

Times

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Oman, UK to enhance strategic partnership



1

Oman and the United Kingdom (UK) discussed the course of the bilateral friendship and cooperation between them and ways to enhance the strategic partnership in various political, economic, and investment fields. This included following up on the outcomes of the Strategic Dialogue Team and the Joint Working Group. >A5

WORLD

39 people killed in Spain train crash

2

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has vowed to provide answers following the deadly train accident that killed at least 39 people. "It is true that society is asking itself what has happened and how," Sanchez said. >B4

MARKET

MSX signs pact to expand access

3

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) has signed a series of agreements with Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) and the Astana International Exchange (AIX) in collaboration with the Tabadul Hub. >B1

NATURAL DISASTERS NOW COVERED UNDER MOTOR INSURANCE POLICIES



The amended policy also includes the introduction of a compensation clause for delays in repairing insured vehicles beyond the specified time limits

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Material damages to insured vehicles resulting from natural disasters and adverse weather conditions will now be automatically covered under all motor vehicle insurance policies

— including compulsory third-party insurance — following new amendments approved by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The updated Unified Motor Vehicle Insurance Policy introduces a package of benefits aimed at ex-

cedures designed to ensure faster and more efficient processing.

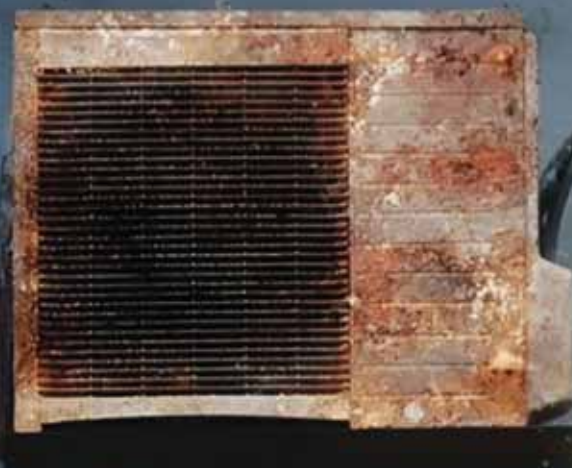
The Authority said it has worked in coordination with insurance and reinsurance companies to regulate the cost of the new natural disaster coverage in line with the expected level of risk.

The amended policy also includes the introduction of a compensation clause for delays in repairing insured vehicles beyond the specified time limits, in accordance with controls to be issued later by the Authority.

In another major enhancement, policyholders will be given the option to receive cash compensation equivalent to the value of damages caused by an accident, instead of having the insurance company carry out the repairs.

The list of consumable spare parts that must be replaced with new ones — without any depreciation deduction — has also been expanded, bringing the total number of such parts to 37. >A2







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Omani theatre actively enthral visitors at Muscat Nights 2026

These performances provide an ideal space for Omani theater practitioners to exchange expertise, appropriately activate the performing arts, and highlight vibrant youth talent



MUSCAT: The active presence of theatrical performances within the “Muscat Nights 2026” festivities represents one of the most significant entertainment and cultural pillars offered to the public. These performances provide an ideal space for Omani theatre practitioners to exchange expertise, appropriately activate the performing arts, and highlight vibrant youth talent, reflecting the cultural and artistic movement currently witnessed in the Sultanate of Oman. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth has bolstered the role of Omani theatre troupes as creative platforms that contribute to spreading cultural awareness and

serve as an entertainment element that enhances interaction between the public and artists across various creative spectrums. Sarah Mohammed Al Ajmi, Head of the Performing Arts Department at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, stated that Omani theatre is one of the most prominent features of the cultural scene in the Sultanate of Oman. She noted that its presence in this year’s “Muscat Nights 2026” serves as an artistic space expressing cultural identity and keeping pace with the local creative movement. She added that the inclusion of theatrical performances in the event’s general program reaffirms the role of theatre in enhancing cultural awareness and making performing arts accessible to vari-



ous segments of society. She further clarified that the presence of Omani theatre is part of a purposeful cultural vision to highlight national creative ener-



