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مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

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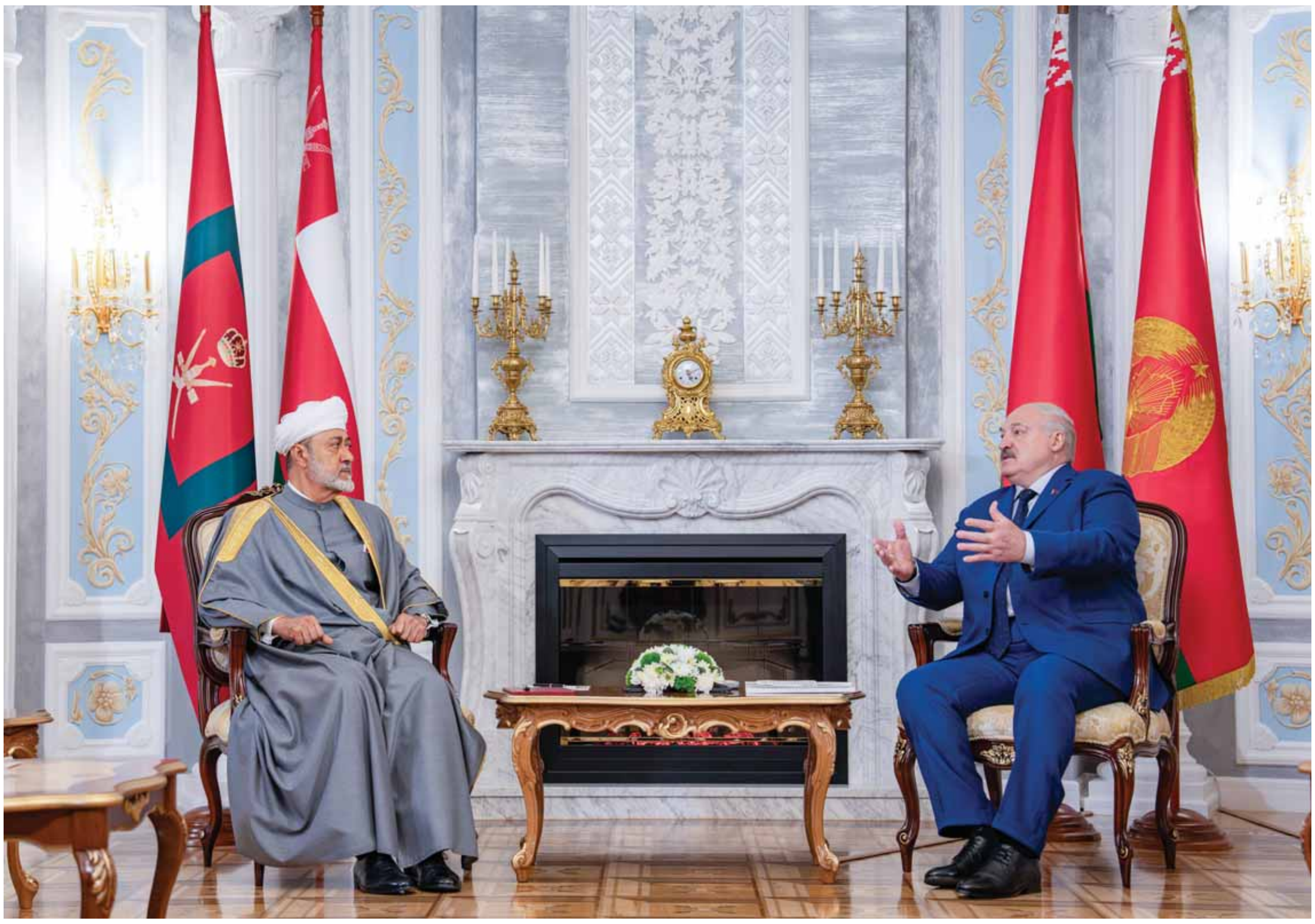

HIS MAJESTY, BELARUS PRESIDENT HOLD TALKS ON ENHANCING ECONOMIC COOPERATION

President Lukashenko led the welcoming party for His Majesty in Minsk

MINSK: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Alexander Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus held an expanded session of official talks in the presence of official delegations from both sides on Monday.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik expressed his profound satisfaction with the constructive dialogue and consultations held with the President of the Republic of Belarus and several members of the Belarusian government during the expanded official talks.

HM affirmed that this visit represents a historic opportunity to commemorate the positive trajectory of relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Belarus, following the President's visit to Muscat at the end of last year. His Majesty aspired to strengthen these bilateral ties across all domains.

His Majesty said, "This visit also reaffirms our commitment and direct support for advancing these relations, which have seen growth in economic, commercial, and investment fields in recent times. I have been accompanied on this visit by a number of relevant ministers to explore further avenues for cooperation between our two nations."

In his turn, Aleksandr Lukashenko announced the start of a new phase in bilateral relations with the Sultanate of Oman during the official talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The Belarusian President said: "In December 2024 in Muscat, we agreed to jointly open a new chapter in our relations. A comprehensive roadmap for cooperation has been prepared to include specific tasks in food security, industry, tourism, transport and logistics, and investments". >A2

Oman, Belarus sign agreements, MoUs

MINSK: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus graced the signing of two agreements, four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and one memorandum of cooperation at the Independence Palace in Minsk yesterday.

The signing ceremony was held as part of His Majesty the Sultan's state visit to Belarus.

The first was a draft agreement for the mutual waiving of visas for holders of ordinary passports between Oman and Belarus, while the second agreement was on cooperation on international road transport between the two countries.

As for the MoUs, they were in the judicial field between the Supreme Judiciary Council and the Supreme Court of Belarus, in the field of exchanging scientific and medical expertise and research between the Ministry of Health represented by the University Medical City and Aleksandrov Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Oncology and Medical Radiology and in the fields of agriculture, livestock and fisheries between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in the Republic of Belarus. >A2

CENTRAL INTRAVENOUS ADMIXTURE UNIT

SQUH's new unit to boost patient's safety

MUSCAT: The University Medical City on Monday inaugurated the Central Intravenous Admixture Unit (CIVA) at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital(SQUH).

This step reflects its commitment to raising the standards of pharmaceutical care and patient safety in line with best global practices, and its ability to turn strategic projects into practical reality that enhances the efficiency of the healthcare system.

The unit represents a qualitative leap in pharmaceutical services and is an addition to developing the pharmacy service. Its requirements and outfitting were completed according to the highest international standards during a year of continuous work and effort, allowing it to begin providing its vital services to patients from Monday.

The unit provides a specialised environment for preparing sensitive intravenous medications such as chemotherapy, antibiotics, intravenous nutrition, and other critical solutions that require high precision in preparation.

This is done under the direct supervision of specialised pharmacists and technicians in a sterile preparation environment that ensures the highest levels of safety and quality.

The unit aims to enhance patient safety, ensure dosage accuracy, improve the efficiency of treatment outcomes, alleviate burdens on the nursing staff, and support the hospital in achieving and sustaining international accreditations like the Canadian Healthcare Accreditation.

In addition to its direct role in boosting patient safety and treatment efficiency, the unit represents added investment value by rationalising the consumption of medications and resources and raising the efficiency of health spending, which positively impacts service sustainability.

The unit also serves as an advanced educational platform for qualifying national competencies in clinical pharmacy and sterile medication preparation, in addition to being a supportive environment for scientific and applied research that keeps pace with global developments and contributes to the evolution of healthcare practices.

This launch underscores the University Medical City's keenness to complete its development projects and transform them into tangible achievements that serve the patient and keep pace with global developments. -ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
7 pacts signed for future city projects

1 The opening ceremony of 'Home and Building Expo' saw the signing of seven partnership and development agreements for future city projects, including Sultan Haitham City, Al Thuraya City in Muscat Governorate, and Al Jabal Al A'ali in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. >A7

OMAN
Solutions against climate risks sought

2 A Forum on City Resilience to Climate Hazards and Major Incidents commenced in Muscat. The forum aims to establish a joint knowledge base among GCC countries to develop solutions that mitigate climate risks. >A4

WORLD
Trio wins Nobel Prize in medicine

3 The Nobel Prize in medicine will be awarded to Mary Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell of the US and Shimun Sakaguchi of Japan for "for their discoveries of peripheral immune tolerance." >B7

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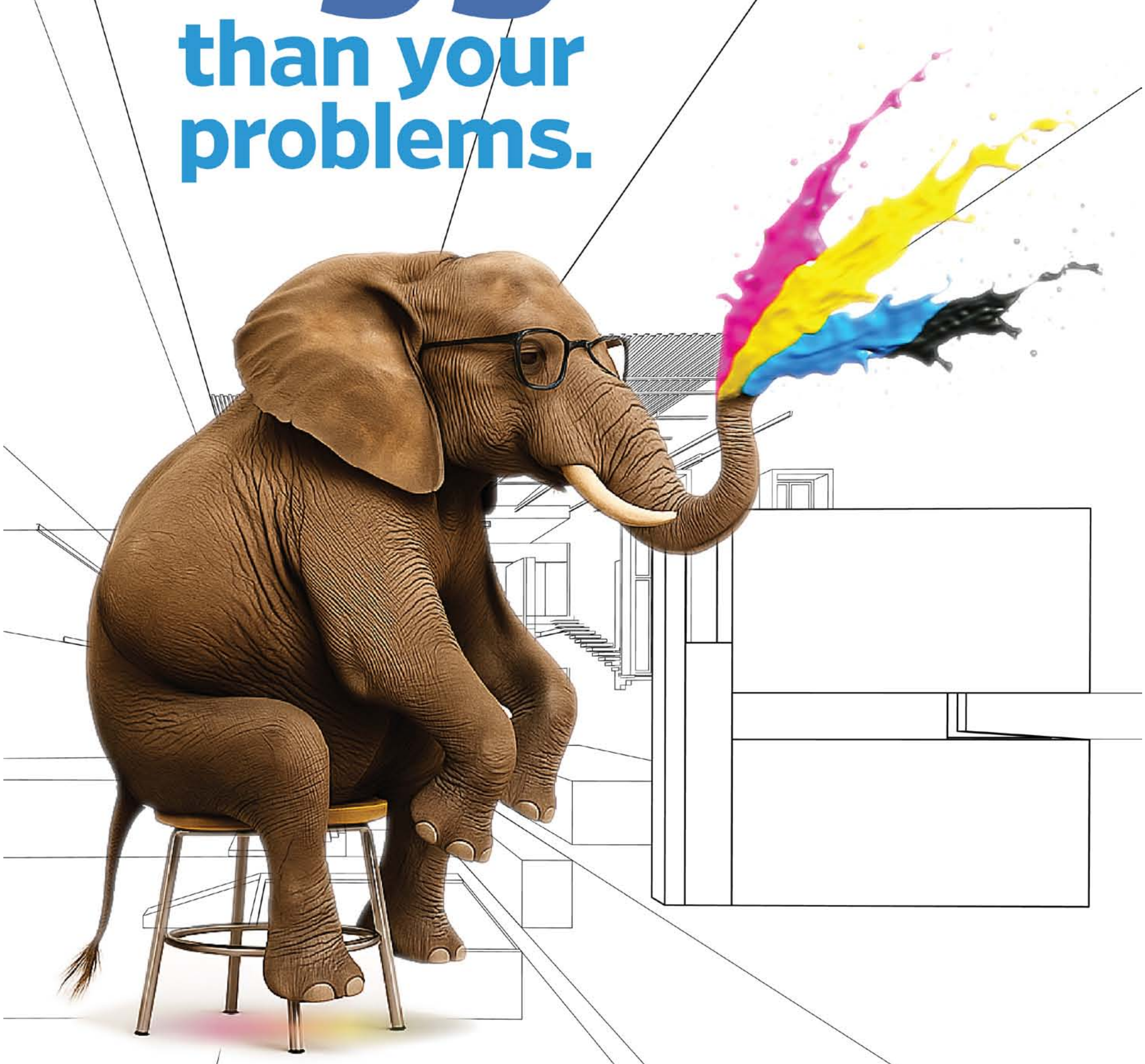

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OMAN

President Lukashenko welcomes His Majesty the Sultan in Minsk

MINSK: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik arrived in Minsk on Monday on a two-day state visit to the Republic of Belarus.

