCAT: The Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting of the Association of National Numbering Agencies (ANNA) began yesterday. The meeting, which is hosted by the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (MCD), will continue for several days.

The hosting of the meeting in the Sultanate of Oman affirms the advanced position achieved by the Omani capital market in adopting the best global standards related to the numbering of financial instruments, enhancing transparency and smoothness in trading, and reducing operational risks.

Hosting this meeting, which is being held for the first time in a Gulf country, comes within the framework of the continuous efforts of the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company to develop the capital market infrastructure and enhance the Sultanate of Oman's presence on the map of international financial markets.

The meeting also highlights the goals of the organisation and its pivotal role in unifying the language for identifying financial instruments, which contributes to raising the efficiency of markets and facilitating the interconnection between global financial systems.

Mohammed bin Said Al Abri, CEO of Muscat Clearing and Depository Company, explained that hosting the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting of ANNA in Muscat confirms the Sultanate of Oman's status as a trusted financial centre, and supports the consolidation of transparency and sustainable growth in a promising investment environment. Since the company obtained ANNA membership in 2008, it has contributed to raising the readiness of the Omani market by numbering securities according to international numbering standards, in addition to accessing a network of global experts to enhance integration and innovation among different depository centers.

Al Abri said that CEOs and officials of depository centers and various member financial institu-

tions from countries around the world will be hosted to discuss the future of financial markets and enhance integration and innovation in central depository, which contributes to developing the infrastructure, attracting foreign capital, and supporting the upgrade of the Muscat Stock Exchange to an emerging market.

Stephan Dreyer, Managing Director of ANNA, explained that the meeting is an important platform for discussing the future of data, enhancing transparency, and driving the harmonization of international standards concerned with the identification and classification of financial instruments. — **ONA**



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Ref : ISML/TA/2025-26/005

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Description
1	Staff Medical Insurance - 129 staff - (01-01-2026 to 31-12-2026)
2	Hiring of Photocopy machines (On rental basis)
3	Purchase of Textbooks & Notebooks (2026-2027)
4	Assembly hall - Renovation of Roofing
5	School Annual Day 2025-2026 - LIGHT & SOUND (2 days)
6	Innovation Lab – Furniture

Contact **School Office** for detailed specifications and tender conditions.
Timings: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on working days.
Sealed quotations may be submitted to School office.
Last date of tender submission
11th December 2025 , before 3.00 p.m.



GOVERNORATE OF AL DAKHLIYAH

Pact signed to boost tourism with innovative air transport system

MANAH: A joint cooperation agreement was inked yesterday in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah involving Al Sharqiya Aviation Company, Oman Across Ages Museum, Golden Tulip Nizwa Hotel and Al Dar Inn.

The signing ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Hilal Said Al Hajri, Governor of A'Dakhiliyah.

The agreement aims to enhance the partnership between the public and private sectors and support the tourism movement with innovative air transport services that facilitate the movement of visitors between several sites in the Governorate, including the Oman Across Ages Museum and the Wilayat of Nizwa.

Sharqiyah Aviation Company

Pursuant to the signed agreement, Oman Across Ages Museum commits to providing integrated cultural and introductory experiences to the clients of Sharqiyah Aviation Company. In turn, the company commits to providing tourist and private air flights specifically for the museum's guests, in addition to co-operating in organising events of mutual interest, and providing emergency medical services (Air Ambulance) when needed, in accordance with approved regulations and procedures. — **ONA**



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Online Auction to Sell Used ROP Vehicles

The Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public online auction through the ROP Auctions Platform to sell used ROP vehicles via the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om), starting from Wednesday, 10 December 2025 for one day.

The vehicles displayed for sale may be inspected during the period from 07 to 09 December 2025 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Vehicle Detention Yard at the Directorate General of Transport at the Airport Heights.

Bidders must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- To register on the website www.rop.mzadcom.om
- To pay an insurance amount of RO 500/- (five hundred Omani Riyals) via the website, which is non-refundable in case of failure to pay the value of the purchased vehicle or carry out the procedures for its registration and transfer within the specified period.
- To pay the auctioneer fees at 2% of the value of the vehicle plus 5% VAT.
- To pay the value of the vehicle by electronic transfer within 48 working hours.
- To register and transfer the vehicle within 3 days after paying its value to avoid a fine of RO 5/- (five Omani Riyals) for each day of delay after the end of the specified period, without the Royal Oman Police bearing any responsibility in the event of its loss or damage.
- The Royal Oman Police and the Auction Website shall not bear any responsibility if the image or description of any vehicle displayed does not match the reality and do not guarantee its validity or technical integrity.
- For more details, please visit the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om) or call 98886154.

MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

Sultan Qaboos Sailing Award to be presented on Thursday

MUSCAT: The Royal Navy of Oman will celebrate the presentation of the 13th edition of the Sultan Qaboos Sailing Award on Thursday in an official ceremony to be held in Muscat Governorate.

International accolade
The Sultan Qaboos Sailing Award is considered one of the most prestigious international accolades in the field of sailing. It promotes the message of peace and coexistence, honoring Oman's rich maritime heritage and continuing the legacy of the nation's historic seafaring achievements.

The award also aims to strengthen historical and cultural ties between the Sultanate of Oman and countries around the world, while playing a vital role in advancing global training in the sport of sailing. – ONA



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UTAS-AL MUSSANAH



41 students take part in English Public Speaking Competition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of the efforts by the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS)-Al Mussanah to enhance students' effective communication skills, and under the patronage of Dr. Nasser bin Salim Al-Baimani, Assistant Vice Chancellor, the Student Activities Society at the Preparatory Studies Centre organised the English Public Speaking Competition (UTAS-Talks) – Season Three on Monday, 1 December 2025 at the Auditorium.

The competition targets students enrolled in the General Foundation Programme, specifically those studying General English (Levels 2 and 3) across all UTAS branches.

A total of forty-one students registered for the event, and sixteen contestants were selected from nine different branches to compete for the top positions.

This initiative aims to develop students' public speaking and presentation skills, boost their self-confidence, and enhance their ability to use English effectively and expressively.

The participants' speeches covered a wide range of themes, including innovation and technology, personal development and education, society and culture, environment and sustaina-

bility, and student life beyond the classroom. This thematic variety reflected the students' awareness and engagement with contemporary global and social issues.

The judging panel comprised five English language lecturers from the Preparatory Studies Centres of various UTAS branches.

The judges evaluated the contestants based on clear criteria, including language fluency, organisation of ideas, audience impact, and use of body language. The diversity of the judges' academic backgrounds and expertise contributed to a fair and comprehensive evaluation that accurately reflected the participants' performance.

At the conclusion of the competition, the top three winners were honoured for their excellence in delivery and creativity of content. Winners were: First place for Abbas Muslim Al-Fayrouz (Shinas Branch). Second place for Iyas Mohammed Al-Nasri (Nizwa Branch). Third place for Faisal Hamood Al-Shakili (Rustaq Branch).

The Student Activities Team expressed its sincere appreciation to all organisers, judges, and participants for their efforts in making this event a success—one that truly embodies the spirit of initiative and excellence among UTAS students.

The pavilion showcased the Ministry of Information's applications, websites, and accounts, and the development it is undergoing in terms of readable, visual, audio, and electronic media content

MANAMA: The Ministry of Information participated yesterday in the exhibition accompanying the 46th GCC Summit, which will commence on Wednesday, in the Bahraini capital, Manama.

Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi, Bahrain's Minister of Information, and Jasem Mohamed Al Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the GCC, toured the Ministry of Information's pavilion after opening the Media Centre.

The pavilion showcased the Ministry's applications, websites, and accounts, and the development it is undergoing in terms of readable, visual, audio, and electronic media content. It also displayed the tools for delivering news services and provided visitors with details of its content.

The pavilion also highlights Oman News Agency's (ONA) website, application, and social media accounts, underscoring the



evolution of the Agency's readable, visual, audio media content, and the electronic tools used to deliver news services, in addition to informing visitors about its content details.

The Directorate General of Electronic Media is also presenting the digital platform "Ayn" in the pavilion. This platform features

developing Omani talents.

The Media Centre includes work halls, a press conference hall, the Kingdom of Bahrain hall, and a dedicated venue for visual and audio media and print journalism, a photography area, and private work booths, in addition to media studios. The centre also hosts a library for digital materials and media, and an exhibition of GCC Summit photos organised by the GCC General Secretariat with the participation of all GCC news agencies, which displays photos representing their activity in covering events since the establishment of the GCC until now.

Furthermore, large screens are available to broadcast the Summit's events moment-by-moment from inside the main meeting hall of the GCC leaders, alongside dedicated studios for live broadcasting by Arab television organisations, and a specialized section for satellite broadcasting, in cooperation with Bahrain TV. – ONA

GATHERING OF SPORTS LAW EXPERTS

International Forum on Sports Law and Esports Law 2025

MUSCAT: In a landmark event for Oman, leading sports law experts will gather in Muscat on 7 December 2025, bringing together legal minds, arbitrators, and professional athletes from across the globe.

Dr. Khalid Al Saidi's Office for Advocacy & Legal Consultancy, in collaboration with Parmars – London, and in partnership with Muscat Media Group and the Organising Committee of the OFAL Championship, announced the launch of the International Forum for Sports Law and Esports Law 2025.

The forum will take place on Sunday under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Qais bin Tarik Al Said, President of the Oman Olympic Committee.

This forum is the first of its kind in the Sultanate, bringing together a distinguished group of leading international sports law experts, experts in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), several European specialists, as well as international athletes with extensive experience in professional contracts, disputes, and sports-related legal matters.

The event reflects Oman's ambition to cement its position as a regional hub for sports legal thought and to keep pace with rapid developments in sports legislation, thereby enhancing professionalism in the sports sector and supporting the country's vision for establishing a sports ecosystem aligned with international standards.



The forum will explore a series of key topics relevant to the Omani, Gulf, and Arab sports landscape, including:

- International player contracts and modern legal protection requirements
- Doping, sports law, and the



role of legislation in combating violations

- Football players' rights in light of recent international amendments
- Strategies for developing women's football and enhancing professional participation



- Building the future of esports as a rising global sports sector
- Sports arbitration in esports championships and the challenges of legal regulation

Organisers stress that the forum serves as an important knowledge platform linking international ex-

pertise with local realities, opening new avenues for sports administrators, lawyers, athletes, coaches, and decision-makers to benefit from the latest legal practices shaping the future of sports worldwide.

The event is also expected to receive extensive media cover-

age given the prominence of its participants and the significance of the subjects addressed, further strengthening Oman's position as a host of major international sports conferences and enhancing its regional profile in the field of sports law.

US envoy to meet Putin in Moscow

A revised version of a peace proposal makes its way to Moscow, after the Ukrainian leader said the current proposal “looks better” than the initial plan that had 28 points



MOSCOW: President Donald Trump’s special envoy for peace missions, Steve Witkoff, will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday in Moscow to discuss the Trump administration’s proposal to end the war in Ukraine.

The meeting is expected to address borders, security guaran-

tees, frozen Russian assets, and potential US-Russian investment projects.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed that Putin would receive Witkoff, whose role has been under the scanner after reports emerged that he advised a senior Kremlin aide on how to present a Ukraine peace plan to US President Donald Trump.