gies, serving as an interactive platform that combines entertainment with knowledge. Regarding the selection of participating shows and troupes, Al Ajmi explained that the process was based on specific technical and organisational criteria. These included the quality of the script and performance, the suitability of the shows for the audience, and their ability to provide a rich theatrical experience consistent with the atmosphere of “Muscat Nights 2026,” while ensuring the representation of various Omani theatrical experiences. She detailed that the performances varied between children’s theater, comedy, and shows by troupes for people with disabilities, which included two performances: one by the “Creativity

through Disability” theatre and another by the Oman Deaf Theatre troupe. On another note, Jassim Mubarak Al Battashi, Head of the Muscat Folk Theatre Troupe, pointed out that theatre is a competitor to other forms of recreation and cannot be separated from entertainment tools. He described it as one of the most important cultural and artistic entertainment instruments, noting that many countries worldwide rely on theatre to deliver social messages with added value to their people. Al Battashi emphasised that Omani theatre troupes must demonstrate a continuous desire for work to move forward. He noted that Omani theatre needs more presence and sustain-

ability, stressing the need for continuous production throughout the year rather than limiting its role to domestic and international competitions. He added that many countries rely on theatre as a significant source of national income and a means to promote national identity by utilising it as a primary tourism tool. In a related context, Yousef Mohammed Al Balushi, Head of the Mazoon Folk Theatre Troupe, stated that the participation of Omani theatre in general, and folk troupes in particular, in national events is a vital opportunity and a major cultural-artistic milestone in the Sultanate of Oman. He expressed his hope for the continued and expanded participation of theatre in such events to further develop youth artistic creativity. Regarding his experience at “Muscat Nights 2026,” Al Balushi explained that it is a unique experience due to the direct communication between the stage and the audience. He highlighted the availability of all necessary requirements, including lighting, acoustics, and a fully integrated stage, which allows for a better understanding of the diverse audience and the ability to improvise when facing sudden challenges, such as weather conditions or technical obstacles. Concluding his remarks, he touched upon the positive audience interaction with the comedy play presented by his troupe, describing it as a comedic presentation carrying ideas that resonate with the audience. -ONA

MEDICAL CITY

Conference on innovation, tech in health sector held

MUSCAT: The Medical City for Military and Security Services on Monday organised an international conference on the use of technology and innovation in the health sector, known as “ICTIH 2026”. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Dr. Sultan bin Ya’rub Al Busaidi, Adviser at the Private Office, and attended by ministers, senior government officials, military commanders, senior officers and specialists.



Latest global innovations The conference, held in Muscat Governorate, offered an opportunity to review the latest global innovations in the health sector’s digital transition, artificial intelligence (AI), smart systems, operational efficiency, human resource development and the extent to which these elements could together contribute to achieving higher quality, sustainability and the establishment of a more pa-

tient-oriented healthcare system. The conference focuses on how partnerships between the public and private sectors, academic institutions and global companies could help develop health services, support innovation and transfer knowledge in line with “Oman Vision 2040”, notably the vision’s goal of building a knowledge economy and building an advanced health sector. The conference included dia-

logue sessions, panel discussions, specialized workshops and an exhibition showcasing modern health technologies and the latest digital and operational solutions that reshape the future of hospitals and healthcare around the world. The event saw the participation of health leaders, decision-makers, international experts, global technology companies, researchers and academics from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad. -ONA

FSA

Enhancing efficiency of motor insurance

< FROM A1 Insurance companies have been granted a 30-day period from the date of publication of the decision to implement the new amendments, allowing sufficient time to complete technical and operational requirements and ensure smooth execution. Commenting on the development, Abdullah Salim Al Salmi, Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Services Authority, said the amendments are part of the Authority’s continuous review of the legislative and regulatory framework governing the insurance sector. He added that the move reflects the FSA’s commitment to enhancing the efficiency of the motor insurance market and ensuring the delivery of high-quality insurance services that meet public needs and align with current market requirements.