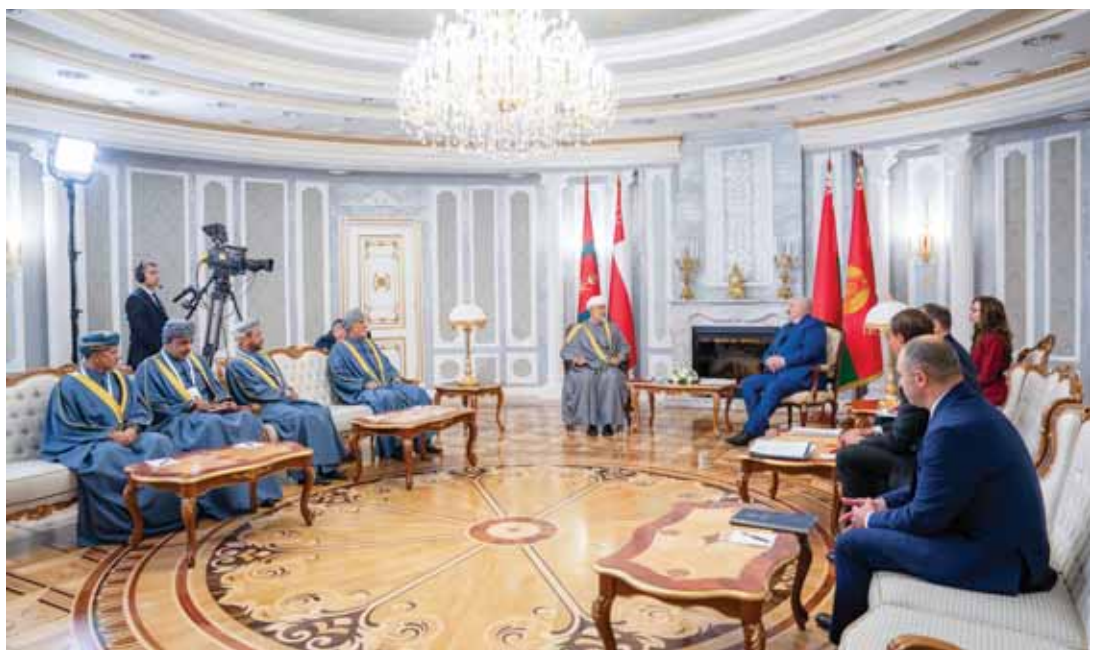
President Alexander Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus led the welcoming party for His Majesty the Sultan upon his arrival at the Independence Palace in Minsk.

President Lukashenko wished His Majesty the Sultan and his accompanying delegation a pleasant stay.

President Lukashenko accompanied His Majesty the Sultan to the dais of honour where the Omani Royal Anthem and the Belarusian national anthem were played. Then, His Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by the President, inspected the Guard of Honour, which saluted His Majesty.

After that, His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with senior Belarusian officials, while His President Lukashenko shook hands with members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan. Upon his arrival earlier at Minsk International Airport, His Majesty the Sultan was received by Viktor Karankevich, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, Maxim Ryzhenkov, Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and senior government officials. -ONA

BILATERAL TALKS



Talks held to enhance investments

< FROM A1

He added that the establishment of the Joint Committee on Cooperation and Investment has provided stability to the interaction and confidence in achieving the set goals.

He stated that its high-level curator from the Omani side is HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth. "With his personal involvement, and following the guidelines set by the two of us, the governments and business communities have made significant progress in a number of areas," Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed.

The talks dealt with opportunities for enhancing economic and investment cooperation and exchanging views about ways to serve the joint interests of the peoples of the two countries.

The session was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Hamoud bin Salim Al Tuwaih, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation and Non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the Belarusian side by Viktor Lukashenko, son of the President and President of the Olympic Committee, Viktor Karankevich, Deputy Prime Minister, Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alexander Khodjaev, Minister of Health, Yuri Gorlov, Minister of Agriculture and Food, Andrei Kuznetsov, Minister of Industry and Dimitri Pantos, Minister of State for Military Industries. -ONA

BILATERAL COOPERATION

HM, Belarus President exchange commemorative gifts

< FROM A1

A draft roadmap for developing bilateral cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Belarus was also signed.

The two countries also signed a memorandum of cooperation for a timber project, which is an international investment project that focuseson establishing and operating a facility for producing paper pulp in the Republic of Belarus.

This project embodies the strategic objective of the Sultanate of Oman to diversify its global investment portfolio through Oman Investment Authority. The project is expected to lay the foundation for large-scale, long-term investment cooperation between Oman and Belarus and will contribute to the economic development of both countries.

The agreements and MoUs were signed on behalf of the Omani government by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

Meanwhile, they were signed on behalf of the Belarusian government by Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Valentin Sukalo, Chairman of the Supreme Court, Alexei Alexeevich Lyakhnovich, Minister of Transport and Communications, Alexsander Khadjaeu, Minister of Health and Yuri Gorlov, Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Prior to the signing ceremony, the two leaders exchanged commemorative gifts. -ONA

SAUDI ARABIA

His Majesty receives thanks cable

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in response to His Majesty's cable of greetings to him on the occasion of the Kingdom's National Day.

In the cable, King Salman expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to His Majesty. He also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity. -ONA

TAJAWOB

New platform to enhance employees' feedback

MUSCAT: The first phase of a training programme titled " Enhancing government employees' skills in dealing with beneficiaries" kicked off in Muscat on Monday.

More than 230 employees from government units are taking part in the programme, which is affiliated to "Tajawob" platform—a national site for filing proposals, complaints and reports.

The programme, which is carried out in the Governorate of Muscat, seeks to meet a number of objectives: Enhance employees' skills in providing services right from the first time; ensure the filing of accurate feedback and limit the need for follow-up or repeated requests; consolidate the confidence of beneficiaries and raise their overall satisfaction of users; and improve the overall quality of government services.

The programme, carried out in cooperation with the National Bank of Oman, forms part of a partnership drive aimed at boosting the exchange of expertise between the public and private sectors.

This is realised by leveraging the banking sector's experience in achieving the satisfaction of customer service beneficiaries.

The programme is scheduled to be implemented as part of an integrated training plan that will cover all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The plan addresses employees in administrative divisions across the country, according to a six-month schedule.

Tajawob platform comprises 54 government entities. Since its launch, the platform registered more than 86,000 transactions across various channels—including proposals, complaints, reports and queries.

OMAN

Call to develop innovative regional solutions to reduce climate risks

The forum's opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Maj. Gen. Sulaiman Ali Al Husseini, Chairman of the CDAA

MUSCAT: A Forum on City Resilience to Climate Hazards and Major Incidents commenced in Muscat on Monday.

Organised by the Ministry of Interior, the three-day forum aims to establish a joint knowledge base among GCC countries on city resilience, and enhance regional partnerships to develop innovative solutions that mitigate climate risks and support infrastructure sustainability. It features the participation of specialists from the Sultanate of Oman and GCC member states.

The forum's opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Maj. Gen. Sulaiman Ali Al Husseini, Chairman of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority.

In the Ministry's speech, Sayyid Khalifa Al Murdas Al Busaidi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Interior, highlighted that over the past decades, the Sultanate of Oman has paid great attention to risk management and minimising the effects of natural disasters.

Competent authorities have worked to develop an integrated national emergency system and adopted best practices that enhance urban resilience, while investing in strengthening the infrastructure of the national protection system against the effects of climate hazards.

He added that holding this forum is an embodiment of the efforts of the National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM), the sub-committees in the governorates, the municipalities, and other relevant bodies to promote the concept of joint institutional work. More than 20 government institutions and participants from GCC states are taking part.

He pointed out that the forum includes 26 working papers distributed across five main themes over five sessions, each followed by a discussion panel, with the aim of issuing practical recommendations that contribute to raising city readiness and reducing the effects of climate hazards and major incidents.

Major Talal Yaqoub Al Hadrami, Assistant Director of Operations and Training at the NCEM, gave a visual presentation on the workflow system of the NCEM in dealing with emergencies and major incidents, in addition to its organizational structure and the roles of supporting entities within the system.

Colonel Zayed Hamad Al Jenaibi, Head of the NCEM, stressed the forum's importance, noting that the City Resilience Forum is a significant step in the process of building resilient cities and enhancing national readiness, both in the Sultanate of Oman and in the GCC states.

He stated that the forum gains its significance by hosting an elite group of specialists and stakeholders in this field, and by presenting working papers that address multiple axes related to the sustainability of cities and their ability to adapt to climate change and various environmental challenges.

He noted that the scientific papers and discussions will all be directed towards achieving the ultimate goal: enhancing cities' ability to face risks and reducing material and human losses, thereby contributing to raising the level of readiness, integration, and joint coordination among various entities concerned with emergency management.

Eng. Abdulrahman Al Marzooqi, Director of Public Health and Safety Department at the Department of Municipalities and Transport in Abu Dhabi, UAE, stated that the City Resilience Forum is a crucial platform for enhancing cooperation and exchanging experiences among GCC countries in the fields of emergencies, crises, and business continuity, especially amid the increasing challenges resulting from climate change and its direct impact on infrastructure.

He affirmed the importance of joint action to develop response and readiness systems, adding that through this forum, with the presence of specialists and experts, they seek to produce practical recommendations that enhance integration among relevant entities and contribute to building more flexible and sustainable cities capable of facing various risks and emergencies.

The first day's programme included two main sessions: The first is "The Concept of City Resilience," which included working papers discussing community flexibility, mechanisms for adapting to climate change, and the role of security agencies and civil defense in risk management.

The second main session is titled "Climate Change and its Impact on Cities," which reviewed working papers on resilient infrastructure, building national flexibility, early warning experiences, the climate impact on road projects, and a paper that addressed the lessons learned from the collapse of the Wadi Derna Dam incident in Libya.

The opening of the forum, held at the Kempinski Hotel, was attended by a number of senior officials and representatives of relevant entities. -ONA

MEETINGS

Commandant of NDC receives Indian delegation

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Ali bin Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC) on Monday received a delegation from the College of Defence Management (CDM) of the Republic of India

The visiting delegation was led by Air Commodore Vivek Gupta, who is currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

Rear Admiral Al Shidi, the NDC Commandant, welcomed the visiting delegation.

The two sides discussed a number of topics of mutual interest, particularly in the academic fields. The visiting delegation also received a briefing on the National Defence College, including its facilities and equipment, and toured the College's various sections.

A delegation from the CDM of India, led by Air Commodore Vivek Gupta, visited the Joint Command and Staff College (JCSC) at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies yesterday.

The delegation was received upon arrival at the college headquarters by Brigadier General Mohammed Ahmed Al Mashaikhi, Commandant of the JCSC.

During the visit, the delegation watched a visual presentation about the Joint Command and Staff College, its curriculum, and its diverse educational and training programs. The delegation also took a tour that included the College's facilities, departments, systems, and equipment. -ONA

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We Belong to Allah and to Him We Shall Return

The Board of Directors
and staff members of

Al Siraj Holdings SAOC

extend their deepest condolences
and heartfelt prayers
to the family of

SH. Dr. SALIM SAID HAMED AL FANNAH AL ARAIMI

May the Almighty grant him eternal peace and bestow patience and strength upon his family during this time of grief.

Al SIRAJ
HOLDINGS القابضة

OMAN

ENVIRONMENT OF INNOVATION

Winning teams of NASA Space Apps Challenge in Bidiyah announced

BIDIYAH: The scientific committee of the "NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025" event announced the winning teams of the hackathon, which concluded in the Wilayat of Bidiyah, North Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

The event was held with the participation of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Ibra Branch, under the slogan "Learn, Launch and Lead," featuring intense competition among 85 teams over two days.

Dr. Hafez Said Al Rahbi, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences at the Ibra Branch, stated that the 48-hour continuous event was held simultaneously in 180 cities worldwide, with the successful contribution of more than 14 space agencies.

It aligns with the University's efforts to foster an environment of innovation and provide students, programmers, and developers the opportunity to explore real scientific challenges presented by NASA and work on developing solutions based on open data and innovative software.

He indicated that the number of registrants for this year's hackathon reached 645 participants, distributed across 85 teams, competing in 18 challenges.

This included a local challenge made available by NASA in partnership with the Omani Astronomical Society and the "Itlaq" company, establishing North Al Sharqiyah Governorate as a beacon for ideas and a hub for innovation initiatives and scientific imagination.

The results for the winning teams in this year's hackathon challenges are as follows: The student team "GEOBLOOM" won the award for best team in the Data Use Challenge; the student team "LEOVERSE" won the award for best team in the Art & Technology Challenge; and the student team "GRIV" won the award for best team in the Technology Use Challenge.

The student team "GALACTIQUEST" won the award for best team in the Mission Concept Challenge; the student team "TERRAGUARD" won the award for best team in the Global Connection Challenge; and the student team "INTELLIWAVE" won the award for best team in the Galactic Impact Challenge.

The student team "ZENITH" won the award for best team in the Local Impact Challenge; the student team "ALTAKWEEN ASTROCREATORS" won the award for best team in the Storytelling Challenge; the student team "COSMIC CRAFTERS" won the award for best team in the Science Use Challenge; and the student team "SHELLY" won the award for best team in the "Most Inspirational" Challenge.

It is worth noting that the "NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025" event witnessed broad participation from higher education institutions and space enthusiasts from within Oman and abroad.

This year featured participation from an international team, the "Zanzibar Space Team" from Tanzania, reflecting efforts to enhance cultural dimensions and cooperation in the field of innovation. ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Undersecretary of Foreign Ministry meets officials from Poland, Sweden

KUWAIT: Sheikh Khalid bin Hashil Al Muselhi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs, met with Wladyslaw Teofil, Secretary of State of the Republic of Poland.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 29th Ministerial Council Meeting of the GCC and the European Union, held in the State of Kuwait.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Poland across various fields. They also reviewed the latest regional and international developments of mutual interest.