“I think the administration feels very optimistic,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt

told reporters on Monday.

The Moscow talks follow Sunday’s meeting between Ukrainian and US negotiators, with both delegations having said the talks were “productive.”

Kyiv and Washington are reworking the US proposal, criticised for initially favouring Russian positions.

Plus, European leaders remained engaged in a flurry of diplomatic activity, with French President Emmanuel Macron hav-

ing met Zelenskyy on Monday.

Macron and Zelenskyy also spoke with Witkoff ahead of the Moscow meeting.

Ukrainian drone strike sparks fire at Russian oil site

A Ukrainian drone strike has ignited a fire at an oil facility in Russia’s Oryol region, according to local authorities.

Governor Andrey Klychkov said on Telegram that the blaze broke out at an energy plant in the Livny

district and that no injuries were reported.

Unverified videos of the fire circulated on social media. The outlet Astra reported that residents said an oil depot had been targeted.

The city of Oryol said it would have to introduce restrictions.

“It will be necessary to limit the heat and hot water supply to buildings in the Sovetsky, Zheleznodorozhny and Severny districts of the city of Oryol,” the governor of the Oryol region, Andrey Klychkov, wrote on social media.

Russia has been waging war on Ukraine for more than three and a half years. Ukraine has routinely struck locations deep inside Russia as part of its defense effort, aiming to disrupt the country’s oil sector, cut supplies to the Russian military and weaken a key source of revenue for Moscow.

‘Northern Pokrovsk still under our control’

The northern part of the strategic eastern city of Pokrovsk is still under the control of Ukrainian forces, a military unit fighting there told Reuters news agency on Tuesday.

The statement came after Rus-

sian President Vladimir Putin hailed what his commanders described as the full capture of Pokrovsk.

Ukraine’s 7th Rapid Response Corps of airborne assault troops said it has launched assaults in the city’s south, where Russian forces remain dominant.

Pokrovsk is an important logistics hub that had a population of around 60,000 prior to the war.

If Russia were to capture the city, it could use it as a base from which to advance on the two largest Ukrainian-controlled cities remaining in the Donetsk region: Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

ECB refuses to guarantee €140 billion loan for Ukraine

The European Central Bank (ECB) has declined to guarantee a €140 billion (\$162.5 billion) loan for Ukraine, the *Financial Times* reported.

The decision undermines an European Union (EU) plan to take out a big loan, using frozen Russian assets as backing, to fund Ukraine.

The ECB said the proposal violated its mandate, FT reported citing sources, hindering EU from moving forward with the plan. -**bw**

AMAZON REGION

12 dead, 20 injured in Peru landslide



LIMA: A landslide in the Amazon region in Peru has killed at least 12 people and injured another 20, the authorities said on Monday.

Local health authorities said two people are still unaccounted for and that national police and navy units had been sent to the area by helicopters to support the rescue operation.

The landslide struck around 4:20 a.m. in the river port of Iparia in the Amazon jungle region of Ucayali, 415 kilometres (258 miles) from the capital Lima, hitting two boats that were making their way to other towns in the

area. Three children are among the casualties.

More than half of Peru is covered by dense forest, including a wide expanse of the Amazon basin.

Rescuers race to find survivors amid difficult weather conditions.

Navy captain Jonathan Novoa told AFP news agency that rescue efforts were complicated by the rapid flow of water and whirlpools in the river.

“We are in flood season,” he said, adding that the conditions were difficult at the time of the landslide due to changing weather and fog. -**bw**

REVIEW OF BUILDING PRACTICES

Hong Kong announces investigation into deadly tower block fire tragedy

HONG KONG: Hong Kong leader John Lee on Tuesday announced an independent inquiry into the housing block fire tragedy that claimed at least 151 lives.

Lee said there had been serious problems regarding construction and supervision, and that people would be held accountable.



What do we know about the Hong Kong fire probe?

Lee, the territory’s chief executive, said a judge-led committee would conduct a review of building practices.

Officials have said the blaze spread rapidly through exterior scaffolding netting that failed to meet fire-resistance standards.

Lee said authorities had already identified multiple failures and that reforms would be needed in safety rules, supervision procedures and overall standards. “I call for a thorough investigation and serious reform,” said Lee. “We will overcome the obstacles of vested interests and pursue accountability, regardless of who he or she is.”

“The shortcomings will be addressed,” he said. “The bottlenecks will be addressed. And we will reform the whole building renovation system to ensure that such things will not happen again.”

While Hong Kong normally relies on such “commissions of inquiry” for major fact-finding investigations, a system inherited from British rule, Lee used the term “independent committee.”

What caused the Hong Kong blaze?

Authorities have highlighted

the role of high winds and sub-standard materials, including highly flammable foam panels used to block windows and green construction netting that was legally required to be flame-retardant.

The blaze spread to seven of the Wang Fuk Court residential complex’s eight towers. The fire burned for more than 40 hours.

Lee said those responsible had mixed unsafe netting with compliant material “so as to cheat the inspection.”

Police and Hong Kong’s anti-corruption agency have detained

14 people — including construction company directors and an engineering consultant. Fifteen people have also been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter.

It is unclear which individuals overlap between the two investigations.

While some civic groups have called for greater transparency, officials have warned that attempts to politicise the tragedy will be met with severe consequences.

Local media reported that two individuals are under investigation for suspected sedition, while a student was detained and later released on bail. Police have not commented on the cases.

Lee said: “I will not tolerate any crimes, particularly crimes that exploit the tragedy that we are facing now.”

International human rights groups have expressed concern. “It’s crucially important not to treat those demanding answers for the tragic fire as criminals,” said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. -**bw**

ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL SUMMITS

Putin’s India visit to boost strategic partnership, says Russian Deputy PM

NEW DELHI: Ahead of Russian President’s Vladimir Putin’s India visit, Russia’s First Deputy Prime Minister and Co-chair of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation Denis Manturov said Russian President Vladimir Putin’s upcoming visit to India marks a “return to the tradition of annual high-level summits,” describing it as a major step toward deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries.

“This will be President Putin’s first visit to India in a long period,” Manturov said during an exclusive interview with ANI, adding that both sides had “thoroughly prepared the agenda” to ensure the meetings on December 4-5 are productive.

“That would be the first visit of our President Vladimir Putin to your friendly country for a long period of time. That returns us to the tradition of annual high-level summits which represents an undeniable success. Together with our Indian colleagues we have thoroughly prepared the agenda for the visit. We expect that all the meetings and negotiations that are to take place will be fruitful and will give new momentum for our two countries’ strategic cooperation in all areas,” said Manturov.

Coinciding with Putin’s visit, the India-Russia Forum will convene in New Delhi with senior government officials and business leaders from both nations. Manturov said the forum is expected to explore ways to expand and diversify bilateral trade, including boosting



Indian exports of equipment, raw materials and food products to Russia.

The discussions will also focus on deepening industrial cooperation, advancing joint investment projects and expanding collaboration in high-technology domains.

Manturov stressed that the forum is intended to serve as a platform for direct engagement between businesses from both countries, helping to accelerate commercial partnerships and fuel growth in mutual trade.

“In the context of the visit of the head of our country on December 4-5 India-Russia forum is to take place in New Delhi with participation of government and business representatives. During the forum it is planned to discuss the opportunities for expanding and diversifying bilateral trade, including increasing the volume of supplies of Indian products -- in particular various equipment, raw materials and foodstuffs,” said Manturov.

“Also on the agenda are the deepening of industrial cooperation and the implementation of joint

investment projects, cooperation in the field of high technology and collaboration in other areas. The forum is designed to be a good platform for establishing direct dialogue between Russian and Indian companies and will contribute to the intensification of ties and the growth of mutual trade between our countries”, he added.

Manturov, on his vision for India-Russia relations in the next decade, said that Moscow expects its relationship with India to remain resilient, dynamic and deeply rooted in long-standing friendship over the next decade, outlining Moscow’s long-term vision for the strategic partnership.

Reflecting on the rapidly changing global landscape, Manturov noted that predicting the future has become more challenging, but certain fundamentals remain clear.

“Even in ten years, Russia and India will stay true friends aimed at the comprehensive development of bilateral cooperation,” he said. He emphasized that ties between the two countries will

continue to “evolve dynamically and adapt to the demands of the time,” while remaining anchored in decades-old trust and historical warmth.

Manturov expressed confidence that current joint initiatives will reach fruition and pave the way for new areas of engagement. He said the next decade will see both nations advancing to a higher tier of cooperation, with a major emphasis on high-technology industries and both fundamental and applied scientific research.

“Russia and India will successfully move to a more advanced level of cooperation where focus areas would be hi-tech industries and scientific achievements,” he said.

On the global stage, Manturov predicted a rising role for emerging economies, noting that cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi will contribute significantly to the strengthening influence of the Global South. “Thanks to joint efforts, the influence of the Global South will further strengthen,” he said.

The remarks underscore Russia’s outlook for a partnership that blends continuity with transformation--preserving old foundations while opening new frontiers in technology, research and global diplomacy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will pay a state visit to India from December 4-5 at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the visit, Putin will attend the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit and hold talks with PM Modi. -**ANI**

BERNIE MORENO

American Senator proposes ending dual citizenship



WASHINGTON DC: US Republican Senator Bernie Moreno from Ohio plans to introduce legislation on Monday that would require any US citizen who has foreign citizenship to choose between the two countries, Fox News reported.

It would also require that if a US citizen seeks a foreign citizenship in the future, that person would effectively give up their US citizenship.

Moreno, who was born in Colombia but has since renounced his Colombian citizenship, said in a statement to Fox News, “One of the greatest honours of my life was when I became an American citizen at 18, the first opportunity I could do so.”

It would change that immigration law to make current dual citizens choose between the US and whichever country they hold citizenship in, as per Fox News.

The legislation would require

that the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) create databases and rules to track and enforce the change in citizenship law.

It would give Americans with dual citizenship one year after its enactment to either write to the secretary of state for a renunciation of their foreign citizenship or notify DHS of their intent to denounce their US citizenship.

If a person does not comply with the change within the year, they will automatically be considered to have relinquished their US citizenship.

And for those who do give up their US citizenship, voluntarily or involuntarily, the DHS and attorney general will be required to ensure that those people are “appropriately recorded in Federal systems and treated as an alien for purposes of the immigration laws,” according to the bill text. -**ANI**

SPORTS

World’s largest inclusive sailing championship begins today

The inaugural edition will witness 155 participants of persons with disabilities from 37 nations compete for top honours at the Mussanah Sailing School until Dec 8

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The eyes of the sailing world turn to Mussanah from Wednesday as Oman hosts the largest and most significant sailing championship ever held for persons with disabilities.

The inaugural 2025 World Sailing Inclusion Championships officially opens today at the Mussanah Sailing School, Barceló Mussanah Resort, marking a defining moment for the sport and reinforcing Oman’s standing as a leading global host of major sailing events. Racing will take place from December 4-8.

The opening ceremony will be held under the patronage of H H Sayyid Azzan bin Qais Al Said, President of the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC), in the presence of senior officials and participating delegations.