AL BURAIMI

Workshop on investment opportunities organised



AL BURAIMI: Al Buraimi Governorate is organising a two-day interactive workshop on a project to study the economic situation in the Governorate and explore investment opportunities. The workshop, which focuses on ways to consolidate planning and support sustainable economic growth, is being attended by employees of government departments in the Governorate. The workshop elaborates on vital sectors, including agriculture,

industry, mining, tourism, trade and logistics, as well as ways to maximise benefits from economic resources available in the governorate’s wilayats. **Sustainable development** The workshop is part of an initiative to promote planning based on economic studies and support sustainable development efforts in a manner that furnishes an attractive investment environment in Al Buraimi Governorate. -ONA

ARTISTIC MURALS

Graffiti: A youthful artistic space in Muscat Nights 2026

MUSCAT: Under the enchanting lights of Muscat Nights, colours blended to adorn walls with artistic murals brimming with youthful creativity, giving graffiti art a notable presence in the social sphere. This art form, which began as a means of individual expression, has evolved to carry a contemporary visual language reflecting the views of youth and opening a space for dialogue between the artist and society. Providing graffiti artists the opportunity to participate in Muscat Nights was one of the main objectives for spreading artistic and cultural awareness, driven by a genuine desire to express identity and belonging, and to build dreams in a creative style that transcends traditional boundaries. Graffiti art is characterised by its rapid interaction between place and event and its ability to reach the audience directly without barriers. Therefore, it is considered one of the art forms closest to youth. Its participation in these open national celebrations supports the hosting of contemporary arts, adds



artistic beauty to public spaces, and enhances visual taste. Hood Ismail Al Balushi, a graffiti artist, defined this art, saying: “It is free art that exists outside the formal framework. Through it, you can express yourself without restrictions and assert your identity in society. It is also a plastic art used for self-expression.” Regarding his participation in Muscat Nights, Al Balushi explains his choice of ideas presented

through graffiti art to suit the current context: “Take my participation as a graffiti artist in Muscat Nights as an example. The idea forms around the occasion and what the public event offers, so it becomes expressive of it, or it expresses Omani meanings such as heritage and what we, as Omanis, take pride in.” He added that a graffiti artist can use this art to express issues clearly and openly, or in the form of



hidden artistic messages through which they express their own or their community’s opinion, indicating that he considers graffiti art a voice for the voiceless. **Redefine this art** For his part, Mu’adh Suhail Al Magaizawi, a graffiti artist, said: “My participation in Muscat Nights is a valuable opportunity to redefine this art within Omani society, to shape an expressive image of it in the cultural and artistic

sphere, and to actively affirm the ability and creativity of Omani youth.” He added that this experience differs in terms of the number of participating artists, the organisation of the space, the size of the murals, and the significant interaction from visitors and the audience, although it sometimes causes a break in the flow of one’s ideas while painting, especially due to children. “However, every experience is

beautiful in itself and contributes to generating new creative ideas due to the diversity and difference in spaces,” he said. Yousef Hilal Al Ghamlasi, a graffiti artist, affirmed that Muscat Nights contributed to highlighting existing and investable Omani talents and gave them a space to appear before the public, helping to transform these artistic energies into a clear creative value within the event. He said that integrating graffiti art with cultural activities in Muscat Nights helped introduce the local audience and visitors from various countries to the existence of Omani artists with strong talent and showcased Omani identity in a contemporary style, making visual art a tourist attraction across broader spaces than traditional paintings. He added that collective work contributed to completing the artistic concept, elevating the aesthetic strength of the works, and enhancing the spirit of cooperation among artists, making the experience more cohesive and visually rich. -ONA



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First specialised research paper on astro-tourism published in Oman

The study confirms that astro-tourism encompasses the development of recreational and educational activities related to the universe and celestial phenomena



MUSCAT: Omani Astronomical Society has announced the publication of its second research paper, which stands as the first comprehensive study of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman to address the astro-tourism sector, focusing on its current reality and future development prospects.

The research paper, titled “Astronomical Tourism in the Sultanate of Oman,” was published in the International Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Management, issued by the Science Publishing Group.