Al Muselhi also reviewed the course of bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Sweden during his meeting with Dag Hartelius, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

They discussed prospects for developing cooperation in various fields, in addition to exchanging views on a number of regional and international political and economic issues. A number of officials from both sides attended the two meetings. -ONA

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REGIONAL MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY FORUM

Forum addresses digital challenges

MUSCAT: The Regional Media and Information Literacy Forum commenced on Monday under the theme "Empowering Minds in the Age of Artificial Intelligence."

The three-day forum will examine successful media and information literacy practices, address growing digital challenges, assess the role of policy in fostering media awareness, and explore the intersection of generative AI with media and information.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, in the presence of Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education and Chairperson of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. The event brings together experts and representatives from international organisations, government entities, and academic and media institutions from within the Sultanate of Oman and abroad.

The forum targets teachers, supervisors, and curriculum designers in school education institutions; academics and students in media disciplines at higher education institutions; journalists and editors across various media outlets; and personnel working in communication and media departments within various state administrative apparatus, private sector, and civil society organisations.

The forum aims to establish foundational understanding of media and information literacy, highlighting UNESCO's role in promoting digital rights awareness, ethical information use, and the critical skill of discerning reliable from misleading content in an era of growing AI influence.

In his opening address, Dr. Mahmoud bin Abdullah Al Abri, Secretary-General of the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, emphasised that the new global reality—where generative AI is reshaping knowledge production and circulation—demands innovation, enhanced learning and services, and greater societal awareness, especially among youth, regarding the ethical use of modern technologies to uphold societal peace and sustainable development.

"We are committed to translating into action the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik," he continued. "These directives call for preserving Omani values and national identity amidst digital openness, and for deploying artificial intelligence as a developmental tool that fuels national progress, helps build an advanced knowledge economy, and fosters a secure and balanced digital society, all aligned with Oman Vision 2040."

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COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30th JUNE 2025

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements For the Period Ended 30 th June 2025.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th June 2025 is 13.133 million OMR compared with 9.474 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. an increase of 39%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 30th June 2025 is 12.395 million OMR compared with 9.132 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. an increase of 36%.

At the group level, **restated** net profit after tax for the period ended 30th June 2025 is OMR 1,720,706 compared with **restated** net loss of 512,976 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The parent Company's **restated** net profit after tax for the period ended 30th June 2025 is 1,730,114 OMR compared with **restared** net loss of 424,392 OMR for the same period of the last year.

During the year 2025, Management has **restated the inventories to match with IAS 8** and corresponding corrections in cost of revenue where the **current year results** were affected by **positive 2,163,894 OMR.** The same took place for the year 2024 that was **affected by the same amount negatively.** The above **restatement has no impact on Retained Earnings and Equity.**

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan

Chairman

INTERIM AUDITED SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Parent Company		Group	
	Six-month period ended 30 June 2025	Six-month period ended 30 June 2024	Six-month period ended 30 June 2025	Six-month period ended 30 June 2024
		(Restated) (Unaudited)		(Restated) (Unaudited)
Revenue	12,395,132	9,132,126	13,133,209	9,473,509
Direct costs	(9,832,596)	(9,174,407)	(10,401,768)	(9,465,115)
Gross profit	**2,562,536**	**(42,281)**	**2,731,441**	**8,394**
Other income	29,859	10,297	29,859	10,297
Allowance for expected credit losses on trade receivables	(7,807)	(3,200)	(7,807)	(3,200)
Administrative and general expenses	(534,449)	(445,276)	(705,945)	(581,516)
(Loss) / profit from operations	**2,050,139**	**(480,460)**	**2,047,547**	**(566,025)**
Finance income	12,730	19,591	12,730	19,591
Finance costs	(22,277)	(25,797)	(23,993)	(26,521)
(Loss) / profit before tax	**2,040,592**	**(486,666)**	**2,036,284**	**(572,955)**
Income tax	(310,478)	62,274	(315,578)	59,979
Total comprehensive income and net profit / (loss) for the period	1,730,114	(424,392)	1,720,706	(512,976)
Earnings / (loss) per share - restated	0.058	(0.014)	0.057	(0.017)

INTERIM AUDITED SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

(Expressed in Omani Rial)

	Parent Company			Group		
	30 June 2025	30 June 2024	31 Dec 2024	30 June 2025	30 June 2024	31 Dec 2024
		(Restated) (Unaudited)	(Restated)		(Restated) (Unaudited)	(Restated)
ASSETS						
Non-current assets						
Property, plant and equipment	2,660,212	2,734,861	2,629,232	3,023,260	3,037,539	2,952,407
Goodwill	-	-	-	996,800	996,800	996,800
Investment in subsidiaries	2,004,118	2,004,118	2,004,118	-	-	-
Right-of-use assets	196,694	211,093	203,894	196,694	211,093	203,894
Deferred tax asset-net	-	-	217,946	-	-	216,103
Total non-current assets	**4,861,024**	**4,950,072**	**5,055,190**	**4,216,754**	**4,245,432**	**4,369,204**
Current assets						
Inventories	1,066,861	1,003,922	855,321	1,244,483	1,121,134	1,005,429
Trade and other receivables	4,512,819	4,990,941	4,072,716	4,367,238	4,182,064	3,998,884
Cash and bank balances	1,187,350	1,468,122	1,015,809	1,347,545	1,526,029	1,219,674
Total current assets	**6,767,030**	**7,462,985**	**5,943,846**	**6,959,266**	**6,829,227**	**6,223,987**
Total assets	**11,628,054**	**12,413,057**	**10,999,036**	**11,176,020**	**11,074,659**	**10,593,191**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES						
Capital and reserves						
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Legal reserve	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,015,863	1,013,094	1,013,094
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	807,666	807,666	807,666	807,666
Accumulated losses	(501,293)	(665,634)	(2,231,407)	(661,457)	(788,029)	(2,379,394)
Total capital and reserves	**5,763,440**	**5,599,099**	**4,033,326**	**5,619,139**	**5,489,798**	**3,898,433**
Non-current liabilities						
Lease liabilities	252,916	258,069	255,093	252,916	258,069	255,093
Employees' end of service benefits	134,431	131,357	117,977	166,998	141,969	142,432
Deferred tax liabilities - net	92,532	70,915	-	94,375	77,416	-
Total non-current liabilities	**479,879**	**460,341**	**373,070**	**514,289**	**477,454**	**397,525**
Current liabilities						
Bank overdraft	74,203	320,562	235,937	74,203	320,562	235,937
Current portion of term loan	-	89,554	-	-	89,554	-
Lease liabilities	9,184	-	5,323	9,184	-	5,323
Trade and other payables	5,281,130	5,923,283	6,331,162	4,938,664	4,674,913	6,035,755
Income tax payable	20,218	20,218	20,218	20,541	22,378	20,218
Total current liabilities	**5,384,735**	**6,353,617**	**6,592,640**	**5,042,592**	**5,107,407**	**6,297,233**
Total liabilities	**5,864,614**	**6,813,958**	**6,965,710**	**5,556,881**	**5,584,861**	**6,694,758**
Total equity and liabilities	**11,628,054**	**12,413,057**	**10,999,036**	**11,176,020**	**11,074,659**	**10,593,191**
Net assets per share - restated	**0.192**	**0.187**	**0.134**	**0.187**	**0.183**	**0.130**

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

Seven pacts for future city projects signed at Home and Building Expo

The launch of the expo coincides with the global celebration of Urban October, reflecting Oman's commitment to enhancing its role in developing sustainable cities that achieve balanced urban development goals

MUSCAT: The fifth edition of the "Home and Building Expo" focusing on Architecture and Urban Planning launched at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre today under the slogan "Sustainable Cities for People."

The inauguration ceremony featured the launch of Oman's Building Requirements and Specifications Guide and witnessed the signing of development agreements for future city projects, the development of neighbourhoods under the Integrated Residential Neighbourhoods initiative, and the announcement of a new investment opportunity.

The exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in cooperation with Expo Muscat, was inaugurated under the patronage of Sheikh Al Fadhl bin Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers.

The event serves as an exceptional platform bringing together elite experts, developers, investors, and decision-makers from various sectors, with wide participation from government and private institutions and international specialists in the fields of urban development, urban planning, architectural design, and sustainable construction.

The launch coincides with the global celebration of Urban October, reflecting Oman's commitment to enhancing its role in developing sustainable cities that achieve balanced urban development goals. It also contributes to promoting youth engagement, familiarising them with future urban projects, and encouraging them to innovate solutions for planning challenges, thereby helping to shape the future of cities with modern and sustainable methods.

The opening ceremony saw the signing of seven partnership and development agreements for future city projects, including Sultan Haitham City, Al Thuraya City in Muscat Governorate, and Al Jabal Al A'ali in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. These agreements enhance Oman's urban growth map, open new investment horizons, and reflect a commitment to the "We Race With Time" principle in accelerating the implementation of these cities according to the highest modern standards, supporting quality of life in line with the economic and urban transformations witnessed in Oman. During the event, the tender for implementing the sewage treatment plant in Sultan Haitham City was awarded to Al Sarooj Trading and Contracting, with an investment value exceeding OMR7 million, in collaboration with Nama Water Services. The tender for constructing the main sewage line from A'Seeb to Sultan Haitham City was awarded to ONEIC Company, with an investment value exceeding OMR8 million, also in collaboration with Nama Water Services.

A series of partnership and development agreements were also signed for Al Jabal Al A'ali in Al Jabal Al Akhdar. These included an agreement to develop the health zone in the Western Village, spanning an area of 600,000 square metres. It will comprise up to 500 residential units and 120 hotel units, including a 5-star healthcare and wellness hotel, alongside fine-dining restaurants, green spaces, gardens, and public walkways, with an investment value exceeding OMR200 million, to be developed by Mister Company.

An agreement was also signed for Al Alalan Hills project and the establishment of a golf course on a 2.26 million square metre area. It will include 2,100 residential units, two 5-star hotels, an international-standard 18-hole golf course, an event and festival square, and commercial facilities and international restaurants, with an investment value exceeding OMR400 million, to be developed by the UAE's Kamcorp Investment.

In the environmental and tourism sector, an agreement was signed to develop a luxury eco-resort with an investment value of OMR3 million on an area exceeding 150,000 square metres. It will feature 15 luxury lodges designed in harmony with the mountain landscape, positioning it as a premier eco-tourism destination within the "Al Jabal Al A'ali" project, to be developed by Al Saraya Development Company.

An agreement was also signed to develop an eco-camp featuring 60 eco-lodges and various service facilities on a 12,000 square metre area with an investment value of OMR3 million, to be developed by Desert Palm Tourism Projects Company (Oman).

A partnership and development agreement was signed for a residential neighbourhood and community facilities on a 185,000 square metre area comprising 200 residential units, with an investment of OMR30 million, to be developed by Desert Palm Tourism Projects Company (Oman).

To provide an integrated living environment and enhance community partnership, an agreement was signed to develop a fully-serviced residential neighbourhood under the Sorouh initiative within "Al Jabal Al A'ali" project. Spanning 200,000 square metres and comprising 200 residential units, it will be developed by a corporation established by the people of Al Jabal Al Akhdar. This represents one of the model community projects that enhances the concept of community partnership and provides integrated living environments for the local population.

An agreement was also signed to rehabilitate the heritage village located in Al Jabal Al A'ali Park, providing a distinctive tourism experience, adding commercial service facilities, and creating a unique heritage and historical tourism experience on a 10,000 square metre area, to be developed by Al Jurf Al Sharqi Company.

The event also witnessed the signing of a consultancy services agreement for the detailed design of the master plan for the Al Jabal Al A'ali project, with an investment value exceeding OMR3.6 million, in cooperation with "Nicholson Jones Partnership Oman."

Alongside these projects, the event featured community contributions from the developing companies. Both Mister Company and Kamcorp contributed OMR2 million each in support of community projects and services in Al Jabal Al A'ali.

In Al Thuraya City, an agreement was signed to develop Neighbourhood (8) on an area of 73,000 square metres. The project includes 28 residential units, a public park, and integrated community facilities, with an investment value exceeding OMR25 million, to be developed by Modon Development Company.

The tender for executing infrastructure and road works in Al Thuraya City was awarded to Target Company, with a total investment value of OMR38.2 million, in partnership with Muscat Municipality, Nama Water Services, Nama Electricity Distribution, and Oman Broadband Company, reflecting the integration of national efforts in providing advanced infrastructure.

The inauguration ceremony featured the launch of Oman's Building Requirements and Specifications Guide, which serves as a comprehensive national reference consolidating safety and quality standards into a single framework. It represents a pivotal step towards unifying engineering and construction practices across all governorates.

The guide's issuance is part of the Ministry's efforts, in cooperation with partners in the Permanent Technical Committee for the Guide, to develop the building and construction system and enhance regulatory and technical infrastructure efficiency. This ensures minimum acceptable requirements for safety, public health, and quality of life, based on scientific foundations, natural conditions, and approved engineering standards, thereby promoting a safe, sustainable, and economically efficient urban environment.