Coinciding with the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the championship brings together an unprecedented 155 sailors from 37 nations - a record turnout that reflects both the worldwide surge in inclusive sailing and the Sultanate’s growing reputation, driven by Oman Sail’s continued delivery of world-class regattas and Para sailing platforms.

Competitions will be held across four classes: the one-person Hansa 303, two-person RS Venture Connect, ILCA 6 for intellectually impaired athletes, and FarEast 28R for visually impaired athletes.

Oman will be represented by seven sailors from the SailFree programme. In the RS Venture Connect fleet races, the pairs of Hassan Al Lawati Zaher Al Atbi and Adel Al Siyabi & Al Ghaliya Al Jabri join 28 international teams, while Ali Al Ghusaini, Sultan Al Wahaibi and Malik Al Qurtubi compete in the Hansa 303 category among 35 global athletes.

In the days leading up to the event, World Sailing, the global



governing body of the sport, held an Emerging Nations Programme to enhance coaching, boost technical skills and support countries developing inclusive sailing struc-

tures. The programme blended theory and practical workshops, reflecting the sport’s growing international commitment to expanding Para and inclusive sailing.

Hannah Stodel, World Sailing’s Para Sailing Manager, described the enthusiasm behind the event as transformative.

She said: “This inaugural edition

represents a historic milestone for inclusive sailing and reinforces the message that sailing is a sport for everyone. The enthusiasm from sailors worldwide has been re-



markable, it will undoubtedly contribute to the long-term growth of inclusive sailing globally.”

Maryam Al Jadidi, Senior Project Manager at Oman Sail and event project manager, highlighted the national significance of hosting such a global championship.

She said: “We are fully prepared to launch this historic championship, which carries a powerful human message of empowerment and inclusion. Our teams have worked tirelessly to ensure the highest organisational and technical standards. We aim to deliver an exceptional experience for all delegations, blending fair competition, cultural exchange and showcasing Oman’s outstanding tourism attractions.”

Beyond the competition, athletes and delegations will enjoy curated cultural and tourism activities offering an immersive experience of Oman’s natural beauty and heritage. A dedicated Race Village will also highlight local crafts, small businesses and Omani traditions, supporting community engagement in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The closing ceremony and awards presentation will be held on December 8 under the patronage of Dr Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

The Mussanah Sailing School previously hosted the 2022 RS Venture Connect World Championship, the first dedicated Para sailing event in Oman, and is officially accredited as a Category A High-Performance Centre by the Asian Sailing Federation.

YOUNG INDIAN PACER

‘Rohit and Kohli push you to be better’, says Harshit Rana

RAIPUR: For a young fast bowler trying to cement his place in India’s white-ball squad, being in the same dressing room as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma is nothing short of inspiring. Harshit Rana, 23, has played 16 matches for India, and in nine of them, he has rubbed shoulders with the two legends.

“It is a big deal for me, and for the whole team,” Rana said on the eve of the second ODI against South Africa on Tuesday.

“Having such experienced players around keeps the dressing room positive. Even off the field, it’s a happy environment. Everyone wants to improve, and the seniors genuinely want the youngsters to get better. When I bowl, they tell me how to bowl smarter. That kind of guidance automatically helps you perform better.”

Rana praised the senior duo’s unflagging motivation. “They are always motivated, whether times are good or bad. They back you, tell you the next steps you should take. As a youngster, this really helps you, because when you are on the field - in a pressure situation - they help you out a lot.”

Originally known for his mid-overs work with clever slower



balls, Rana embraced a new role in Sunday’s first ODI, opening the bowling and taking two wickets in his very first over.

“I’ve practiced a lot with Morne [Morkel, bowling coach] and also talk with Arshdeep [Singh],” he said. “Arshdeep has a lot of experience, and he shows me how to bowl better in practice. That advice really helps when you’re out there in a big game.”

The ICC’s new ODI rules - allowing teams to choose which of the two new balls to retain after the 34th over - have also added fresh tactical challenges.

“You know bowlers don’t get much help these days,” Rana said. “This rule has been helpful because we focus on the older ball

after the 34th over. Choosing the right ball is a team decision. In India, bowling is about variations, you have to adapt to each phase, sometimes attacking, sometimes defending.”

Looking ahead, India could tweak their middle order for Wednesday’s game, with Rishabh Pant and Tilak Varma getting extended net practice under the watchful eye of assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate.

Rana’s words underline what many young cricketers feel: in the right environment, with the right guidance, talent is only the starting point. And for India’s next-generation bowlers, Kohli and Rohit remain the ultimate mentors. - Agencies

FIVE-MATCH SERIES

Hardik Pandya set for T20I return against South Africa

MUMBAI: All-rounder Hardik Pandya is set to make a comeback to T20Is when India’s selectors pick the squad for the five-match series against South Africa on Wednesday. However, there are doubts about the availability of Shubman Gill, India’s T20I vice-captain.

The Gill question is likely to be top of the agenda for the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel when they meet in Raipur, where India play South Africa in the second ODI.

In Gill’s likely absence, Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal are the possible contenders to open the innings with Abhishek Sharma. While Samson was in the recent T20I squad that toured Australia, he played only two out of the five matches and batted only once - at No. 3. Jaiswal was not part of that squad.

Gill had hurt his neck while batting in the first innings of the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata, where he retired hurt and played no further part in the match. He missed the second Test too - which India lost to concede the series 2-0 - and the ongoing three-match ODI series against South Africa as well.

It is understood that Gill’s injury involves a pinched nerve, and as per the initial timeline drawn up



by BCCI medical staff, he would need to rest for a minimum of five weeks before resuming training. He arrived at the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Monday to continue his rehab.

The selectors are also likely to consider Riyan Parag for a slot in the 15-member squad. Parag last played for India in a T20I series against Bangladesh in 2024 and is currently leading Assam in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Both the selectors and the Indian think tank will be happy about Hardik’s successful return - he led Baroda to a victory against Punjab on Tuesday in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy - having successfully recovered from the left quadricep injury he suffered during the

Asia Cup in September.

Hardik took 1 for 52 in four overs and scored a match-winning 77 not out in his first competitive game in more than two months. He had missed the five-match T20I series in Australia in October-November, which India won 2-1 with two washouts.

The T20I series against South Africa begins on December 9 in Cuttack - after the ODI series ends on December 6 - followed by games in New Chandigarh (December 11), Dharamsala (December 14), Lucknow (December 17) and Ahmedabad (December 19).

India, captained by Suryakumar Yadav, are currently the top-ranked T20I team, while South Africa are in fifth place. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by February 2026 reaching \$63.87, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 38 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$64.26. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 5,772.80 points, up by 1.09% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34% at 499.88 points. Al Madina Investments, up 5.26%, was the top gainer while, Oman Education & Training, down 3.23%, was the top loser.



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Oman, Saudi Arabia review progress as 6 integration initiatives completed

In the industrial sector, the initiatives recorded significant progress, represented by the completion of the second phase of the industrial integration project

RIYADH: The periodic meeting of the Coordination Committee in the fields of Trade, Industry and Economy, stemming from the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council, held a meeting in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to review integration initiatives. Six initiatives have been completed, while 11 other initiatives are set to be finalised in the upcoming period.

The Omani side at the meeting was chaired by Dr. Saleh Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, while the Saudi side was chaired by Eng. Rakan



Wadah Tarabzoni, Deputy Minister of Economy and Planning for International Economic Affairs.

The meeting reviewed the progress made within the initiatives. In the industrial sector, the initiatives recorded significant progress, represented by the completion of the second phase of the industrial integration project. This has enabled reliance on the Omani certificate of origin for Omani products to access the Saudi market, a fundamental step in improving the flow of goods and reducing costs

for manufacturers in the Sultanate of Oman.

The future factories initiative has also been completed, alongside the signing of 12 agreements to link supply chains between Omani and Saudi factories. This step enhances opportunities for joint manufacturing and supports expanding added value between the two countries.

Trade cooperation recorded remarkable growth, with the volume of trade exchange exceeding the barrier of \$8 billion by the end

of 2024, reflecting the strength of relations and growing partnerships between the business communities of the two countries. The economic aspect also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding in the field of protecting competition and preventing monopolistic practices, in addition to holding joint technical workshops that contributed to aligning legislation and exchanging expertise, in support of achieving the goals of "Oman Vision 2040" and Saudi Vision 2030.



Eng. Jassim Saif Al Jadidi, Technical Director at the Office of the Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry, gave a detailed presentation on the executive developments of the initiatives during the year. He explained that the launch of the second phase of industrial integration initiatives in Riyadh last July constituted an important turning point. This phase, he pointed out, included enhancing the integration of industrial capabilities between the two sides and entrenching cooperation in local

content and government procurement procedures in accordance with the applicable regulations and systems.

He added that these efforts contributed to enhancing supply chain integration and raising the level of industrial partnership, pointing to the progress made in completing the minutes for verifying proof of origin, which both sides are working to implement. This will support the smooth flow of goods and reduce burdens on manufacturers in the next phase. -**ONA**



Oman 3165: A journey toward a sustainable future from Musandam to Dhofar

MUSANDAM: The Oman 3165 expedition officially launched yesterday in Musandam under the patronage of His Excellency Ibrahim Al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam, in the presence of officials from various governmental authorities.

This first-of-its-kind expedition in the region highlights Oman's national efforts to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, exploring the country's coastline in a sustainable maritime journey powered solely by paddling and currents, without any carbon emissions. Captain Khalil bin Ali Al Hooti, Vice President of Marine at Asyad Shipping, said: "The Oman 3165 expedition represents the intersection of Oman's maritime heritage with the nation's vision for a sustainable future and net-zero goals. For Asyad, it reflects our ongoing commitment to responsible operations and enabling future generations to

preserve our seas and natural resources.

The official launch in Musandam follows the international announcement of the expedition at the Royal Geographical Society in London in September, under the patronage of the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

The announcement coincided with World Maritime Day, under the theme "Our Ocean, Our Commitment, Our Opportunity". This event marks the official start of the expedition, which will navigate Oman's coastline from Musandam to Dhofar during the period from November 2025 to February 2026.

The expedition, led by the renowned explorer, Mark Evans, in a traditional Greenland-style kayak, represents a unique experience that combines maritime heritage with sustainable

techniques to support scientific research and environmental awareness.

The journey aims to document Oman's marine biodiversity and coastal ecosystems in collaboration with academic and scientific institutions, producing educational and awareness content for global students and scientists through digital platforms, podcasts, and educational programs. This initiative transforms Oman's coastline into an open educational platform, highlighting the nation's leadership in environmental protection and climate action.

The Oman 3165 expedition narrates a national story connecting land and sea across past and future, bringing Sultanate of Oman to the world and reinforcing its position as a leading destination for sustainability and environmental innovation.

Oman and Algeria explore opportunities in agricultural, fisheries and food sectors

MUSCAT: Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), received on Tuesday at his office Eng. Yacine El-Mahdi Oualid, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

During the meeting, the existing cooperation areas between the two countries in the agricultural, fisheries, and food sectors were reviewed. They discussed opportunities to enhance partnership and expand cooperation horizons, particularly in investment aspects related to food production chains, developing joint projects, and attracting qualitative investments that support food security and the development of related industries.