The Building Requirements and Specifications Guide is part of an integrated technical framework comprising six specialised guides covering various structural, environmental, and technical aspects. These include: the General Building Guide, the Guide for Existing and Historical Buildings, the Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Guide, the Mechanical Guide, the Guide for Plumbing Installations and Water Networks, and the Guide for Private Sewage Systems.

These guides contribute to enhancing design and implementation efficiency, achieving a balance between safety requirements, sustainability, and economic cost, thereby entrenching a culture of responsible construction and improving the quality of the urban environment in Oman.

The opening ceremony also included the signing of two agreements to develop integrated residential neighbourhoods in the South Al Batinah and South Al Sharqiyah governorates, with a total investment value exceeding OMR11 million. This falls within the "Surouh" initiative, which aims to create sustainable and diverse urban communities across Oman's governorates. — ONA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

وزارة التنمية الاجتماعية

Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					small and Medium companies	local companies
497/2025	Supplying a card printer for people with disabilities of the type (Fargo Model 6600), number (5) printers	Companies specialized in supplying communications and information technology devices and accessories registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Monday 27-10-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-11-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
498/2025	Purchase and supply of energy-saving 2-ton split unit air conditioners	Companies specialized in the field of supplying electrical, mechanical and industrial machinery and equipment, spare parts, and registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Monday 27-10-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-11-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
499/2025	Purchase a Security Event Management System (SIEM)	Companies specialized in the field of designing, installing and maintaining information programs and systems / equipping information data centers registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Monday 27-10-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-11-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
(502/2025)	Supplying tools and means to the sensory effects halls of the Down Syndrome Center in Al-Khoud and the Al-Wafa Centers for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in Salalah, Bahla, Al-Suwaiq, and Muqaniyat	Companies specialized in the field of Supply of medical tools, office and learning supplies, and medical supplies-registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Monday 27-10-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-11-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
(503/2025)	Supplying tools and equipment to implement home projects to empower (30) girls with intellectual disabilities in the field of sewing, hand weaving and perfume making	Companies specialized in the field Supply of medical tools, office and educational supplies, supply of electrical tools and equipment, supply of textiles, clothing and shoes registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Monday 27-10-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-11-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

- Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link **(https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)** , On TUESDAY 07 /10/2025
- For Inquiry, please contact though the e-tendering website **(reg@tenderboard.gov.om)** Tel. (24402200)

" The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry "

www.mosd.gov.om

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

Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED C.R NO:1703412
Tel: 24579027

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2025 reaching $65.67, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 87 cents from the price of Friday, which was $64.80.- ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 5,184.72 points, down by -0.50% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06% at 466.00 points. Oman Chlorine, up 5.15%, was the top gainer while, Oman Fisheries, down 3.70%, was the top loser.

Renewable energy reaches 2.4 terawatt hours in Oman in 2024

The country's natural gas reserves were recorded at 658.5 billion cubic metres, with domestic consumption reaching 56.5 billion cubic metres

MUSCAT The Sultanate of Oman's oil reserves stabilised at 4.8 billion barrels in 2024, while production reached 363.3 million barrels and exports totalled 308.4 million barrels, according to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The country's natural gas reserves were recorded at 658.5 billion cubic metres, with domestic consumption reaching 56.5 billion cubic metres. Exports of liquefied natural gas amounted to 12 million metric tonnes.

In the electricity sector, production increased to 49.1 terawatt hours in 2024 compared to 45.0 terawatt hours in 2023, with natural gas remaining the primary source, contributing 44.8 terawatt hours. Renewable energy sources contributed 2.4 terawatt hours, comprising 2.3 terawatt hours from solar power and 0.1 terawatt hours from wind power. The Ibri 2 plant represented the largest share of this output with a production capacity of 1.56 terawatt hours.

In the water sector, total water production reached 519.7 million cubic metres in 2024, compared to 520.4 million cubic metres in 2023, showing a slight decrease of 0.1 percent.

Muscat recorded the highest distributed water quantity at 136.9 million cubic metres, followed by Dhofar with 52.3 million cubic metres and North Al Batinah Governorate with 34.3 million cubic metres.

The number of wastewater treatment plants reached 67 facilities with a total capacity of 147.2 million cubic metres. Statistics showed that desalination plants accounted for 89 percent of total water production, while wells contributed 11 percent, maintaining proportions similar to the previous year. -ONA

TWO-DAY FORUM

Muscat International Forum for risk management in banks, financial institutions begins

MUSCAT: The deliberations of the third edition of "Muscat International Forum for Risk Management in Banks and Financial Institutions" began in Muscat.

The two-day forum features the participation of speakers and experts from within the Sultanate of Oman and abroad, and is organized by the Central Bank of Oman in cooperation with the Union of Arab Banks.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Ahmed Jafar Al Masalami, Governor of the Central Bank of Oman.

The forum includes discussion sessions focusing on liquidity risk management, the dynamics of digital transformation, credit risk management requirements, cybersecurity risk management, in addition to innovation and digital transformation. A dedicated dialogue session will also be held to discuss ways of enhancing a risk culture and governance practices within banks. -ONA

GLOBAL PRECAST INDUSTRIES

New industrial investment enhances Oman's infrastructure, Vision 2040 targets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's industrial and construction landscape has received a significant boost with the inauguration of the Global Precast Industries Factory in Halban, Nakhal.

Backed by an investment of OMR2 million, the world-class facility was officially opened on October 5 under the patronage of Dr. Khalfan bin Saeed Al Shueili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning.

The project represents a strategic partnership between Arab Contractors and Al Abrar Real Estate of Al Siyabi Group, underscoring their shared commitment to advancing Oman's infrastructure, sustainability, and economic diversification goals under Oman Vision 2040. Completed in less than six months, the factory stands as a testament to the investors' determination to contribute to the Sultanate's rapid development and industrial modernization.

The launch adds to Arab Contractors' long-standing presence in Oman. Since delivering its first landmark project — the Sultan Qaboos Port in Muttrah in 1982 — the company has played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's infrastructure journey. Over the past four decades, it has supported major development initiatives under the guidance of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and continues its contributions under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, whose Vision 2040 provides a clear roadmap for sustainable growth and urban transformation.

The Global Precast Industries Factory is equipped to supply advanced precast concrete solutions that will transform how buildings and infrastructure are constructed across the Sultanate. Its production line includes hollow core slabs, columns, beams, curbstones, interlock tiles, and concrete fencing solutions, all engineered to meet both local and international standards.

By adopting cutting-edge precast technology, the factory enables faster construction timelines, enhanced cost efficiency, and improved sustainability, while maintaining the highest levels of quality and safety. It has an annual production capacity of 50,000 square meters of hollow core slabs, along with the flexibility to manufacture tailored precast components for housing, commercial, and national infrastructure projects.

The innovative production methods reduce reliance on traditional construction practices, minimize material waste, and optimize energy consumption — key factors in advancing Oman's sustainable urban development agenda.

"The inauguration of this factory is more than just an industrial milestone; it is a step toward reshaping Oman's construction sector for the future," said Eng. Hussam Fayed, General Manager of Global Precast Industries. "By providing innovative, reliable, and sustainable precast solutions, we are enabling contractors, developers, and government projects to achieve faster delivery, higher quality, and lower costs. Most importantly, we are proud to support Oman Vision 2040 by contributing to modern communities that promise a higher quality of life for generations to come."

The new factory is expected to play a strategic role in meeting the growing demand for housing, infrastructure, and commercial developments across the Sultanate. Beyond its industrial contribution, it also supports job creation, local skill development, and technology transfer, strengthening Oman's drive toward a more diversified and resilient economy.

By linking innovation with sustainability, the Global Precast Industries Factory stands as a symbol of Oman's renewed renaissance, bridging past achievements with future aspirations and reaffirming the nation's ability to attract pioneering investments that serve both its people and its economy.

DUQM ECONOMIST MAGAZINE

Cumulative investments in economic zones, free zones reach OMR22bn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) has released the 41st edition of Duqm Economist Magazine in both Arabic and English. The issue covers a range of topics, reports and economic interviews, alongside analytical articles highlighting key developments in Oman's investment and economic landscape.

The edition also reviewed statistics issued by Opaz, which revealed that cumulative investments in special economic zones, free zones and industrial cities had risen to OMR 22 billion by the end of the first half of 2025, with an additional OMR 1 billion invested during the same period.

The data indicated that total employment in these zones reached 79,202 workers, including 30,289 Omanis, reflecting an Omanisation rate of 38%.

The figures further showed that the number of Omani women investors in existing enterprises within these zones reached 754, in addition to 143 expatriate women investors residing in the Sultanate of Oman, bringing the total to 897. This underscores the growing presence of Omani women and their vital role in supporting development and enhancing economic participation.

The magazine's editorial, titled 'Opaz strengthens investment footprint on global economic map,' also highlighted Opaz's recognition for the 2nd consecutive year as the Best Service Outlet in Muscat Governorate for 2024.

Speaking exclusively to the Duqm Economist, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority (OIA), affirmed that the Authority follows the methodology of the 'Omani Dimension' in its overseas investments, having attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) worth OMR 3.348 billion during 2024.

For his part, Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, stated that the Ministry continues its efforts through its international missions to facilitate investments and strengthen economic partnerships.

The issue also included extensive reports, among them one on the quality of life in the economic zones, free zones and industrial cities, as well as a comprehensive feature on the incentives, exemptions, and facilities available to projects operating in these zones. It further carried a special follow-up on the developments in the economic zone in Al Dhahirah Governorate and its accelerating readiness for investment.

Speaking to the Duqm Economist, Eng. Abdullah Al Wahaibi, CEO of Tatweer Duqm, revealed that the company's asset portfolio had reached OMR 1.2 billion with the implementation of more than 46 projects over the past five years.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ayman Al Fudhaili, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy, explained that the academy had enhanced the readiness of more than 40 start-ups and is working towards establishing new industrial incubators.

As for the economic zones and free zones, Salalah Free Zone recorded cumulative investments of OMR 4.9 billion, with a growth rate of 6.5% by June of this year, while Sohar Free Zone registered investments worth OMR 1.318 billion distributed across 77 investment projects.

The volume of goods passing through Al Mazunah Free Zone rose to 137,000 tonnes in the first half of this year, an increase of 20%. Khazaen Economic City also attracted investments exceeding OMR 276.5 million through 19 agreements during the same period.

The issue highlighted a success story of Middle East United Pipe Services, which invested OMR 3.9 million with plans for an additional expansion worth OMR 3 million. It also featured a report on Duqm Quarries, which seeks to diversify its revenue sources and strengthen its industrial partnerships, in addition to covering the efforts of Sohar Aluminium to boost energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions as part of its commitment to environmental sustainability.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Chlorine, up 5.15%, was the top gainer while, Oman Fisheries, down 3.70%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,184.72 points, down by -0.50% from previous close.

The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06% at 466.00 points. Oman Chlorine, up 5.15%, was the top gainer while, Oman Fisheries, down 3.70%, 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 4355 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR 38.78 million, with more than 207.71 million shares changing hands. Out of 64 traded securities, 20 advanced, 21 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR 626K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 459K, followed by domestic investors for OMR 167K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,653.28 points, down -0.06%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa, Taageer Finance were up by 2.50%, 1.43%, 1.12%, 0.96%, 0.86% respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Sohar International Bank, Bank Muscat were down by 1.92%, 1.58%, 1.33%, 0.91% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,013.38 points, down -0.17%. Prices of Oman Chlorine, Galfar Engineering, Raysut Cement were up by 5.15%, 1.56%, 1.10% respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Oman Cables Industry, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Cement were down by 3.70%, 1.82%, 1.39%, 0.42% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.75% before closing at 2,070.10 points. - **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	5,216.89	5,180.00	5,184.72	5,210.77	-26.05	-0.50
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,661.85	8,629.66	8,653.28	8,658.82	-5.54	-0.06
Industry Index	7,030.39	7,005.51	7,013.38	7,025.67	-12.29	-0.17
Services Index	2,094.08	2,069.07	2,070.10	2,085.73	-15.63	-0.75
MSX Shariah Index	467.70	464.99	466.00	465.73	0.27	0.06
MSX TR INDEX	7,773.90	7,718.93	7,725.96	7,764.77	-38.82	-0.50
FINANCIAL TR IDX	10,290.58	10,252.34	10,280.40	10,286.98	-6.58	-0.06
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,639.29	8,608.72	8,618.39	8,633.49	-15.10	-0.17
SERVICES TR IDX	2,699.76	2,667.52	2,668.85	2,689.00	-20.15	-0.75
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
207,718,316	38,781,123	4,355	30,479,791,940	20	21	23	64

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	320,594	33,340	20	0.104	0.105	0.103	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	30,012,747	4,913,776	539	0.164	0.165	0.163	0.164	0.163	0.001	0.613	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.100	710,222,323
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	8,687	2,144	2	0.246	0.247	0.246	0.247	0.246	0.001	0.407	0.247	0.000	0.255	0.100	24,700,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,448,058	399,468	331	0.277	0.277	0.275	0.277	0.276	0.001	0.362	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.100	213,345,400
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	573,677	195,369	276	0.341	0.341	0.340	0.341	0.341	0.000	0.000	0.341	0.341	0.341	0.100	554,447,707
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	443,276	112,122	24	0.253	0.257	0.250	0.253	0.253	0.000	0.000	0.253	0.253	0.257	0.100	236,735,034
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	9,500	1,594	4	0.168	0.168	0.167	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.165	0.168	0.100	36,960,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	578,860	37,323	25	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.100	22,792,147
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	2,000	164	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.080	0.090	0.100	7,380,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	650	319	1	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.000	0.000	0.490	0.480	0.490	0.100	58,800,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	478,320	401,828	4	0.870	0.870	0.840	0.870	0.870	0.000	0.000	0.870	0.870	0.950	0.100	81,443,451
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	31,800	2,731	6	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	159,320	36,007	10	0.227	0.227	0.226	0.226	0.227	-0.001	-0.441	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.100	147,113,396
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	92,887	12,959	12	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.140	-0.001	-0.714	0.139	0.138	0.140	0.100	93,809,353
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	22,492	6,238	4	0.278	0.278	0.277	0.277	0.279	-0.002	-0.717	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.100	65,485,570
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,646,672	1,703,766	83	1.040	1.040	1.031	1.033	1.041	-0.008	-0.768	1.033	1.032	1.033	0.100	774,750,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	17,651,456	5,781,227	509	0.330	0.331	0.326	0.328	0.331	-0.003	-0.906	0.328	0.329	0.328	0.100	2,462,098,236
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	45,275,035	6,697,541	505	0.150	0.150	0.147	0.148	0.150	-0.002	-1.333	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	979,352,448
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,000	1,807	3	0.181	0.181	0.180	0.180	0.183	-0.003	-1.639	0.180	0.180	0.183	0.100	7,711,738
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	9,103	19,794	3	2.200	2.200	2.160	2.160	2.200	-0.040	-1.818	2.160	2.160	2.248	0.100	193,752,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	19,060	2,663	3	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.142	-0.003	-2.113	0.139	0.138	0.140	0.100	99,302,481
Total	21	98,794,194	20,362,180	2,365												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	10,170	2,461	5	0.240	0.245	0.240	0.245	0.233	0.012	5.150	0.245	0.236	0.246	0.100	17,519,666
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,100	130	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.114	0.004	3.509	0.118	0.118	0.125	0.100	3,540,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	259,680	10,647	12	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.040	0.001	2.500	0.041	0.041	0.044	0.100	3,485,000
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	2,100	311	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.145	0.003	2.069	0.148	0.148	0.150	0.100	14,474,720
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	6,125	435	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.071	0.069	0.072	0.100	8,653,125
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	82,500	7,382	8	0.091	0.091	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.149	0.088	0.088	0.095	0.100	19,557,120
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	229,790	20,622	9	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	26,869,764
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	103,234	12,182	6	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.117	0.001	0.855	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.100	32,948,339
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	20,994,803	2,743,276	423	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.131	0.130	0.001	0.769	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.000	682,345,501
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	9,941,786	1,332,301	15	0.137	0.137	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.134	0.137	0.100	79,843,979
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	59,670,884	9,147,158	689	0.155	0.156	0.152	0.155	0.154	0.001	0.649	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.040	536,221,082
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	50,500	2,778	2	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.052	0.055	0.100	16,893,048
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	1,000	400	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.100	24,985,226
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	4,788,800	694,611	231	0.145	0.146	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	440,770,787
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	53,350	7,175	6	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.100	81,488,956
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	3,750	649	3	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.000	0.000	0.173	0.173	0.175	0.100	27,680,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	400	32	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.077	0.083	0.100	12,599,582
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	3,800	315	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.080	0.087	0.100	16,600,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	8,000	720	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	58,373,129
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	1,500	206	1	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.000	0.000	0.137	0.134	0.141	0.100	10,346,514
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	478	1	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.480	-0.002	-0.417	0.478	0.478	0.485	0.100	158,157,155
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	58,719	13,020	13	0.221	0.224	0.221	0.222	0.224	-0.002	-0.893	0.222	0.222	0.224	0.100	44,319,103
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	13,000	912	3	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.068	0.071	0.100	1,491,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	222,726	29,482	17	0.133	0.133	0.131	0.131	0.133	-0.002	-1.504	0.131	0.131	0.133	0.100	191,600,791
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	27,000	3,493	4	0.129	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.132	-0.002	-1.515	0.130	0.130	0.133	0.100	19,500,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	58,849	7,356	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.127	-0.002	-1.575	0.125	0.125	0.132	0.100	39,427,125
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	10,010	511	1	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.052	-0.001	-1.923	0.051	0.050	0.052	0.100	12,750,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	991,933	199,261	42	0.202	0.204	0.195	0.196	0.200	-0.004	-2.000	0.196	0.196	0.202	0.100	187,096,102
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODTS MRKTG	275	263	1	0.955	0.955	0.955	0.955	0.980	-0.025	-2.551	0.955	0.956	0.955	0.100	65,895,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	10,837,374	3,746,059	429	0.349	0.350	0.339	0.340	0.349	-0.009	-2.579	0.340	0.335	0.340	0.010	2,720,000,000
Total	30	108,434,158	17,984,622	1,932												

PIVOTAL ROLE

Omran showcases tourism and urban projects at Urban October 2025

MUSCAT: In line with its mandate as the executive arm of Oman for tourism development, Omran Group is participating in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning's Urban October event from 6–9 October. During the event, the Group will present a portfolio of current and future projects that aim to support efforts in advancing Oman's tourism and urban development landscape.

This participation underscores Omran Group's pivotal role as a catalyst for tourism infrastructure and Integrated Tourism Complexes (ITCs), creating destinations that seamlessly combine hospitality, lifestyle, and sustainability. It also reinforces the group's contribution to Oman Vision 2040 and the National Tourism Strategy, while enhancing the Sultanate's competitiveness on both regional and global levels.

The Group's showcase will feature insights into mixed-use developments and upcoming hospitality projects that aim to enhance tourism experiences. These initiatives are designed to attract international investment, empower local communities, and elevate Oman's global tourism positioning. The

showcase will also present design models and progress updates on four landmark projects:

Madinat Al Irfan, a flagship urban development envisioned by Omran as a catalyst for diversification and sustainable growth. Designed as a vibrant mixed-use destination, it integrates residential, business, hospitality, retail, and cultural spaces within a future-ready urban framework.

Port Sultan Qaboos Waterfront, a landmark redevelopment project that will transform Muscat's historic port into an integrated, mixed-use tourism destination. The project seeks to preserve the site's cultural and architectural heritage, while opening new horizons for tourism and modern lifestyles, and strengthening investment opportunities within a framework of balanced and sustainable development.

Four Seasons Resort and Private Residences, Muscat a luxury beachfront resort on the Al Bustan coast featuring 200 hotel rooms, 100 hotel apartments, five restaurants, and premium leisure and sports facilities.

This project marks the first entry of the Four Seasons brand into Oman, reflecting a promising, attractive, and distinctive investment environment; and, Club Med Musandam Resort, a 215,000 sqm beachfront development in Khasab with 300 rooms and extensive leisure amenities, blending authentic Arabian hospitality with world-class family and leisure tourism experiences, while representing the first Club Med resort in the Middle East.

Through its participation, Omran Group will also spotlight progress on major developments and strategic collaborations that are shaping the future of Oman's tourism sector. These include luxury hospitality ventures, unique cultural and leisure experiences, and partnerships aimed at strengthening infrastructure, diversifying accommodation offerings, and broadening opportunities for both visitors and local communities, all driven by effective governance, transparency, and a sustainable investment environment.

STATISTICS

GCC gross domestic product reaches $588.1bn by end of first quarter of 2025

MUSCAT: The gross domestic product at current prices for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states reached $588.1 billion by the end of the first quarter of 2025. This reflects an increase from $570.9 billion recorded at the end of the first quarter of 2024, representing a growth rate of 3 percent.

Statistics released by the Statistical Centre for the Gulf Cooperation Council indicated that the contribution share of non-oil activities to the GCC's GDP at current prices by the end of the first quarter of 2025 reached 73.2 percent, compared to 26.8 percent for oil-related activities.

The gross domestic product at constant current prices for the Council member states in the first quarter of 2025 recorded a growth of 0.1 percent, having been valued at $587.8 billion in the fourth quarter. -ONA

STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

SAI meeting explores experiences in governance of public sector systems

MUSCAT: The State Audit Institution (SAI) organized a meeting titled "Comparative Experiences in Governance of Government Systems".

Held in Muscat, the 4-day meeting is being attended by representatives of audit institutions from different Arab countries. The meeting seeks to enable participants to learn about the best practices in governance through a review of experiences of participating countries. Emphasis is laid on legislation and mechanisms commonly used to enhance governance in public units. The meeting looks into measures of unifying concepts and guidelines. -ONA

MAJOR MILESTONE

Oman Air and Qantas strengthen loyalty partnership with launch of reciprocal frequent flyer accrual

MUSCAT: Oman Air and Qantas are celebrating a major milestone for travellers between Oman and Australia: the activation of reciprocal frequent flyer accrual between Oman Air's Sindbad and the Qantas Frequent Flyer programme.

This development builds on a redemption agreement already in place: since October 2024, Sindbad members have been able to redeem their Miles on flights with Qantas, with Qantas members able to access the same benefits on Oman Air's network. Now, post Oman Air's joining oneworld®, Sindbad members can also earn Miles and Tier Credits when flying with Qantas, while Qantas members can earn Points and Status Credits when flying with Oman Air.

"Today marks an exciting new chapter in our relationship with Qantas and for Oman Air's presence in Australia," said Rohan Patell, Oman Air's Head of Partnerships and Alliances. "By building on our existing redemption arrangement, we are delivering even greater value and a truly seamless loyalty experience for our members, while making journeys to and beyond Muscat even more appealing," added Renata Rached, VP of Loyalty, Guest Experience and Brand.

"Qantas Frequent Flyers already have access to tens of thousands of reward seats across the Oman Air network, and we've seen strong demand from members since launching our partnership last year," said Kate Sherwood, Head of Qantas Airline Loyalty. "Now, with the opportunity for members to earn Qantas Points and Status Credits, travel with Oman Air across Asia, Europe and the Middle East will be even more rewarding."

This strengthened partnership not only delivers greater rewards and recognition for Sindbad and Qantas Frequent Flyer members, but also supports the national tourism objectives by encouraging more visitors from Australia to include Oman in their travel plans. With seamless connectivity and anew digital stopover programme, the airline makes it easier and more appealing than ever for guests to experience Oman as part of their journey.

COLLABORATION

Cooperation agreement signed for clean energy project

MUSCAT: Oman Across Ages Museum signed a cooperation agreement at its headquarters in the Wilayat of Manah with BP Oman to fund and implement a project for installing a grid-connected solar system with a capacity of 800 kW and an annual output of approximately 1,300 megawatt-hours (MWh) at the Museum's facilities.

The project will contribute to reducing approximately 780 tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions resulting from conventional energy consumption. This move leverages sustainable solutions for operating the Museum's facilities and lowering its environmental footprint, aligning with its national and cultural mission to highlight Omani identity and protect its resources for future generations.

Eng. Al Yaqdhan Abdullah Al Harthy, Director General of the Oman Across Ages Museum, who signed the agreement on the Museum's behalf, stated that the solar energy project will provide a cultural and educational environment for the Museum's visitors and researchers in the field of solar energy to observe this system up close.

Eng. Haifa Hamad Al Mukhaldi, Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy Specialist at the Diwan of Royal Court, who is tasked with managing and following up on the project, noted that the project reinforces the concept of sustainable buildings that are environmentally conscious and invest in technology to serve culture and society. She added that the project will be constructed over an area of 8,000 square meters and will contain 1,292 solar panels.

The agreement includes several key clauses, most notably contributing to achieving the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 related to renewable energy and sustainability, reducing CO_2 emissions from traditional energy consumption, and enhancing community awareness about the importance of clean energy. -ONA

SPORTS

Three new cricket grounds set to boost Oman's sporting scene

The first of the three new grounds is expected to be ready by the end of 2026 raising the total number of grounds at the Oman Cricket Academy venue in Al Amerat to five

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With world-class facilities drawing praise from visiting teams, Oman Cricket plans three additional grounds in Al Amerat, signalling a new era of growth and international event hosting for the Sultanate. Oman Cricket (OC) Chairman Pankaj Khimji recently unveiled plans for a sweeping expansion of the Oman Cricket Academy in Al Amerat.

The announcement comes as the Sultanate gears up to host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup East Asia-Pacific (EAP) Qualifier 2025, which begins on October 8, Wednesday, and features nine nations, including hosts Oman. Three teams will qualify for the World Cup to be played in India and Sri Lanka early next year.

The new facilities will significantly enhance Oman's ability to host international events and nurture local talent, underlining the country's emergence as one of the fastest-growing cricketing Associate nations in the world.

"We are very privileged and thankful to the ICC for giving us the opportunity to host another major event," said Khimji, as he reviewed preparations for the hosting of the ICC World Cup Qualifier.

"Oman has developed world-class cricket infrastructure over the years — built with a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, and with immense support from the government and private sector. We are now enjoying the fruits of that effort, but the next phase is about scaling up."