The two sides discussed the potential for establishing joint investment projects in the fields of agricultural, animal, and fish production, in addition to developing the supporting infrastructure for these sectors to achieve mutual interests for both countries.

The meeting was attended by a number of officials from both sides.

Meanwhile, the Algerian Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries and his accompanying delegation visited the Central Market for Vegetables and Fruits in Salalah and the Central Wholesale Market in Khazaen Economic City.

During the visit, he was briefed on the work system followed in the operation of central markets, the mechanisms for trading agricultural products, and the organization of the supply chain.

The guest also reviewed the advanced experiences in managing wholesale operations, marketing methods, and digitalization ap-



plications in product tracking and enhancing the efficiency of services provided to farmers and traders.

The visit also included the Central Wholesale Fish Market in the Wilayat of Barka, where the Algerian delegation learned about the market's facilities and the modern systems adopted in trading, sorting, and refrigerated storage operations, in addition to the proce-

dures followed to ensure the safety and quality of marine products.

This visit comes within the framework of enhancing cooperation and exchanging expertise between the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in the fields of agriculture and fisheries, and developing related market systems and services. -**ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Madina Investments, up 5.26%, was the top gainer while, Oman Education & Training, down 3.23%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,772.80 points, up by 1.09% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34% at 499.88 points. Al Madina Investments, up 5.26%, was the top gainer while, Oman Education & Training, down 3.23%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 6691 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 57.21 million, with more than 257.89 million shares changing hands. Out of 65 traded securities, 27 advanced, 15 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 1930K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 1509K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 421K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 9,314.84 points, up 0.47%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Sohar International Bank, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful, and Bank Nizwa were up by 5.26%,

2.56%, 2.04%, 1.11%, and 0.95% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, United Finance, Al Sharqia Investment, Global Financial Investments, and National Bank Oman were down by 3.03%, 1.52%, 1.12%, 0.96%, and 0.54% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,286.07 points, up 0.10%. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, and A'Saffa Foods were up by 4.84%, 1.72%, and 0.86% respectively. Prices of Oman Ceramics, Muscat Desalination, and Oman Telecom were up by 4.78%, 3.85%, 3.64%, 2.50%, and 1.92% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Oman National Engineering, SMN Power Holding, Al Suwadi Power, and National Gas were down by 2.27%, 1.47%, 1.36%, 1.19%, and 1.18% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

MSX 30 INDEX

FINANCIAL INDEX

Industry Index

Services Index

MSX Shariah Index

MSX TR INDEX

FINANCIAL TR IDX

INDUSTRIAL TR IDX

SERVICES TR IDX

FIXED INCOME INDEX

Trading Summary

Volume

Turnover

Trades

Market Cap

Up

Down

Equal

Sec. Traded

257,892,519

57,207,104

6,691

31,784,827,449

27

15

23

65

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

ISIN

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF. RD

DIFF %

LAST PR

LAST BID

LAST OFFER

PAY. VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003224

RENAISSANCE SERVICES

1,927,782

623,533

118

0.315

0.334

0.315

0.329

0.314

0.015

4.777

0.329

0.329

0.329

0.100

777,788.90

OM0000003386

SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK

39,180,361

6,205,497

701

0.156

0.160

0.155

0.160

0.156

0.004

2.564

0.160

0.160

0.160

0.100

1,058,759.03

OM0000003026

OMAN TELECOM

3,347,879

3,516,976

201

1.041

1.061

1.041

1.060

1.040

0.020

1.923

1.060

1.060

1.060

0.100

795,000.00

OM0000004789

MADINA TAKAFUL

22,267

2,062

14

0.091

0.092

0.091

0.091

0.090

0.001

1.111

0.091

0.091

0.095

0.100

15,953.00

OM0000009072

OQ GAS NETWORKS

34,054,124

6,438,241

945

0.187

0.191

0.186

0.189

0.187

0.002

1.070

0.189

0.189

0.189

0.100

818,487.921

OM0000004420

BANK NIZWA

609,276

54,458

30

0.106

0.106

0.105

0.106

0.105

0.001

0.952

0.106

0.105

0.115

0.100

15,971.021

OM0000002796

BANK MUSCAT

27,610,819

9,363,306

791

0.335

0.342

0.335

0.340

0.337

0.003

0.890

0.340

0.340

0.340

0.100

2,552,175.001

OM0000002804

ASAFYA FOODS

4,813

2,252

7

0.470

0.470

0.470

0.470

0.466

0.004

0.858

0.470

0.468

0.480

0.100

56,400.00

OM0000001853

OMINVEST

43,265

13,472

14

0.317

0.320

0.317

0.319

0.317

0.002

0.631

0.319

0.319

0.320

0.100

288,491.999

OM0000003868

GOREDDO

385,100

110,797

21

0.289

0.289

0.284

0.289

0.288

0.001

0.347

0.289

0.284

0.294

0.100

188,122.882

OM0000008854

ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES

11,019,412

3,530,706

749

0.317

0.324

0.315

0.320

0.319

0.001

0.513

0.320

0.320

0.320

0.100

246,454.000

OM0000001087

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE

28,526

7,909

8

0.274

0.278

0.274

0.278

0.276

0.000

0.000

0.278

0.277

0.278

0.100

27,800.00

OM0000002176

JAZZERA STEEL PRODUCTS

5,000

2,875

2

0.575

0.575

0.575

0.575

0.575

0.000

0.000

0.575

0.575

0.580

0.100

71,516.327

OM0000004825

ALBATRAH POWER

63,386

10,463

20

0.165

0.167

0.165

0.167

0.167

0.000

0.000

0.167

0.166

0.167

0.100

112,706.201

OM0000003661

VOLTAMP ENERGY

20,763

19,345

25

0.932

0.935

0.930

0.931

0.932

-0.001

-0.107

0.930

0.930

0.930

0.100

871,533.854

OM0000001483

NATIONAL BANK OMAN

50,000

18,300

1

0.366

0.366

0.366

0.366

0.368

-0.002

-0.543

0.366

0.366

0.368

0.100

595,096.366

OM0000002226

ALJAZERA SERVICES

3,510

646

4

0.185

0.185

0.183

0.183

0.184

-0.001

-0.543

0.183

0.183

0.185

0.100

7,940.267

OM0000002168

AL ANWAR CERAMIC

86,300

14,658

10

0.172

0.172

0.170

0.170

0.171

-0.001

-0.585

0.170

0.168

0.171

0.100

37,400.00

OM0000003125

GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO

2,079,041

454,987

136

0.213

0.213

0.205

0.207

0.209

-0.002

-0.957

0.207

0.207

0.207

0.100

41,400.00

OM0000002440

AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO

44,218

3,914

9

0.089

0.089

0.088

0.088

0.089

-0.001

-1.124

0.088

0.088

0.097

0.100

7,920.000

OM0000004853

AL SUWADI POWER

70,571

11,691

19

0.165

0.166

0.165

0.166

0.168

-0.002

-1.180

0.166

0.165

0.168

0.100

118,591.432

OM0000001707

OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY

1,650

3,483

3

2.115

2.150

2.115

2.150

2.180

-0.030

-1.376

2.150

2.120

2.180

0.100

192,855.000

OM0000002374

UNITED FINANCE

3,585,314

234,089

58

0.066

0.066

0.065

0.065

0.066

-0.001

-1.515

0.065

0.062

0.067

0.100

123,245.274

Total

23

124,244,117

30,633,713

3,886

Parallel Market

OM0000001982

AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING

34,227

2,157

8

0.039

0.040

0.039

0.040

0.038

0.002

5.263

0.040

0.038

0.040

0.100

3,400.000

OM0000004735

SEMBOCORP SALALAH

1,599,214

294,773

126

0.189

0.189

0.189

0.189

0.182

0.007

3.846

0.189

0.189

0.188

0.100

189,414.099

OM0000001178

MUSCAT GASES

2,000

228

1

0.114

0.114

0.114

0.114

0.110

0.004

3.636

0.114

0.107

0.114

0.100

3,420.000

OM0000001020

ASYAD SHIPPING

38,925,190

6,879,384

820

0.173

0.179

0.172

0.177

0.172

0.005

2.907

0.177

0.177

0.178

0.000

921,447.738

OM0000007084

MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION

23,425

1,869

6

0.077

0.082

0.077

0.082

0.080

0.002

2.500

0.082

0.078

0.082

0.100

12,751.133

OM0000001772

ALANAR INVESTMENT

10,319,620

1,029,569

249

0.098

0.103

0.097

0.100

0.098

0.002

2.041

0.100

0.100

0.100

0.100

29,655.293

OM0000002287

GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS

5,021

586

5

0.294

0.295

0.294

0.295

0.290

0.005

1.724

0.295

0.295

0.295

0.100

113,510.010

OM0000008908

OQBASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)