Pankaj Khimji (right), with Alkesh Joshi, at the OCA ground recently

Three new grounds next to existing OCA venue

Khimji revealed that Oman Cricket has secured land across the road from the current academy complex in Al Amerat to build three new grounds, which will raise the total number of grounds in Al Amerat to five. The existing Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) venue boasts of two world-class grounds with floodlights.

The first of these — referred to as the "third ground" — is expected to be completed by the end of next year, with the others to follow in phases under a comprehensive master development plan.

"We are working on a detailed master plan that includes three new turf grounds," Khimji said. "The immediate focus is on the third ground, which we aim to complete by next year. The additional facilities will give us more resources to host bigger and better international tournaments in the years ahead."

The expansion builds on Oman Cricket's reputation for excellence. Since hosting matches during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, the Al Amerat venue has drawn widespread praise from international teams and officials for its top-tier facilities, immaculate pitches, and hospitality.

"Teams that visit Oman often tell us our grounds and infrastructure are on par with full-member nations," Khimji added. "That's a tremendous compliment and a motivation for us to keep improving."

Momentum beyond the boundary

While the expansion marks a major milestone in Oman's cricketing journey, Khimji and his team remain equally focused on the national squad's on-field growth.

"Our objective has always been cricket, cricket, cricket," said Alkesh Joshi, OC Treasurer. "We're less focused on commercialisation and more on building a strong, competitive team."

Joshi, who served as team manager during the recent Asia Cup, said the players' strong showing against India in that tournament gave them a huge confidence boost.

"The boys played phenomenal cricket against India, and that performance gave them belief," he said. "If they can compete at that level, they can certainly excel at the Associate level."

Joshi credited the team's improved fitness, agility, and fielding to new additions in the support staff — including strength and conditioning coach Shiva and physiotherapist Dr. Ashish.

"You can see the difference on the field," he said. "The players are fitter, more alert, and more disciplined. The approach to fitness and fielding has improved."

Looking at the upcoming World Cup Qualifier Joshi said that "the team hopes to make it to the ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next year for the fourth time.

Oman is the only associate nation from Asia to have played in three T20I World Cups (2016, 2021 and 2024) and we hope to make it two in a row by qualifying at home this time," Joshi said. "That's something we're incredibly proud of, and we want to build on that legacy."

"There's no pressure, only pride," Joshi said. "Playing at home is an advantage — and an opportunity to show the cricketing world what Oman can deliver, both on and off the field."

With three new turf grounds on the horizon and international tournaments lining up, the Sultanate's "Cricketing Renaissance 2.0" in the words of Oman Cricket boss Khimji shows no signs of slowing down.

SHANGHAI MASTERS

Sinner retires but Djokovic fights through to last 16

SHANGHAI: Defending champion Jannik Sinner retired injured from the Shanghai Masters on Sunday but last year's runner-up Novak Djokovic battled back from a set down to reach the last 16.

Top seed Sinner suffered a leg injury in his third-round match against the Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor. He began to experience issues in the fourth game of the third set, before deciding he could not continue when trailing 7-6 (7-3), 5-7, 2-3. The 24-year-old Italian was the overwhelming favourite to win the ATP 1,000 event for a second time after world No.1 Carlos Alcaraz announced his decision not to compete due to an injury he picked up in winning the Japan Open.

Sinner took the first set on a tiebreak and missed the chance to take a foothold in the match when Griekspoor saved three break points early in the second set.

But it was the Dutchman who eventually gained the upper hand in the 11th game, breaking the world No.2 with a backhand winner. As the clock ticked past midnight, Sinner ended the fourth game of the third set crouched over in pain, limping around the court.

He then hit a series of shots into the net to be broken in the fifth game and called it quits after being helped back to his chair.

Griekspoor, the 27th seed, will face French qualifier Valentin Vacherot in the next round after his opponent, 20th seed Tomas Machac, also retired injured.

"[It was] a very unfortunate ending to what I thought was a high-quality match," Griekspoor said.

"Not the way you want to win. I wish him a speedy recovery."

Sinner was the second big name to bow out on Sunday, with fourth seed Taylor Fritz losing his third-round match 6-4, 7-5 to Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard.

Djokovic shows 'guts' to reach last 16

Djokovic said he showed "a lot of guts" to come back from a set down in humid conditions to beat inspired qualifier Yannik Hanfmann and reach the fourth round.

The 38-year-old Serb looked sluggish in the first set but recovered to win 4-6 7-5 6-3 in two hours and 42 minutes.

Djokovic will face unseeded Spaniard Jaume Munar in the last 16.

"The crowd got me up, and towards the end of the second set I started to get into it more," said the world number five, who leaned on the vociferous local support throughout the match,

"I have often had to fight in matches that maybe I wasn't the better player - battling through is something I am quite familiar with throughout my career, but I hung in there and showed a lot of guts."

Djokovic looked to be struggling with the heat and humidity, throwing water over his head after holding for 3-2 in the second set.

"It's brutal when you have over 80% of humidity day after day - particularly for the guys when they're playing during the day with heat, with sun, it's even more brutal," added Djokovic, whose matched finished after 9pm, local time.

"For me, biologically, it's a bit more challenging to deal with it, but I had to really weather the storm today. Yannick played an incredible match from the beginning." - Xinhua

PLAYED 24 TESTS

Windies' World Cup winner Bernard Julien passes away aged 75

KINGSTON: Bernard Julien, the former West Indies all-rounder, died at the age of 75 on Saturday in Valsayn, a town in Northern Trinidad. He was part of the 1975 world champions and represented the region across 24 Tests and 12 ODIs.

At the inaugural ODI World Cup, now 50 years ago, Julien produced a spell of 4 for 20 against Sri Lanka in the group stage and followed it up with 4 for 27 against New Zealand in the semi-final and a cameo of 26 off 37 balls against Australia in the final. The tournament encapsulated his reputation as a swashbuckling all-rounder known for his left-arm seam bowling, his strokeplay and lively fielding.

Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies captain, hailed Julien as a vital member of the 1975 champions. "He always gave you over 100 percent. He never shirked his duties, and I could always rely on him with bat and ball. He gave his all every time. What a fine cricketer," Lloyd was quoted as saying by the Trinidad & Tobago Guardian.

Julien enjoyed another high point at Lord's, where he scored his first Test ton, a match-winning 121 against England in 1973. He picked up a five-for against the same opposition the next year.

"We all had total respect for him," Lloyd said. "He enjoyed himself and was loved by everyone around. I remember we won the Test match at Lords and stood there and signed autographs for a long time, He was good for us and was held in high regard everywhere we went."

Julien also played for Kent between 1970 and 1977, but his career came to a halt when he joined a rebel West Indies side that toured South Africa during the apartheid era in 1982-83.

"As we honour Bernard Julien, we also recognise the importance of reflection and inclusion. The time has come to view that chapter of our history not through exclusion but through understanding," Dr Kishore Shallow, the President of Cricket West Indies, said in an official statement.

"To the family, friends, and loved ones of Bernard Julien, we extend our deepest condolences. His passing reminds us that a life devoted to purpose never truly leaves us. Cricket West Indies stands with you in this moment of loss, and we hope Bernard knew he was valued and loved by the cricketing family he helped to shape, and that he found peace knowing his contribution will always endure." - Agencies

SPORTS

Sevilla shock Barca

La Liga defending champions suffered their worst loss against Sevilla since a 4-0 defeat in 1951

BARCELONA: Barcelona missed the chance to return to the top of La Liga after being thrashed 4-1 by hosts Sevilla at Estadio Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán on Sunday.

The result left Barcelona two points behind Real Madrid as La Liga heads into the international break and coach Hansi Flick will be worried by a dip in form which coincided with the absence of key players.

Needing victory to reclaim the leadership from Real Madrid, the defending champions suffered their worst loss against Sevilla since a 4-0 defeat in 1951.

Without the injured trio of Lamine Yamal, Raphinha and Fermin Lopez, Barca was overrun by Sevilla in the first half.

Robert Lewandowski missed a second-half penalty for Barcelona after Marcus Rashford had scored a left-footed volley in first-half stoppage time to give them hope of turning around a two-goal deficit.

Hansi Flick's side were second best for long periods and deservedly fell to their first league defeat of the campaign against a side who had not beaten them in the Spanish top flight for just over a decade.

Former Barcelona winger Alexis Sanchez opened the scoring from the penalty spot after visiting captain Ronald Araujo had bundled Isaac Romero over by the byeline.

Romero himself swept in the second goal from an incisive counter-attack before Rashford replied from Pedri's back-post cross. However, a well-drilled home defence largely kept Barca at bay until Lewandowski put his spot-kick wide after former Manchester United winger Adnan Januzaj had fouled Alejandro Balde.

And when Jose Angel Carmona and Akor Adams scored in the closing minutes it compounded a miserable afternoon for Barcelona, who came into the contest after a midweek Champions League defeat by holders Paris Saint-Germain.

It was Sevilla's first home win since February.

Other results: Alavés 3 Elche 1, Espanyol 1 Real Betis 2, Real Sociedad 0 Rayo Vallecano 1, Celta Vigo 1 Atletico Madrid 1. — Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Haaland's goal gives Guardiola 250th Premier League victory

LONDON: Erling Haaland continued his prolific form as Manchester City battled to a narrow 1-0 victory over Brentford on Sunday and gave boss Pep Guardiola his 250th Premier League win.

Guardiola is the quickest manager to reach the milestone having done so in just 349 games - 55 games quicker than anyone else.

Haaland outmuscled Sepp van den Berg to gather Josko Gvardiol's looping cross, then wriggled away from the defender before precisely slotting past Caoimhin Kelleher.

It is the Norwegian striker's third goal this week and his 18th in 11 games for club and country this season.

City had to hold on to their slim lead at the Gtech Community Stadium for more than 80 minutes but limited Brentford to few opportunities, despite the game opening up somewhat in a scrappy second half.

Victory moves City up to fifth before the international break, but there was concern for midfielder Rodri when he hobbled off with injury after just 21 minutes.

The Spaniard missed much of last season with an anterior cruciate ligament injury and is yet to return to the form that won him the Ballon d'Or last year.

City climbed to fifth place, three points behind leader Arsenal, with a fourth win in seven league games so far.

Palace's unbeaten run over

Crystal Palace saw its club-record, 19-match unbeaten run in all competitions come to an end by conceding late in a 2-1 defeat at Everton.

Palace last tasted defeat on April 16 — but was sunk by a goal in the third minute of stoppage time by Jack Grealish. It completed a comeback by Everton, which equalised through Iliman Ndiaye's 76th-minute penalty after Munoz put the visitors in front in the 37th.

Ange Postecoglou remains without a win in seven matches in charge of Nottingham Forest after its 2-0 loss at Newcastle.

Bruno Guimaraes curled in a beautiful shot in the 58th and Nick Woltemade added a second from the penalty spot for Newcastle, which won in the league for just the second time this season.

Wolverhampton had manager Vitor Pereira sent off early in the 1-1 draw with Brighton for what the Premier League described as "irresponsible" behaviour in the technical area. In the other match on Sunday, Aston Villa beat Burnley 2-1 thanks to two goals by Donnyell Malen. — Agencies

GUARDIOLA ON HIS MILESTONE

'I'll take Ferguson and Wenger to dinner'

LONDON: Reaching a milestone of 250 Premier League wins is an achievement that requires a special kind of celebration.

That is what Pep Guardiola is planning after Manchester City's 1-0 win over Brentford on Sunday secured him access to an exclusive club of managers who have accomplished the feat with a single club.

Only Sir Alex Ferguson (Manchester United) and Arsene Wenger (Arsenal) have done so previously - and Guardiola is already planning a football fan's dream guest list to toast the landmark. "It's an honour to be alongside Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger, I will invite them to a good dinner," said the Spaniard, who is in his 10th campaign with City.

"It's a pleasure to be part of that in Premier League history, really pleased. Now let's go for 250 more."

Having taken 349 top-flight matches to reach the landmark, Guardiola managed it in record time - 55 games quicker than Ferguson (404) with Wenger (424) next.

In the Premier League era, David Moyes also has 250 wins under his belt, but has achieved them across spells with multiple clubs.

Guardiola has joined a list of 16 other bosses to reach the tally in the history of the English top flight, including Bill Shankly (Liverpool), Matt Busby (Manchester United) and Brian Clough (Nottingham Forest). - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

VfB Stuttgart battle past Heidenheim

BERLIN: Bilal El Khannouss delivered once again as VfB Stuttgart battled past Heidenheim 1-0 to claim their third straight Bundesliga win at the MHP Arena on Sunday.

After a midweek European defeat to Basel, coach Sebastian Hoeness demanded a reaction, and his team responded. He made three changes, recalling Jeff Chabot, Atakan Karazor and El Khannouss to the starting lineup.

In steady rain, Stuttgart dominated possession but initially struggled to break down a compact Heidenheim defense set up in a disciplined 4-1-4-1 formation. Frank Schmidt's side stayed organized, closing space in midfield and forcing Stuttgart into long-range attempts. Badredine Bouanani fired wide early on, while Chabot and Jeremy Assignon also tested Diant Ramaj from distance.

Heidenheim created little going forward, with only Mikkel Kaufmann twice drawing saves from Alexander Nubel. The first half ended goalless as Stuttgart searched for a spark.

Hoeness reacted shortly before the hour mark, introducing Angelo Stiller, Ameen Al-Dakhil and Tiago Tomas to inject new energy. The changes paid off when Chabot's powerful effort was tipped wide, signaling growing pressure. Moments later, Maximilian Mittelstadt found El Khannouss in space, and the 20-year-old Moroccan loanee controlled neatly before driving a precise low shot from 18 meters inside the far post to break the deadlock in the 65th minute.

The result keeps Stuttgart fourth heading into the international break, while Heidenheim stay near the bottom ahead of facing Werder Bremen.

Elsewhere, Hamburg cruised past Mainz 4-0 with Rayan Philippe scoring twice, while Gladbach were held to a 0-0 home draw with Freiburg in a game of few clear chances. - Xinhua

GOALLESS AGAINST AC MILAN

Juventus draw for their third consecutive Serie A match

TURIN: Juventus were held to a 0-0 draw by AC Milan on Sunday, as Igor Tudor's side registered their third consecutive draw in Serie A this season.

Juventus boss Igor Tudor conceded that Sunday's goalless draw with AC Milan was a fair result, but demanded that his team to "keep working" in order to experience success. In a game of few chances, it was Christian Pulisic who made the headlines, with the Milan talisman firing over a penalty in the 53rd minute after Lloyd Kelly's clumsy challenge.

Rafael Leao then squandered two late chances for the Rossoneri to snatch all three points, but both of his efforts were off target as the spoils were shared at Allianz Stadium. The result saw Juventus record five draws in a row in all competitions for the first time since April 2006 while under Fabio Capello, and sit fifth in Serie A, three points off Napoli. Juventus did, however, become only the second side in Serie A history to keep five consecutive clean sheets against AC Milan, after Triestina (six between 1935 and 1938). But it was in the final third that cost them, having mustered an expected goals (xG) tally of just 0.68 from their 12 shots to Milan's 1.74 from their 13 attempts in the match.

Speaking to DAZN, Tudor acknowledged the draw was fair but insisted his team is progressing.

"It was the kind of match we expected – difficult, against a strong team," he said. "We wanted to win, both sides had chances, and in the end, a draw is fair."

The last eight matches between Juventus and Milan in Serie A have seen just six goals, an average of 0.75 per match, with three of the last four games between the two Serie A giants ending in a goalless draw, as many times as the previous 36. But in an attempt to improve that statistic, Tudor made a triple change in the 69th minute, replacing Kenan Yildiz, Francisco Conceicao and Jonathan David.

Dusan Vlahovic, Khephren Thuram and Lois Openda all came on in their place, but the trio were unable to make an impact on proceedings during their time on the pitch. Tudor's decision was not popular among the home supporters, but he was quick to back up his reasoning behind making the triple change.

"[Kenan] Yildiz, [Francisco] Conceicao and [Jonathan] David were tired – they've played so much. We tried to finish with more cover and energy," Tudor added. "With two more goals, we'd have two more wins. That's football. We have to keep working – we'll always be on track." — Agencies

HOCC STATEMENT

What's behind Houthis' decision to sanction major US oil exporters?

ADEN: Yemen's Houthi group has recently announced sanctions on some of the United States' largest oil companies, senior executives, and crude carriers.

The decision has raised concerns over maritime security and stability in the Red Sea, one of the world's most vital shipping corridors, as well as risks undermining a ceasefire between the United States and the Houthis.

What happened?

The Humanitarian Operations Coordination Centre (HOCC) in Sanaa said it had sanctioned 13 US entities, nine individuals, and two vessels.

The HOCC, which functions as a liaison body between Houthi authorities and commercial shipping operators and is closely tied to the group's military structure, announced through its official website that those blacklisted entities would be treated "in accordance with the principle of confrontation."

Among those entities designated by the Houthis are oil majors ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Phillips 66, and Marathon Petroleum, along with their top executives, accused of violating a Houthi decree prohibiting the export of US crude oil.

The HOCC stated that "the HOCC will employ all available means and instruments to confront any hostile measures taken by any State or group against the Republic of Yemen, in accordance with the applicable laws and relevant regulations."

Why now?

Last month, the US Treasury Department imposed sanctions on 32 individuals and entities, as well as four vessels linked to the Houthis, saying the move was aimed at disrupting the group's fundraising, smuggling operations and attacks.

Houthi officials in Sanaa framed their counter-sanctions as a legitimate act of self-defense, arguing that Washington escalated first by blacklisting Yemeni companies, ships, and individuals involved in transporting essential supplies into war-torn Yemen.

"It is neither reasonable nor fair that we should be subjected to a blockade and sanctions, and remain silent in the face of these oppressive measures," Hamid Abdul-Qader, an advisor to the Houthi-led government, told local media.

He said that the latest actions were taken to protect the Yemeni people's rights in the face of continued external pressure.

While the new Houthi measures have raised concerns about the durability and future of the truce, Houthi officials argue their sanctions fall outside the scope of the deal.

— Xinhua

Medicine Nobel 2025 awarded to trio for immune system research

Their discoveries have laid the foundation for a new field of research and spurred the development of new treatments, for example for cancer and autoimmune diseases

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for 2025 will be awarded jointly to Mary Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell of the United States and Shimun Sakaguchi of Japan for "for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance," the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute announced on Monday.

"Their discoveries have laid the foundation for a new field of research and spurred the development of new treatments, for example for cancer and autoimmune diseases," the Assembly said in a statement.

The winners will receive a prize sum of 11 million Swedish crowns (€1 million, $1.2 million), as well as a gold medal from the King of Sweden.

This critical biological process helps the immune system distinguish between harmful invaders and the body's own tissues, preventing autoimmune diseases.

Their research has paved the way for advances in treating conditions such as multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes, and other immune-related disorders.

Born 1961 has a Ph.D. from Princeton University in the US. She is a senior Program Manager at the Institute for Systems Biology, in Seattle.

Fred Ramsdell, born 1960 has a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles and is a scientific Advisor, Sonoma Biotherapeutics in San Francisco.

While Shimon Sakaguchi, born 1951 has a MD and Ph.D from Kyoto University in Japan.She is a Distinguished Professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Centre, Osaka University, in Japan.

Prize amount: 11 million Swedish kronor, to be shared equally between the laureates, the Nobel Com.

Officially known as the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the honour has been awarded 115 times to 229 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2024.

The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine has been awarded 115 times to 229 laureates between 1901 and 2024.

Last year's prize was shared by Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for their discovery of microRNA, which serves as on and off switches inside cells that help control what the cells do and when they do it.

The physics prize will be announced on Tuesday, with the prizes in chemistry being made public on Wednesday, and the literature one on Thursday.

Friday will see the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize, while the Nobel Memorial Prize in economics will be announced on October 13.

The awards ceremony will be held on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. Nobel was a wealthy Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite who died in 1896. — Agencies

EAST JAVA'S SIDOARJO TOWN

Death toll rises to 60 in Indonesia's boarding school building collapse

JAKARTA: The death toll from the collapse of a building of the Al Khoziny Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo Regency, East Java, has risen to 60 after search and rescue teams recovered 11 more bodies on Monday, according to Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB).

A part of the building of the Al Khoziny Islamic boarding school in East Java's Sidoarjo town caved in on students — mostly teenage boys — who had gathered for afternoon prayers.

Meanwhile, the search for 13 more missing people is still ongoing. Late on Sunday, rescuers retrieved bodies and body parts of the victims as they used excavators to clear 80% of the debris.

Yudhi Bramantyo, an official from the search and rescue agency, said that five more body parts had been found, suggesting that the death toll is likely to be at least 54.

Visuals shared by the search and rescue agency showed rescuers carrying orange body bags out of the rubble of the school.

"The number of victims is the biggest this year from one building," Budi Irawan, a deputy at the disaster mitigation agency, told reporters at a briefing.

"Out of all the disasters in 2025, natural or not, there hasn't been as many dead victims as the ones in Sidoarjo," he added.

A probe to determine the cause of the collapse is underway. According to experts, initial indications suggest that poor construction quality may have contributed to the incident.

Rescue operations are continuing in sectors A1 and A2, where collapsed concrete still covers older structures. Authorities said debris removal is being conducted with caution to avoid further damage to nearby buildings.

The school building collapsed on Sept. 29 with dozens of students trapped inside. — Agencies

LATER IN OCTOBER

Libya to resume local elections

TRIPOLI: Libya's elections body said on Monday it will resume municipal polls on Oct. 20, covering dozens of local councils in towns across the country.

The High National Elections Commission (HNEC) said the vote will take place in areas where councils' terms have ended or where temporary committees are in charge. It said preparations for polling day are under way.

The move to hold local polls comes amid a prolonged stalemate in national politics. Presidential and parliamentary elections planned for December 2021 collapsed due to disputes over electoral laws and the eligibility of key candidates, deepening the country's long-running divisions.

According to the HNEC, previous rounds of local elections faced delays due to localised security issues, legal appeals, and logistical hurdles. The HNEC says it has still managed to hold polls in more than 50 municipalities in the past two years.

Libya has remained unstable since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled Muammar Gaddafi.

— Xinhua

CRITICISM OVER CABINET PICKS

France's new Prime Minister resigns

PARIS: France's newly appointed prime minister, Sebastien Lecornu, resigned on Monday, shortly after naming his Cabinet, the presidency said.

During a public address on Monday morning, an hour after announcing his resignation, Lecornu blamed political parties' intransigence for his departure.

"I was ready to compromise, but each party wanted the other to adopt its entire programme," he said.

Lecornu blamed the "egos" of opposition politicians for not being able to strike compromises with rival parties.

"You should always prefer your country to your party," he added.

Lecornu's resignation was unexpected, marking a further escalation of France's political crisis.

The Cabinet's appointment came after weeks of consultations with political parties across the political divide. It was about to hold its first meeting Monday afternoon.

Political deadlock in France comes as no party or group holds a

majority in parliament.

France's political situation has become increasingly unstable since President Emmanuel Macron's 2022 reelection, with the leader's decision to call a snap parliamentary election deepening the crisis further.

On September 8, former Prime Minister Francois Bayrou lost a parliamentary confidence vote over a planned austerity budget. This led him to step down as head of the minority government. The following day, Macron appointed Lecornu. — DW

INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

There has to be trade understanding with US: Jaishankar on 'unfair' tariffs

NEW DELHI: Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday expressed the need to have a trade understanding with the United States, adding that not only because it's the world's largest market, but also because much of the world already has such arrangements.

In a panel discussion at the Kautliya Economic Forum in New Delhi, Jaishankar stated that India and the United States had yet to "reach a landing ground" in ongoing trade negotiations. He also addressed the volatile global environment, describing the coming years as a test of resilience for all nations.

"Today, we have issues with the United States ... that we haven't yet arrived at a landing ground in our trade discussions. In addition there is a certain tariffs being levied on us, which we have publicly said are unfair," said Jaishankar.

"In addition there is a a second tariff .... which has picked on us. for sourcing energy from Russia. And of course there are other

countries who have done so including countries who right now have a far more antagonistic relationship with Russia then we do. I'm not minimising the issues. But I don't think we should take it to a point as though this is going to percolate to every dimension of the relationship.

"There are problems, there are issues, nobody is in denial of it. Those issues need to be negotiated and discussed and resolved, which is exactly what we are trying to do. But I would really sort of hesitate to read very much more into it," Jaishankar said in his remarks while responding to questions from the moderator, N K Singh.

"I deal in a world of realities, and my reality right now is at 25 per cent and 25 per cent of a 50 per cent tariff, and that is what right now we are negotiating. So, whatever happens at the end of the day there has got to be a trade understanding with the United States. There has to be one because it is the world's largest market but also because much of the world has reached those understandings. But it has to be an understanding where our bottom lines, our red lines are respected."

Terming the trade relations "one-sided", President Donald Trump slapped 50 per cent tariffs on India, citing the country's crude oil import from Russia, which is fueling the war in Ukraine.

The new reciprocal tariff rates by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are in effect from August 27.

Emphasising the need to have a common consensus, Jaishankar stated, "In any agreement, you know, there are things you can negotiate and there are things you can't. And I think we are pretty clear about that and we have to find that landing ground. And that's been the conversation really which has been going on since March."

In addition, last month, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal concluded his high-level trade visit, which the ministry described as 'positive.'

The Ministry stated that both sides have agreed to accelerate efforts toward an "early and mutually beneficial conclusion" of the proposed trade pact.

Jaishankar Going further, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the conversation around diversifying trade has been ongoing, with a clear focus on shifting more towards Asia.

— ANI

ROUND-UP

OSFA unveils plans for Oman Health Innovation Summit 2026

The two-day programme is designed to spark dialogue and foster practical solutions to some of Oman's most pressing healthcare challenges

MUSCAT: At a reception held at the Grand Hyatt Muscat in honour of Guy Parmelin, Vice President of the Swiss Federal Council and Minister of Economic Affairs, Education & Research, the Oman Switzerland Friendship Association (OSFA) announced plans for their Oman Health Innovation Summit, to be hosted at the St. Regis Hotel, Muscat in October 2026.