61,908,236

11,008,650

852

0.175

0.179

0.175

0.179

0.176

0.003

1.705

0.179

0.179

0.179

0.040

619,248.662

OM0000008710

BAIKA DESALINATION

199,700

27,258

13

0.146

0.146

0.146

0.146

0.144

0.002

1.388

0.146

0.144

0.147

0.100

11,026.212

OM0000003000

AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING

970

1,001

3

1.020

1.034

1.020

1.034

1.020

0.014

1.373

1.020

1.020

1.034

0.100

71,346.000

OM0000002848

NATIONAL FINANCE

74,591

10,816

4

0.145

0.145

0.145

0.144

0.144

0.001

0.694

0.145

0.143

0.158

0.100

89,178.248

OM0000002200

ABU BANK

805,128

118,354

10

0.147

0.147

0.147

0.147

0.146

0.001

0.685

0.147

0.147

0.153

0.100

397,899.847

OM0000008898

THE PEARL REIF

18,090

2,714

4

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.149

0.001

0.671

0.150

0.150

0.153

0.100

88,715.332

OM0000003141

BAIKA WATER AND POWER

44,975

7,872

9

0.173

0.176

0.172

0.176

0.173

0.003

1.571

0.176

0.176

0.176

0.100

28,100.00

OM0000009759

OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

17,545,141

6,749,423

497

0.383

0.386

0.383

0.385

0.384

0.001

0.260

0.385

0.385

0.385

0.010

3,080,000.000

OM0000001301

DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT

22,416

1,541

6

0.070

0.070

0.068

0.068

0.068

0.000

0.000

0.068

0.065

0.070

0.100

13,443.031

OM0000001590

MUSCAT FINANCE

8,500

434

1

0.051

0.051

0.051

0.051

0.051

0.000

0.000

0.051

0.051

0.052

0.100

15,964.063

OM0000001897

MAJAN COLLEGE

5,000

670

2

0.134

0.134

0.134

0.134

0.134

0.000

0.000

0.134

0.130

0.145

0.100

12,960.000

OM0000002029

GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS

145,885

9,928

19

0.069

0.069

0.069

0.069

0.069

0.000

0.000

0.069

0.069

0.075

0.100

1,449.010

OM0000002036

MUSCAT THREAD MILLS

6,114

1,223

5

0.200

0.200

0.200

0.200

0.200

0.000

0.000

0.200

0.200

0.205

0.100

3,524.723

OM0000002077

AL OMANYA FINANCIAL SERVICES

250,000

32,200

11

0.130

0.130

0.130

0.130

0.130

0.000

0.000

0.130

0.130

0.143

0.100

41,094.210

OM0000002549

BANK DHOFAH

164,000

25,420

9

0.155

0.155

0.155

0.155

0.155

0.000

0.000

0.155

0.154

0.155

0.100

47,168.772

OM0000002911

FINANCIAL CORPORATION

1,150

48

1

0.042

0.042

0.042

0.042

0.042

0.000

0.000

0.042

0.040

0.042

0.100

2,941.258

OM0000004776

TAKAFUL OMAN

1,800

1,000

1

0.553

0.553

0.553

0.553

0.553

0.000

0.000

0.553

0.553

0.553

0.100

2,941.258

OM0000005005

ALMAHA CERAMICS

1,800

499

1

0.277

0.277

0.277

0.277

0.277

0.000

0.000

0.277

0.277

0.277

0.100

15,235.000

OM0000005080

OMAN ARAB BANK

2,000

2,940

1

0.147

0.147

0.147

0.147

0.147

0.000

0.000

0.147

0.145

0.148

0.100

294,403.270

OM0000005063

PROXYTA POWER

99,679

14,750

8

0.148

0.148

0.148

0.148

0.148

0.000

0.000

0.148

0.146

0.150

0.100

2,940.000

OM0000007010

AMAN REAL ESTATE

17,587

1,409

6

0.079

0.079

0.079

0.079

0.079

0.000

0.000

0.079

0.078

0.079

0.100

15,800.000

OM0000007100

OMAN BREIT FUND

5,001

570

1

0.089

0.089

0.089

0.089

0.089

0.000

0.000

0.089

0.089

0.089

0.100

15,800.000

OM0000001160

NATIONAL GAS

40,835

3,435

9

0.085

0.085

0.084

0.084

0.085

-0.001

-1.176

0.084

0.084

0.088

0.100

7,140.000

OM0000004248

SMN POWER HOLDING

48,353

10,771

12

0.215

0.220

0.218

0.218

0.221

-0.003

-1.357

0.218

0.217

0.222

0.100

45,520.560

OM0000000012

OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV

10,000

1,448

1

0.134

0.134

0.134

0.134

0.134

0.000

0.000

0.134

0.133

0.136

0.100

1,448.000

OM0000004700

DHOFAH GENERATING

38,008

2,822

4

0.087

0.087

0.085

0.088

0.088

-0.002

-2.378

0.086

0.086

0.088

0.100

119,124.60

OM0000002101

OMAN EMPLOYERS TRUST

54,889

2,001

4

0.036

0.036

0.036

0.036

0.036

0.000

0.000

0.036

0.036

0.036

0.100

105,000.000

OM0000002580

OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV

116,450

17,675

7

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.150

-0.050

-3.326

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.100

105,000.000

Total

35

130,900,356

26,474,959

2,759



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CONTACT: 96741587
Email-umarustad@gmail.com.

MANAGER

Supply Chain/ Warehouse Manager, Male, with 20 year's experience across India, Africa and Oman. Expert in Warehouse, Logistics, Procurement, Cold Storage Inventory, Fleet Management, WMS, SAP and leading high-volume operations. NOC available.

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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

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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

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JOB WANTED

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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

Group Finance Manager Indian 26yrs of experience, looking job change, Contact-98006226

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, 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 position. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141

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Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91417133

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 (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male, 29 yrs, MBA with NEBOSH certified with 2+ yrs experience in administration looking for safety or administration jobs. Contact +968 74105832, Email : ashikthahir@gmail.com

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Highly skilled accounting and administrative professional with diverse experience in technical and office administration roles Contact: 90473476. Email: kpsanjay202@gmail.com

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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

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Electrical Engineer, experience 17 year in Oman . Contact 98148034

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

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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

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

Indian Male 40 yrs Bcom MBA having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: +971529546753

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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 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

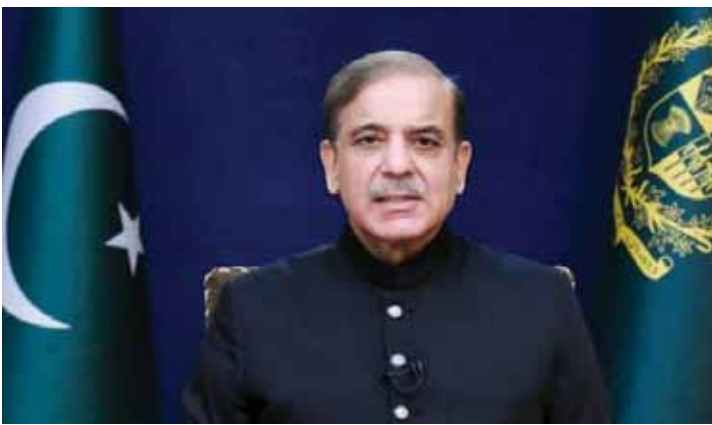
NATIONAL DAY

Pakistan cherishes brotherly ties with UAE: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan cherished its strong and brotherly ties with the leadership of the United Arab Emirates.

In a message on the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, he said, “On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, it is my honour to extend our heartfelt felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, today.”

“The bilateral brotherly relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates are rooted



in historical bonds of mutual goodwill, and remain a source of pride for both sides. The relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates are characterized by strong foundation of shared religious and cultural values ??and unwavering mutual trust,” he added.

He said these foundations were built by the wise and sagacious leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan, and have continued ever since, under the patronage of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE

and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, as well as Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

“Going forward, our two countries remain resolute in striving for achieving the common goals of peace and stability, development and prosperity, especially in the region, and worldwide. Insha Allah, our cooperation in the economic, bilateral trade, investment and defence sectors will pave the way for the well-being of the peoples of both countries,” he noted.

He said, “The warmth between

our two peoples is a testament to the mutual affection that exists on both sides. In this regard, Pakistanis living in the United Arab Emirates are also undoubtedly contributing positively to the mutual friendship between the two countries.”

“Today, we pray that the relationship between our two countries continues to grow form strength to strength in the times to come. On this occasion, the entire Pakistani nation joins in wishing the UAE peace, progress and prosperity,” he concluded. -APP

India sends 53 tonnes of relief to Sri Lanka under Sagar Bandhu

At least 334 people have been confirmed dead across Sri Lanka as authorities continue to battle rising floodwaters in parts of the capital

NEW DELHI: India has sent 53 tons of relief material to Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu as part of its emergency response to Cyclone Ditwah, which caused widespread damage across the island nation.

At least 334 people have been confirmed dead across Sri Lanka as authorities continue to battle rising floodwaters in parts of the capital, Colombo, after a powerful cyclone left a trail of destruction, Al Jazeera reported.

In an update on Sunday, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said nearly 400 people remain missing and warned that more heavy rains brought on by Cyclone Ditwah are expected across the island nation in the coming days.



According to an official release, “in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah, India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu on 28 November 2025 to provide urgent Search & Rescue and Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) support to Sri Lanka.”

“In coordination with the Sri Lankan authorities, the Govern-

ment of India immediately handed 9.5 tons of emergency rations from two Indian Navy Ships in Colombo; deployed three Indian Air Force aircraft for airlifting another 31.5 tons of relief materials including tents, tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene kits, ready-to-eat food items, medicines and surgical equipment, two BHISHM cubes

India clears Pakistan flight to send aid to Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI: India has granted rapid clearance for Pakistan’s aid flight carrying relief material to cyclone-hit Sri Lanka, firmly rejecting “baseless and misleading” claims circulating in Pakistani media that New Delhi had denied permission to use its airspace.

Officials confirmed that the request for overflight was submitted by Pakistan at approximately 1300 hrs (IST) on Monday, seeking same-day permission to fly over Indian airspace. Given the purpose of the request--to provide

humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka--India processed the request with exceptional speed.

Permission was officially granted and communicated to the Government of Pakistan through official channels at 1730 hrs (IST) on Monday, with the clearance processed within a minimal four-hour notice period, they said.

Officials emphasised that this clearance was a purely humanitarian gesture, made despite Pakistan maintaining a ban on Indian airlines’ use of its airspace. -ANI

conducted extensive rescue operations, airlifting stranded people, including pregnant women, infants, and those critically injured. Rescued persons included nationals of Sri Lanka, India, Germany, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Poland, Belarus, Iran, Australia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been carrying out search-and-rescue operations in various severely affected and isolated regions of Sri Lanka, assisting flood-hit families and ensuring their immediate safety, according to the release.

A total of 121 persons have been rescued and assisted in these combined operations, which are continuing.

The release stated that the evacuation of Indian nationals stranded due to Cyclone Ditwah was also undertaken via three special Indian Air Force flights and three commercial flights, with a total of around 1500 stranded Indians already brought back.

Guided by India’s Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, India continues to be the First Responder, standing firmly in solidarity with the Government and people of Sri Lanka in this time of need, and remains committed to supporting the ongoing rescue, relief and early recovery efforts. -ANI

HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY

Trump holds high-level meeting on Venezuela

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump convened a high-level meeting at the White House to review the next steps on Venezuela, amid heightened scrutiny over the recent US military action against the suspected drug vessels in the Caribbean, CNN reported, citing sources.

According to CNN, key members of Trump’s national security team -- including War Secretary Pete Hegseth, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, and Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller -- are expected to have attended the Oval Office meeting on Monday evening (local time).

The deliberations came as the US has stepped up pressure on Venezuela through strikes on drug boats and a significant military build-up in the Caribbean under “Operation Southern Spear.”

The Pentagon has deployed more than a dozen warships and around 15,000 troops to the region. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump was regularly meeting his security team on global matters, adding that it was part of his responsibility to “ensure that peace is ongoing throughout the world.”

The meeting follows heightened scrutiny over US military actions after strikes on alleged drug vessels reportedly killed over 80 people.

The US is not formally at war with Venezuela, and lawmakers from both parties have demanded clarity on allegations that a second strike was ordered to kill survivors after the initial attack. CNN reported.

“If the facts are, as have been alleged, that there was a second strike specifically to kill the survivors in the water, that’s a stone-



cold war crime. It’s also murder,” independent Senator Angus King of Maine told CNN.

On Monday, Leavitt identified Adm. Frank M. “Mitch” Bradley, head of US Special Operations Command, as the official who ordered the follow-up strike, asserting that he acted “well within his authority.”

She said Hegseth had authorised Bradley on September 2 to carry out the kinetic action to eliminate the threat posed to the United States.

Pressed on the legal justification, Leavitt said the strike was undertaken in self-defence, was conducted in international waters, and complied with the law of armed conflict.

Trump, however, told reporters on Air Force One on Sunday that he personally “wouldn’t have wanted” a second strike and ques-

tioned whether such an order had been issued.

“No. 1, I don’t know that that happened, and Pete said he did not want them -- he didn’t even know what people were talking about,” he said.

Leavitt said Hegseth had spoken to concerned lawmakers and noted that Congress had received 13 bipartisan briefings on the Venezuelan operations, along with access to classified legal opinions and other documents.

The US military had carried out a follow-up strike on a suspected drug vessel operating in the Caribbean on September 2 after an initial attack did not kill everyone on board, sources familiar with the matter told CNN.

That September strike was the first in what became a regular series of attacks on alleged drug boats. -ANI

ILLEGAL ALLOCATION OF A PLOT

Bangladesh sentences ex-UK minister Siddiq over corruption

DHAKA: A court in Bangladesh convicted in absentia on Monday British lawmaker and former minister Tulip Siddiq in a corruption case alongside her aunt, the country’s ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The case involves the alleged illegal allocation of a plot of land in the capital Dhaka, which was supposed to be used toward a new township to ease housing pressure. A judge said Hasina misused her power as prime minister while Siddiq influenced her aunt to help her mother and two siblings get the land instead.

Siddiq was sentenced to two years in absentia. Hasina, who has been in India since she fled the uprising in Bangladesh in August last year, was given five years in jail, while her sister Rehana was sentenced to seven years, also in absentia.

Hasina was already sentenced to death last month over the crackdown on the uprising which eventually led to her ousting. Up to 1,400 people were killed in the crackdown, according to United Nations figures.



How have Siddiq and her Labour Party reacted?

Siddiq, who resigned from her role as Britain’s minister for financial services and anti corruption efforts in January, after scrutiny over her financial ties to her deposed aunt, condemned the Monday verdict, describing the trial process as “flawed and farcical.”

“The outcome of this kangaroo court is as predictable as it is unjustified,” she said in a statement. “My focus has always been my constituents in Hampstead and Highgate and I refuse to be distracted by the dirty politics of Bangladesh.”

A spokesperson for Siddiq’s Labour Party said she did not get access to a fair legal process and was not informed of the details of the charges against her.

“Anyone facing any charge should always be afforded the right to make legal representations when allegations are made against them. Given that has not happened in this case, we cannot recognize this judgment,” the spokesperson said.

Prosecutors said Bangladesh’s interim government would formally notify British authorities regarding the verdict. Britain does not have an extradition treaty with Bangladesh.

Hasina condemns court decision

In a statement to the French AFP news agency, Hasina slammed the verdict, which piles up with other corruption verdicts she’s already been hit with in absentia.

“No country is free from corruption. But corruption needs to be investigated in a way that is not itself corrupt. The ACC has failed that test today,” she said, in

reference to Bangladesh’s Anti-Corruption Commission.

The deposed prime minister’s Awami League party described the verdict as the latest example of what it called a politically driven process led by “desperate, unelected men” - a reference to Bangladesh’s interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, the Minister of External Affairs on Wednesday stated that the Indian government is currently examining the request from Bangladesh’s interim government seeking the extradition of its former PM Sheikh Hasina, who was sentenced to death by the country’s International Crimes Tribunal.

Addressing a media briefing, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that New Delhi had formally received Dhaka’s communication over the matter, stressing that India remains committed to Bangladesh’s stability and the well-being of its people as part of its “ongoing judicial and internal legal processes.” -DW



LIFESTYLE

RESEARCHERS FIND WAY
TO RESTORE VISION IN PEOPLE WITH 'LAZY EYE'

It is possible to disable the lazy eye, which performs few functions, and bring it back to life while preserving vision in the healthy eye

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US have discovered a method that could restore vision to people suffering from amblyopia, also known as lazy eye, by reactivating the retina to its original state, allowing it to grow and heal itself.

The study indicates that temporarily disabling the affected retina through anesthesia led to the recovery of the affected eye. After comparing the treated sample to a control group, the percentage of nerve signals coming from the treated eye increased to match the input from the healthy eye, indicating that the treatment effectively reactivated the affected eye.

The results, published in the journal Cell Reports, show that temporarily anesthetising the retina can restore the visual system to its original state and treat amblyopia, a condition that occurs when vision in one or both eyes does not develop properly during childhood, as the brain learns to ignore one eye.

It is possible to disable the lazy eye, which performs few functions, and bring it back to life while preserving vision in the healthy eye, study author Mark Bears said.

Previous studies indicate that available treatments only work in early childhood, when neural connections are still forming, making this new discovery an important step towards treating adults suffering from this condition. - **UNA**

SPORTS

West Indies exploit pace-friendly wicket on rain-shortened day one

New Zealand were restricted to 231/9, despite gritty knocks by Williamson and Bracewell in first Test at Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand were restricted to 231-9 at stumps on a rain-shortened day one of the first Test against the West Indies Tuesday after Justin Greaves triggered a middle-order collapse with the wicket of Kane Williamson. The hosts tumbled from 94/1 to 148/6 on a bowler-friendly wicket after Williamson was dismissed for a responsible 52, his 38th Test half-century. Michael Bracewell and Nathan Smith arrested the slide with a 52-run stand for the seventh wicket. Smith eventually fell for 23 and Bracewell for 47. After Matt Henry went for eight, Zak Foulkes and Jacob Duffy were both on four when bad light stopped play after 70 overs of a truncated day. Bracewell rated the day “pretty even” given the nature of the wicket. “It ebbed and flowed throughout the day and I think we’d be pretty happy with where we got to at the end of the day,” he said. “It was a little bit ‘old school’ West Indies.



“You grow up hearing about the fast bowlers of the West Indies and it was certainly that today. It was

an exciting challenge.” Bracewell and Smith’s partnership was the second face-saving



stand for New Zealand after Williamson and Tom Latham put on 93 following the dismissal of Devon Conway on the third ball of the Test. The green wicket and heavy cloud cover ensured West Indies skipper Roston Chase gave his pace attack first use of the new ball when he won the toss and it revived memories of Calypso quicks from a previous era. But after the immediate success of Kemar Roach, who removed Conway, the West Indies were made to wait 29 overs before again tasting success. In the first session, extended by a 90-minute rain break, Williamson and Latham cautiously inched

New Zealand to 17/1 in the 10.3 overs available before a second shower brought lunch. When play resumed, the New Zealand pair batted with more freedom until Williamson celebrated his first Test innings in a year by passing the half-century mark. On 52, a lapse in his normal diligence saw a full delivery from Greaves edged to Alick Athanaze at second slip to ignite the collapse. In his next over, Greaves removed Latham for a patient 24 off 85 deliveries and Rachin Ravindra was then bowled for three by Jayden Seales. In the space of 21 deliveries the West Indies took three wickets for

nine runs as New Zealand slumped from 94/1 to 103/4. Will Young and Tom Blundell added 17 for the fifth wicket before Young, on 14, gave Johann Layne his maiden Test wicket. Blundell progressed to 29 before he went early in the final session as debutant Ojay Shields claimed his first Test wicket. Shields, who earlier believed he had the prized wicket of Williamson for 33 only for a no ball to be declared, also removed Bracewell to finish with 2-34. Greaves took 2-35 and Roach has 2-47. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 231/9 (Williamson 52, Bracewell 47; Shields 2/34, Greaves 2/35, Roach 2/47) vs West Indies. - Agencies

AUSTRALIA OPENER

Khawaja out of Brisbane Test after failing to recover

BRISBANE: Australia’s Usman Khawaja’s was ruled out of the second Test at the Gabba after failing to recover from the back spasms that he suffered in the opening match in Perth. Khawaja had battled for the first time since the injury on Tuesday during a 30-minute net session but won’t be able to take his place in the side. “Khawaja will remain with the team to continue his rehabilitation,” a statement said. “He has not been replaced in the squad.” His absence opens the door for Travis Head to continue the opening role he took on in the second innings in Perth where he carved his way to 123 off 83 balls although there are other potential routes Australia could take. “It’s hard because obviously he’s put in a lot of work since the last game to try and get his body right but he hasn’t come up unfortunately,” Scott Boland said. “I



thought he looked pretty good in the nets but he must’ve thought himself that he wasn’t ready to go.” Josh Inglis and Beau Webster are the spare batting options in the squad. Inglis, who made a century on Test debut against Sri Lanka earlier this year, scored a hundred against England Lions last week. Webster was unlucky to miss out on the XI in Perth having made four half-centuries in his first seven Tests alongside contributing handy wickets. - Agencies

ASHES SERIES

England select Jacks for second Test

BRISBANE: Will Jacks will play his first Test in three years after England included a spin option for the second Ashes Test against Australia at Gabba in Brisbane, starting on Thursday. The off-spinner takes the place of injured pace bowler Mark Wood in the only change from the side beaten heavily in the first Test in Perth. The 27-year-old is selected ahead of Shoaib Bashir for the day-night match at the Gabba partly because his batting ability offers England more depth at No.8. Jacks was a left-field inclusion in England’s Ashes squad and gets the opportunity to win a third Test cap despite focusing heavily on white-ball cricket in recent years. The Surrey man has played only three first-class matches this year, taking five wickets in 74.1 overs. “Everyone knows what a brilliant cricketer he is,” said England batter and Jacks’ Surrey teammate Ollie Pope. Jacks, who has 60 caps in white-ball cricket, is primarily a batting all-rounder but did claim six wickets on his Test debut against Paki-



stan in Rawalpindi in 2022. The 21-year-old missed the last two Tests against India this sum-

mer with a broken finger on his left hand, though he did take the final wicket in a thrilling victory at

Lord’s having suffered the injury in the same game. Although day-night Tests are perceived to suit fast bowlers, Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon has a better average, economy rate and strike-rate bowling with a pink ball compared to the red. That Lyon boasts an impressive record across his 13 day-night Tests - 43 dismissals at 25.62 - has prompted England into changing their all-pace tactic from the first Test. Referring to the “tactical element” of day-night Tests, England captain Ben Stokes pointed to how Australia use Lyon. “They play a lot of day-night cricket here,” said Stokes. “How they use their spinner as an attacking option, or more to get through the overs quicker to have more time with the new ball under lights - there’s both those elements to consider.” England team for second Ashes Test: Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith (wk), Will Jacks, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer. - Agencies

DAMBULLA TO HOST THREE T20IS

Pakistan to tour Sri Lanka in January

LAHORE: Pakistan will begin their build-up to the 2026 T20 World Cup with a three-match T20I series in Sri Lanka next year, during early January. The Salman Agha-led side will travel to Dambulla in Sri Lanka, where all three matches will be played on January 7, 9 and 11. The short tour is Pakistan’s first white-ball assignment of the new year, and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it “will provide the side with valuable match practice ahead of next year’s global event”. Pakistan are playing all their World Cup games in Sri Lanka. Over the past six months, the PCB has heavily prioritised fielding the national team for as much T20I cricket as possible. Since the end of the PSL in May 2025, Pakistan have played home and away series against Bangladesh, a series in West Indies, two tri-series, the Asia Cup, and a home series against South Africa. They were victorious in all but the away series in Bangladesh and



the Asia Cup, where they lost the final to India. Sri Lanka have just concluded a three-week tour of Pakistan too, which saw them play three ODIs and a tri-series, with the latter also featuring Zimbabwe. Aside from the T20Is in Sri Lanka, Pakistan also have a three-match home series against Aus-

tralia in the final week of January, before they return to Sri Lanka for the World Cup, which begins on February 7. Pakistan have been placed in Group A for the World Cup and their group fixtures, played in Colombo, will be against India, Namibia, Netherlands and United States. - Agencies