Building on the success of previous business forums, this landmark initiative is OSFA's most ambitious event to date. Aligned with Oman Vision 2040, the Summit will act as a catalyst for cross-border investment, knowledge exchange and innovation, providing a unique platform to reimagine the future of healthcare through digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and women's leadership.

The Summit will open with an address by Oman's Minister of Health, Dr. Hilal Al Sabti and will feature an exclusive round-table discussion with him for selected participants. The two-day programme is designed to spark dialogue and foster practical solutions to some of Oman's most pressing healthcare challenges, with a strong focus on diabetes, gendered medicine, longevity, and expanding digital healthcare access to rural communities.

"Choosing to focus our next flagship event on Health was an easy decision for OSFA," said Hani Al Zubair, Chairman of the Oman Switzerland Friendship Association, adding, "Oman stands at the crossroads of healthcare transformation. With a rapidly growing population, strong government commitment through Vision 2040, and increasing prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes, the nation offers a unique environment for pioneering digital health solutions. Over 15% of adults in Oman are estimated to live with diabetes, creating urgent demand for innovative AI-driven prevention, management, and treatment tools. Coupled with Oman's investment in digital infrastructure and its drive to expand rural healthcare access, the country represents one of the most promising markets for scalable, high-impact health innovation. Through this Summit, we aim to bridge legacy and future, creating an environment where healthcare innovation can thrive across borders."

BOLD IDENTITY

Lynk & Co 05 redefines urban luxury with design, performance, technology

MUSCAT: With a bold identity built on performance, technology, and design, the Lynk & Co 05 stands out in a market where most cars blend in with the background. It is more than just a vehicle; it is a culmination of intelligent engineering and urban luxury aesthetics.

The Lynk & Co 05 is a performance-oriented urban coupé SUV designed to elevate every trip, whether navigating city traffic or exploring open highways. The 05, which is reasonably priced for the market, combines intelligence, aggression, and luxury into a single, powerful frame. The 05 is a new direction in compact luxury, built on the CMA platform that is developed by Volvo.

The Lynk & Co 05 doesn't simply get your attention; it commands it. Its broad, powerful stance, swooping roofline, and curved silhouette command respect. The front of the car is conquered by a crisply creased grille, framed by signature Energy Cube LED daytime lights and precision-hewn high-performance headlamps. The split-level lighting gives a carved, layered look and also allows road illumination.

You are wrapped by a high-tech, high-touch cabin from the moment you get in. Clean floating center console, brushed metal trim, and leather-wrapped premium covers all contribute to the upscale atmosphere. With voice recognition, navigation, smartphone integration, and wireless Apple CarPlay, a 12.3" digital instrument cluster, and a 12.7" touchscreen data display, you get in control. The Infinity speaker system has been modified for even better audio performance, and the cabin insulation has been maintained for a quieter ride. With elements like ambient lighting, a 10-speaker Infinity audio system, dual-zone automatic climate management, and a panoramic sunroof, the 05 makes each drive luxurious, effortless, and fun.

With its powerful 2.0-liter turbocharged engine that generates 254 PS and 350 Nm of torque, the 05 is equipped with All-Wheel Drive (AWD) and an automated 8-speed transmission.

EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ABA Oman International School hosts IACAC Regional Institute, College and University Fair

MUSCAT: ABA Oman International School hosted the International Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) Regional Institute this weekend, bringing together university and college counsellors, university and college admission representatives, independent educational consultants and educators from across the globe.

The three-day event, inaugurated by Craig Williamson, Head of School at ABA Oman International School, set the tone for a truly international exchange of ideas and opportunities. In his opening address, Williamson spoke about the importance of global-minded education, highlighting ABA's diverse community and the school's role in preparing young people for success beyond borders.

In his address, Williamson stated, "All of our graduates receive university acceptances from top institutions around the world and have the opportunity to experience diverse cultures and perspectives. As counselors and university admissions representatives, you play a vital role in this journey. Your guidance helps students navigate choices that shape their futures, empowering them to pursue global opportunities, embrace new experiences, and realize their full potential. Programmes like the Global Citizenship Diploma, which ABA proudly supports, provide students with the tools to grow into ethical, compassionate, and globally engaged individuals, and your work is at the heart of that transformation."

This Regional Institute is designed to connect secondary school counselors within the Middle East and North Africa region with university admission advising tools and global networks of colleges and universities. It also provides colleges and universities with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of students from the Middle East and North African markets. Through in-depth presentations and focused conversations, participants gain valuable insights into the educational process, admission requirements, fees, scholarships, and the challenges and opportunities students face when applying to colleges and universities outside the region.

The event featured a College and University Fair with more than 100 leading institutions from the United States, Canada, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and beyond. Secondary school students had the opportunity to meet admission representatives in person and learn about programmes, scholarships, and the undergraduate admission process.

Jinane Helou, ABA's University Counsellor, emphasized the value of such networking opportunities for both students and counselors. "Hosting the IACAC Regional Meet at ABA has been an incredible experience," said Helou. "Our students benefit from direct engagement with universities from around the world, and as counselors, we gain invaluable insights into new programmes, evolving admission trends, and scholarship pathways. It's all about building strong relationships, learning from each other and connecting students with opportunities that fit their passions and goals."

The final day of the event included a Counselor Fair, where visiting universities learned about the diverse academic programmes and college counselling approaches of regional schools, fostering greater understanding and collaboration across educational systems.

Daniel Marschner, International ACAC President-Elect and Director of International Admission at Loyola Marymount University, expressed his appreciation for ABA's hospitality and the enriching cultural experiences throughout the weekend. "The warmth of the ABA community and the professionalism of the organizing team made this regional meet a tremendous success," said Marschner. "From the productive sessions and school visits to the cultural immersion, especially the authentic Omani dinner at Rozna; it was an unforgettable experience that strengthened our global network of educators and counselors."

The International ACAC Regional Institute at ABA underscored the school's ongoing commitment to fostering international collaboration and preparing students to thrive in an interconnected world.

ABA Oman International School is Muscat's leading International Baccalaureate (IB) School, offering a full IB continuum from Early Childhood to the Diploma Programme. Established in 1987, ABA is renowned for academic excellence, innovation, and a deep commitment to sustainability, service learning, and global citizenship. With a diverse student body representing 70 nationalities, the school fosters an inclusive community rooted in the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), empowering students to thrive in a complex world and make a meaningful difference. To discover The ABA Way, visit www.abaoman.org

ECO-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE

Oman Oasis launches glass bottles honouring Omani heritage

MUSCAT: Oman Oasis a part of the fast-moving consumer goods sector of The Zubair Corporation and Oman's leading and most trusted bottled drinking water brand, has launched its new premium glass bottle range. This initiative reinforces the company's mission to offer a refined, eco-friendly experience, combining daily refreshment and purity with the highest sustainability standards, thanks to the inherent clarity and cleanliness that glass provides.

The new glass bottle range begins with the 330ml Balanced Drinking Water, now available in leading stores across the country. The rollout will soon expand to include the 750ml Balanced, as well as 330ml and 750ml Sparkling Water. With this phased introduction, Oman Oasis is setting a new standard for premium, locally bottled water, giving consumers an elegant alternative to imported brands.

The design of the glass range reflects modern minimalism while staying true to Omani authenticity. Each bottle has a sleek silhouette with embossed branding and a gentle side grip — a detail that makes it comfortable to hold and appealing to use, along with a label that highlights Oman's natural landmarks.

Moosa Al Hasni, Chief Operating Officer at Oman Oasis, said, "For more than three decades, the people of Oman have placed their trust in Oman Oasis, and we are proud to be part of their everyday lives. The launch of our new glass bottle range marks a milestone for both the company and the Sultanate. It reflects our commitment to environmental sustainability, as Oman moves towards establishing a complete premium water line in locally bottled glass."

OFFER

Benefits on Lexus LX700h SUV

MUSCAT: Lexus enthusiasts now have the perfect opportunity to own the powerful and luxurious LX700h and enjoy exclusive benefits such as up to 10 years/100,000 km service, free insurance and first-year registration on purchase. The offer is valid across Lexus showrooms in Oman until 30 October.

The LX flagship sports a sophisticated hybrid powertrain, affirming Lexus' commitment to sustainable innovation without compromise. Beneath its commanding design lies a twin-turbocharged 3.5L V6 engine paired with an advanced hybrid system, producing 457hp and 650 Nm of torque while achieving impressive 10.8 km/l efficiency. This marks a significant milestone being the only LX model previously without a hybrid option.

The LX700h embodies Lexus' legendary craftsmanship, fusing power with precision. Engineered for both on-road elegance and off-road dominance, the SUV offers unmatched durability and capability. A 10-speed automatic transmission, Multi-Terrain Select and Panoramic View Monitor provide effortless control, while signature Lexus refinement ensures every journey is a sanctuary of comfort.

Inside, the LX700h reflects the pinnacle of Lexus artistry. Premium leather, ambient lighting and ventilated seats across all rows create an atmosphere of indulgence, while modern conveniences such as wireless charging, USB-C ports throughout, a 10-speaker premium sound system and seamless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration elevate connectivity and entertainment.

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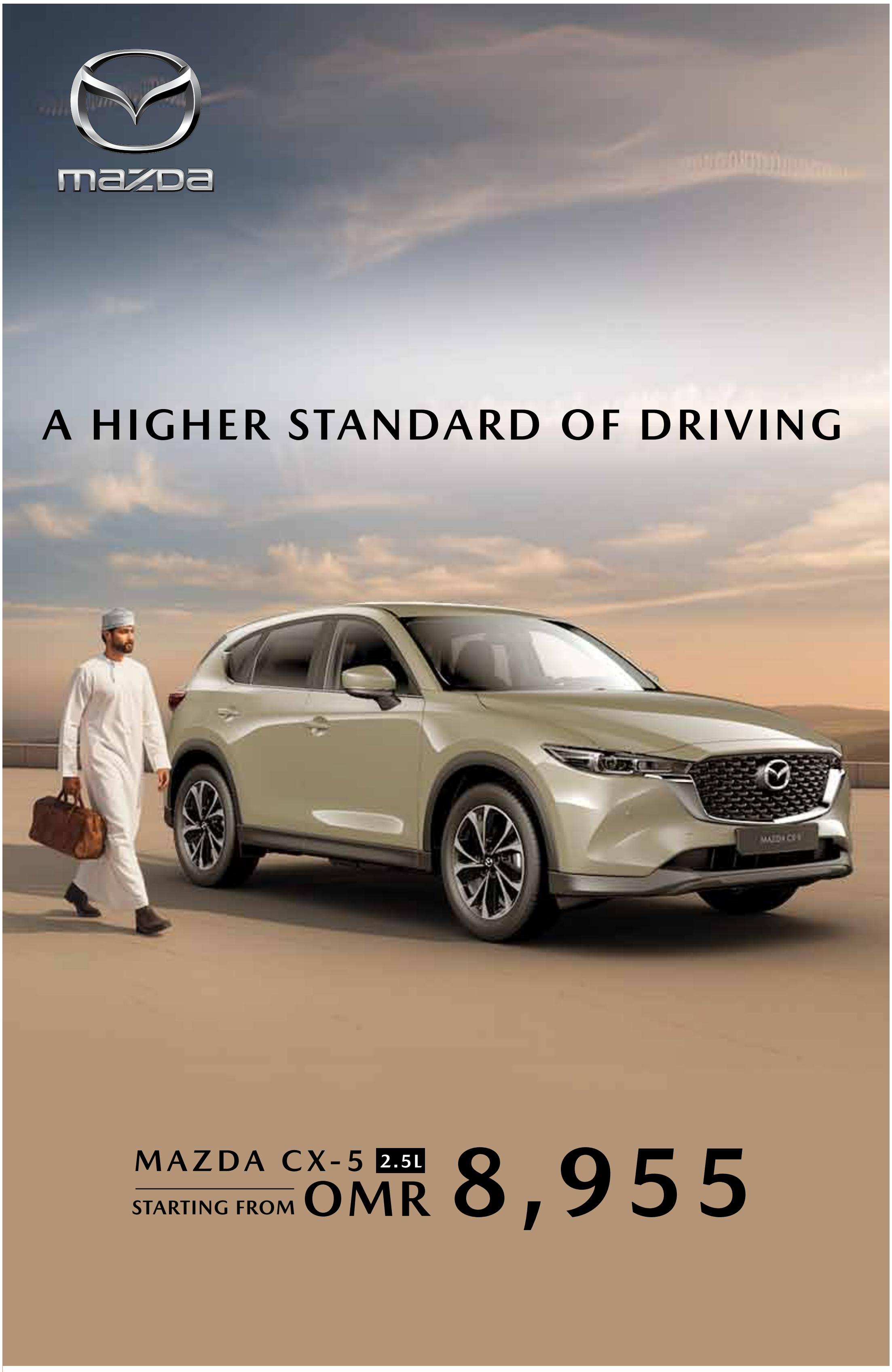

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