Former England batter Smith dies at 62

PERTH: Robin Smith, the former England batter who went toe-to-toe with some of the greatest fast bowlers of the 1980s and 90s, has died at his home in Perth, Australia, on Monday at the age of 62. Smith played 62 Tests between 1988 and 1996, scoring 4,236 runs at 43.67 with nine centuries, including three against West Indies - the team that so often brought out his pugnacious best. Smith’s signature shot was a front-foot square cut that was, by many estimations, one of the fiercest strokes in the world game, and it enabled him to thrive in cricket’s adrenalin-fuelled fast lane, not least on England’s memorable tour of the Caribbean in 1990, when Smith was instrumental in England’s victory in the first Test in Jamaica, and again on home soil in consecutive 2-2 drawn series against West Indies in 1991 and 1995. At Edgbaston in 1993, Smith



produced a remarkable innings of 167 not out in an ODI against Australia, a score which would remain England’s highest in the format for 23 years, until surpassed by Alex Hales in 2016. However, his perceived weakness against spin counted against him at key moments of his career, in particular with the emergence of Australia’s Shane Warne, whose success

in his maiden Ashes tour in 1993 persuaded the selectors to omit Smith from England’s subsequent visit to Australia 18 months later. Ironically, Smith and Warne became lifelong friends - a relationship that was central to Warne’s decision to sign for Hampshire in the latter years of his career. Post-career, Smith’s struggles with alcoholism were poignantly addressed in his 2019 autobiography, The Judge: More Than Just A Game. However, only last week, he attended the first Ashes Test in Perth, and spoke widely to the media about his ongoing recovery. He also attended an England Lions training session at Lilac Hill at the invitation of Andrew Flintoff. A statement from his family confirmed that Smith had died unexpectedly in his South Perth apartment on Monday, and that his cause of death is unknown. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Salah a top professional after being dropped: Liverpool boss Slot

LONDON: Liverpool manager Arne Slot described forward Mohamed Salah as a “top professional” for his response to being dropped. After nine defeats in 12 games in all competitions, Slot named Salah on the bench for Sunday’s 2-0 Premier League win at West Ham.

It was the first time he has been dropped in the league since April 2024, under Slot’s predecessor Jurgen Klopp. Egypt international Salah, who won the Golden Boot in the Premier League last season

with 29 goals, has scored only four times in the top flight this season.

Slot said it was a “fair assumption” that Salah was unhappy about being an unused substitute at London Stadium.

“That’s a normal reaction from a player that’s good enough to play for us, and I say that mildly because he has been so outstanding for this club for so many years and will be for the future,” Slot said.

“He wasn’t the only one who wasn’t happy that he wasn’t starting and that is normal.”



Slot said Salah “handled himself really well” despite being dropped.

“He is so disciplined - he knows what to do to stay fit,” Slot said.

“No matter if he plays well or if he doesn’t play well, if he plays or doesn’t play, he will always be that top professional and that’s what he was in the last two days.

“With all players around their world, there are also phases in your time at the club that they are human. He’s scored so many goals for us and I am sure he will in the future.”

Slot confirmed Liverpool will be without Salah from 15 December, when he leaves for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). The final takes place on 18 January 2026.

“We have to find a way to play without him because he won’t be here,” Slot said. Defending champions Liverpool are eighth in the Premier League, nine points behind leaders Arsenal.

They host Sunderland on Wednesday before Saturday’s trip to Leeds, who are in the relegation zone. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A



Vardy double sink Bologna

BOLOGNA: Jamie Vardy scored his first double in Italian Serie A to help Cremonese beat high-flying Bologna 3-1 on Monday.

The former England and Leicester City forward’s goals inflicted a first home defeat of the season on the hosts, who would have moved one point behind joint leaders AC Milan and Napoli with victory.

After Martin Payero’s 31st-minute opener, 38-year-old Vardy’s well-timed run got him in behind the Bologna defence to slot past goalkeeper Federico Ravaglia to double Cremonese’s advantage four minutes later.

Though Riccardo Orsolini’s penalty reduced the deficit for the hosts, Vardy struck again five minutes into the second half at a wet Stadio Renato Dall’Ara to end his side’s three-match losing streak.

“I think we were just missing a bit of rain - this is a typical mid-week in the UK,” Vardy said after the win.

“The most important thing was getting the three points and keeping that progress going. It’s another step in the right direction.

“It’s all about commitment and wanting what’s best for the club.

Everyone’s on that same page and everyone’s pushing forward to make sure that come the end of the season it will have been a successful year.”

Vardy has now scored four goals in nine matches for the promoted side, who are in 11th place with 17 points from 13 matches.

“Great players are easy to handle as they know what they’re supposed to do - and they know how to do it,” Cremonese manager Davide Nicola said.

“They set themselves apart for their qualities as players, but also for their spirit and how they behave. That’s how he is - he’s comfortable with who he is, good humoured. He came here with the mentality of making himself available for the team.”

Vardy joined Cremonese in September on a free transfer, signing a one-year contract with a further year on offer should the club avoid relegation.

He scored 200 goals in 500 games for Leicester, guiding them to the Premier League title in 2015-16 and the FA Cup in 2021, while he also scored seven goals in 26 England appearances. - Agencies



The national team coach Brys has been sacked while keeper Onana is among many stars left out of AFCON squad

YAOUNDE: Goalkeeper Andre Onana has been left out of Cameroon’s squad for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) - with the team in chaos after head coach Marc Brys was sacked amid allegations of “subterfuge”.

Days after being re-elected as Cameroonian Football Federation (Fecafoot) president, Samuel Eto’o and his executive committee announced Brys’ dismissal in a dramatic statement. It features a long list of accusations of “professional failure” levelled at Brys, including “inciting” players to defy Fecafoot.

The Belgian - appointed by Cameroon’s sports ministry in April 2024, a decision Eto’o immediately tried to reverse - is also accused of “active collaboration with unknown individuals within Fecafoot”. He is also accused of failing to attend meetings, refusing to disclose his training programmes, jeopardising relationships with sponsors, not releasing his squad selections on time and using “subterfuge to evade his professional obligation to hold press conferences”.

Brys is replaced by one of his assistants, David Pagou, an experienced Cameroonian coach who has managed several teams in the country’s top tier. But Pagou’s 28-man squad for the upcoming AF-



CON in Morocco, which begins on 21 December, is missing several key names. They include goalkeeper Onana, who is on loan at Turkish side Trabzonsor from Manchester United, team captain Vincent

Aboubakar, Napoli midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and defender Michael Ngadeu.

While Anguissa has been injured, no reason has been given for the other omissions.

Onana, who has 59 caps, is the most high-profile omission from the squad.

But it is perhaps not a complete surprise given his form at Manchester United before being loaned to Turkish side Trabzonsor in September, as well as his recent history at major tournaments.

Not only was he sent home early from Qatar 2022, he also lost his place in the starting line-up at the 2023 AFCON after delaying his arrival at the tournament in order to play an extra game for United.

Since Brys’ arrival, Fecafoot and Cameroon’s ministry of sport have been at loggerheads over the legality and legitimacy of the 63-year-old’s contract.

But he is not the first manager dismissed by Eto’o’s regime.

Having first been elected to Fecafoot’s top job in December 2021, the former Barcelona and Inter Milan forward soon oversaw the dismissal of Portuguese boss Toni Conceicao, who had guided Cameroon to a third-place finish on home soil at the 2021 AFCON, despite opposition from the ministry.

Another Cameroon legend, Rigobert Song, was immediately appointed as Conceicao’s replacement - under the instructions of the country’s President Paul Biya.

Strongly rumoured to also be Eto’o’s choice, Song led his nation at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The Indomitable Lions will undoubtedly miss the experience of Serie A winner Anguissa, who picked up a hamstring injury last month and has chosen to prioritise his recovery at Napoli.

Without several of their established stars, Cameroon have a tricky draw to navigate in Morocco. They face holders Ivory Coast, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang’s Gabon and Mozambique in Group F. - Agencies

URUGUAY INTERNATIONAL



Barca’s Araujo granted mental health break

BARCELONA: Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo has been granted a leave of absence to prioritise his mental health.

The 26-year-old is receiving professional support and treatment, and has requested a few days off to “take care of himself emotionally”.

“He has our full support. The entire club, team-mates and staff are with him and we look forward to having him back,” Barcelona said in a statement on Tuesday.

Araujo’s most recent appearance for Barca was in last week’s 3-0 defeat by Chelsea in the Champions League, where he re-

ceived two bookings and was sent off in the 44th minute.

The Uruguay international was not part of Barca’s squad for their 3-1 home win over Alaves on Saturday.

Barca manager Hansi Flick confirmed Araujo would miss Tuesday’s La Liga game against Atletico Madrid, saying:

“Ronald is not ready at the moment. It’s a private situation. I don’t want to say more. Please also respect it. This is what I can say and what I want to say.”

Flick did not share further details about Araujo’s situation and asked the media to respect his privacy.

Barca currently lead La Liga by a point ahead of Real Madrid, while Atletico are fourth, three points behind the Catalan club.

Araujo has played 15 games in all competitions for Barcelona this season.

Araujo’s representative met with the club’s sporting director Deco on Monday to discuss the matter with the club committed to giving him the time he needs.

Flick’s comments come after Barcelona president Joan Laporta said on Friday that he wanted to ‘support and defend’ the club’s captain - who had been subject to unfair criticism.

He said: “He has been heavily

criticised, and I don’t think that’s fair. He gives his all on the pitch, he’s our captain, and now he needs to get through this difficult period because he’s a very emotional person with strong feelings.

“He’s had a tough time, and I want to tell him that we’re behind him, that he needs to turn the page because here we all win and we all lose, and no one person is responsible for defeats or victories.”

Araujo has been at Barcelona since 2018, having initially joined the B team before being promoted to the first team. He has gone on to make 190 appearances for the Catalan giants in all competitions, scoring 12 times. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Augsburg part ways with coach Wagner

BERLIN: FC Augsburg have parted company with head coach Sandro Wagner by mutual consent, the Bundesliga club announced on Monday.

Wagner leaves only months after taking charge, with Augsburg also releasing his assistants following a run of heavy setbacks in both league and cup competitions.

Augsburg said the decision came after a series of frank internal discussions in which confidence in the current constellation had visibly eroded.

Manuel Baum, the club’s head of development and football innovation and a former first-team coach, will serve as interim coach until the winter break.

CEO Michael Stroll said the club had reached a point where the situation required decisive action.

“After the Hoffenheim match it became clear that the belief and conviction to spark a turnaround were no longer strong enough,” he said. “We appreciated the passion they brought every day, but every decision we make must put the wellbeing of FCA at the centre.”

Sporting director Benni Weber noted that Wagner had left a positive imprint despite the disappointing results. “He initiated important processes and worked with great commitment,” Weber said.

“We remain convinced of our long-term direction, but the immediate priority is to regain stability and pick up points.”



Wagner said he had approached the task “with energy and passion” and thanked the club’s management for the trust they placed in him.

The former Bayern Munich striker was appointed over the summer and had an impressive start to his tenure with a 3-1 win over Freiburg.

However, Augsburg won just two of their 11 league games that followed, drawing one and losing eight. The club also exited the German Cup in the second round after a 1-0 home defeat to second-tier Bochum. - xinhua

ROUND-UP

Marriott International celebrates Global Customer Appreciation Week

The celebration underscored Marriott's commitment to building lasting relationships with its partners while showcasing the diverse hospitality experiences across its portfolio in Oman

MUSCAT: Marriott International celebrated its annual Global Customer Appreciation Week in Oman, uniting six of its distinguished hotels to honour and express gratitude to valued partners and guests. The flagship event was hosted at the JW Marriott Hotel Muscat, joined by Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, W Muscat, Sheraton Oman Hotel, and Aloft Muscat.

This year's theme, Marriott Bonvoy Travel Shapes Us, highlights the transformative power of travel to connect cultures, inspire communities, and enrich lives. The celebration underscored Marriott's commitment to building lasting relationships with its partners while showcasing the diverse hospitality experiences across its portfolio in Oman.

The event featured a grand reception at the JW Marriott Hotel Muscat featuring top notch enter-

tainment, culinary experiences and interactive activities highlighting each hotel's offerings. This celebration was a collaborative participation from six iconic Marriott properties, each reflecting their unique brand identity and hospitality excellence, designed to recognize and thank Marriott's loyal customers and partners for their continued trust and support.

Samir Messaoudi, Chairman of Marriott Business Council Oman and General Manager of JW Marriott Hotel Muscat comments, "Global Customer Appreciation Week is our opportunity to celebrate the people who make Marriott Bonvoy what it is today. With this year's theme, Marriott Bonvoy Travel Shapes Us, we honor the journeys that inspire connection and transformation, and we reaffirm our commitment to delivering exceptional hospitality experiences across Oman and beyond."

Marriott International's Muscat properties marked Customer Appreciation Week with a series of activities designed to strengthen relationships and give back to the community. The week-long celebration highlighted Marriott's commitment to its guests and the values that define its culture.

At the heart of these values is "Spirit to Serve," a guiding principle that reflects Marriott International's dedication to supporting and uplifting the communities where it operates. Demonstrating this commitment, the Sales & Marketing team from Muscat Marriott Hotels collaborated with local government authorities to organize a beach-cleaning campaign at Ghubrah Beach.

This initiative served as the culminating event of Customer Appreciation Week, reinforcing Marriott's pledge to sustainability and community engagement while creating a positive impact beyond hospitality.



RECOGNITION

BankDhofar wins Excellence Award in Customer Experience

MUSCAT: BankDhofar has been awarded the Excellence Award in Customer Experience at the TAS Awards 2025 — a prestigious honour that underscores the bank's steadfast commitment to service excellence and its leadership in shaping the future of banking in Oman.

This year, BankDhofar also served as Event Partner of the TAS Conclave, held under the patronage of Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. Hosted by The Arabian Stories — Oman's leading interactive digital media platform — the annual conclave has grown into one of the nation's most influential gatherings of policymakers, business leaders, innovators, and changemakers. Now in its fifth edition, TAS Conclave 2025 provided a high-impact platform for forward-thinking dialogue on the Sultanate's evolving socioeconomic landscape.

Themed "Reimagining Banking:



Progressing Beyond Barriers in a Digital Economy," this year's conclave explored how digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and data-driven technologies are redefining financial services. Powered

by BankDhofar, the forum convened regional and international banking, fintech, and technology leaders to spotlight the sector's rapidly shifting role — from traditional service provider to architect of cus-

tomers-centric, inclusive, and innovation-led financial ecosystems.

A key highlight was a panel featuring BankDhofar's Wealth Division alongside executives from two of the bank's strategic global partners, Mastercard and Infosys Financial Services. While the Mastercard representative shared global insights on payments modernisation, fintech collaboration, and emerging consumer trends, the Infosys expert discussed next-generation digital core banking evolution and best-practice international case studies. Their perspectives reinforced how such partnerships are accelerating BankDhofar's transformation journey and supporting the broader modernisation of Oman's financial sector.

BankDhofar's sponsorship and active participation in the TAS Conclave reflect its long-standing commitment to national development and its alignment with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040.

ECHOES OF ETERNITY EVENT CELEBRATES TIMELESS LEGACY OF COMPOSER SD BURMAN

Spearheaded by Rashmi and Uday Junnakar, 'Echoes of Eternity - A Tribute to SD Burman' was organised by Jhankar Beats, in collaboration with the Aalap Music Lovers Group, on 15 November. The event, known for its professional stage production and rich musical curation, celebrated the timeless legacy of the legendary composer. The Indian Ambassador attended the occasion as the chief guest, adding prestige to an evening filled with nostalgia and melodious performances.



REMOTE SMART PARKING ASSIST

Kia EV9 showcases future of effortless mobility with RSPA



MUSCAT: As the global shift toward electric mobility accelerates, Kia continues to push boundaries, not only in sustainability, but also in intelligent convenience. The Kia EV9, the brand's flagship all-electric SUV, introduces a suite of advanced technologies designed to simplify everyday driving. Among its standout innovations is Remote Smart Parking Assist (RSPA), a feature redefining how drivers interact with their vehicles in tight, challenging, or crowded spaces.

Remote Smart Parking Assist gives EV9 drivers the ability to park or exit a parking space while standing outside the vehicle, using only the smart key. With just the press of a button, the EV9 can move forward or backward, making it possible to navigate areas where space is limited, or where physically entering the vehicle may not be possible.

How it works

RSPA relies on Kia's advanced network of sensors and onboard intelligence to evaluate surroundings

with precision. The system uses: Ultrasonic sensors to detect nearby obstacles; Cameras and radar to map distances and movement; Autonomous steering, acceleration, and braking control powered by the EV9's advanced driver assistance framework.

Once the driver initiates the function via the smart key, the EV9 independently manages movement, monitoring the space around it and stopping automatically if an obstruction is detected. The feature is available for both forward and reverse maneuvering, ensuring full mobility without the need to be behind the wheel.

More than a technological showpiece, RSPA is engineered with practical benefits in mind: Getting in and out of tight spaces: Perfect for narrow parking slots where door opening is restricted. Ease of access: Particularly helpful when loading or unloading in confined spots. Stress-free maneuvering in congested areas: Ideal for drivers of

large SUVs who often face parking challenges.

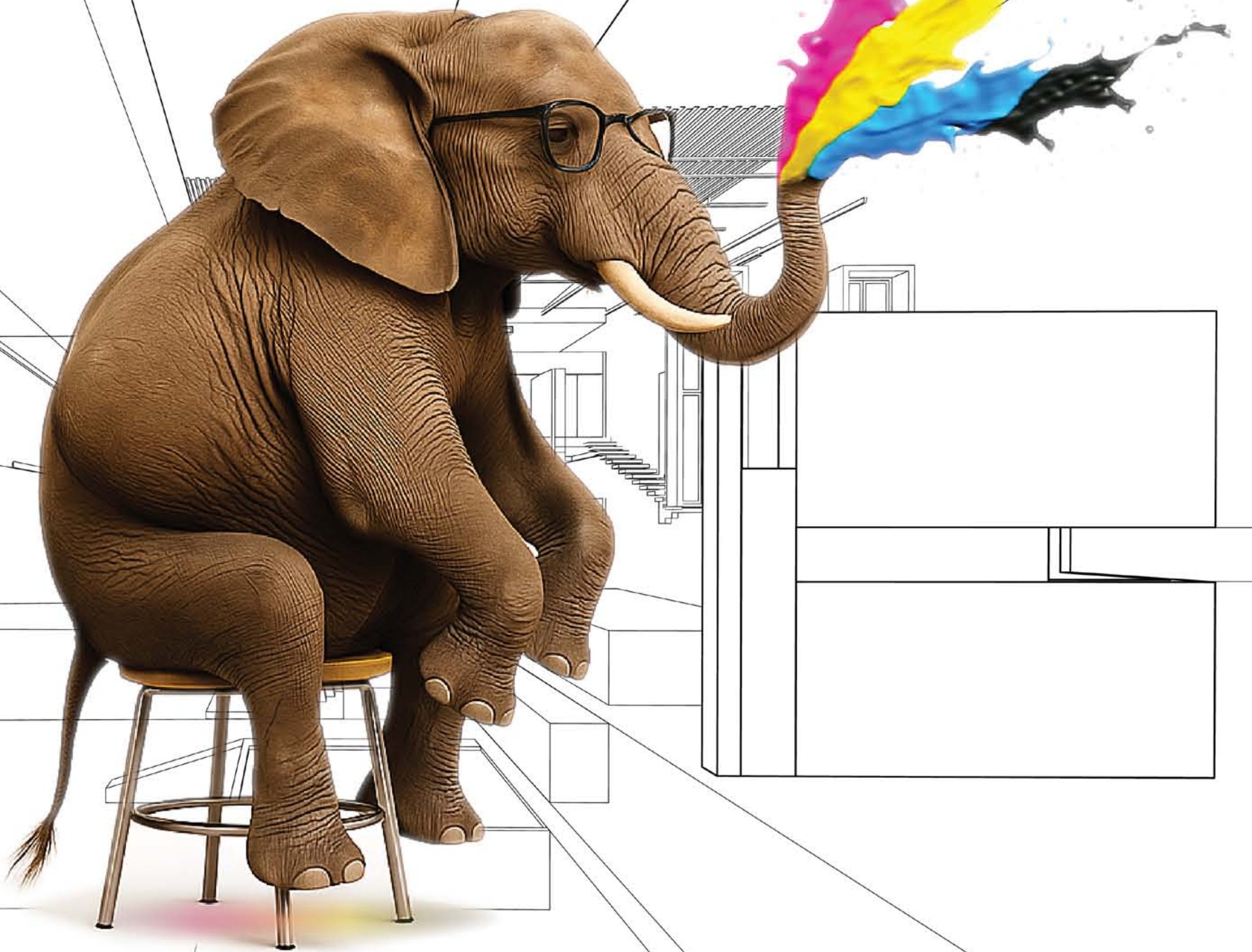
Enhanced safety: The system avoids contact with objects, pedestrians, or nearby vehicles using automatic avoidance.

With these benefits, RSPA contributes to reducing minor parking incidents, one of the most common causes of vehicle scratches and dents, making ownership simpler and more reassuring.

Remote Smart Parking Assist is more than a convenience feature, it is an early glimpse into the next generation of vehicle autonomy. As mobility ecosystems continue to mature, such capabilities will eventually integrate with connected infrastructures, enabling vehicles to park themselves, coordinate with charging stations, and navigate more independently than ever before.

With the EV9, Kia offers consumers a taste of that future today. RSPA is proof of how technology can deliver both practical value and elevated user experience, bringing effortless, confident mobility into everyday life.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

- Large format digital printing
- Flex banners
- Vinyl stickers
- Back drops with metal frames
- Wooden standalones
- Backlit flex banners