The study was prepared by lead researcher Dr. Isshaq Yahya Al Shuaili and Ali Amer Al Sheibani from the Omani Astronomical Society’s Research Department. The study focuses on the natural, geographical, and cultural potential possessed by Oman to develop astro-tourism as a sustainable, knowledge-based tourism model.

The study confirms that astro-

tourism encompasses the development of recreational and educational activities related to the universe and celestial phenomena.

It further contributes to disseminating scientific knowledge, developing human capital, and supporting economic development in remote areas. The paper examines the current status of astro-tourism in Oman, emphasising that this sector represents a promising development opportunity, particularly in remote regions such as

vast deserts to high mountain plateaus, providing ideal conditions for stargazing.

Dr. Isshaq Yahya Al Shuaili, Chairman of the Omani Astronomical Society, said: “This study is a first step toward placing the Sultanate of Oman on the global astro-tourism map. It highlights the unique geographical and cultural advantages that Oman possesses, such as maritime and agricultural heritage linked to astronomy, alongside the potential to establish world-class astronomical observatories in governorates such as Al Wusta and Dhofar.”

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), he added: “Astro-tourism contributes to bolstering the local economy by creating job opportunities for Omani youth, supporting sustainable development in rural areas, and disseminating scientific knowledge, while emphasizing the importance of protecting the nighttime environment from light pollution.”

The study also shed light on Oman’s rich astronomical heritage, including celestial navigation practices among Omani sailors, the use of stars as agricultural calendars in the Aflaj system, oral star maps within desert communities,

and the integration of astronomy into traditional architecture such as castles and forts.

Additionally, the study compared the Sultanate of Oman with several successful international models in astro-tourism, such as the Coquimbo region in Chile. It proposed expanding Dark Sky Reserves and establishing Radio Quiet Zones (RQZs), thereby enhancing the Sultanate of Oman’s scientific and tourism value on an international level.

The paper noted significant events such as the AMADEE-18 Mars mission simulation in the Marmul desert in Dhofar Governorate, which highlighted Oman’s unique geological characteristics, as well as the annular solar eclipse in December 2020, which attracted over 300 observers from 12 countries to the Ras Al Ruwais area (the eclipse path).

These achievements come within the framework of efforts by the Omani Astronomical Society, established in 2008, to promote scientific research, disseminate astronomical and space sciences, and highlight national potential in the scientific and tourism sectors, in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. - ONA

NATURAL HABITAT

Eastern Imperial Eagle seen in Al Buraimi Oasis Reserve



AL BURAIMI: Specialists at the Environment Authority’s Biodiversity Department, Governorate of Al Buraimi, recently sighted and documented the presence of the Eastern Imperial Eagle in Al Buraimi Oasis Nature Reserve.

The bird of prey was spotted roaming the nature reserve’s towering mountains—evidence that the sanctuary serves as an important natural habitat for such birds of prey.

The Eastern Imperial Eagle is a migratory bird of prey that visits the region during winter, hailing from its breeding grounds in northern Asia and eastern Europe.

The Eastern Imperial Eagle is distinguished for its large size, powerful talons and sharp eyesight that helps it spot its prey from long distances. This eagle feeds mainly on small mammals and birds.

The sighting of the Eastern Imperial Eagle stems from efforts made by specialists to document biodiversity—including wild species, birds of prey and migratory birds.

Such efforts enhance the environmental database and support plans for the protection and conservation of wildlife in the governorate.

Engineer Salem bin Saeed Al Maskari, Director of the Environ-



ment Department in Al Buraimi Governorate, said that the sighting of the Eastern Imperial Eagle in the Al Buraimi Oasis Reserve confirms the environmental significance of the reserve and its vital role as a safe habitat for birds of prey and migratory birds.

He explained that such sightings reflect the success of specialists’ efforts in monitoring and tracking biodiversity, as well as the Environment Authority’s commitment to protecting wildlife and enhancing its sustainability. - ONA

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The work environment in the Sultanate of Oman

Balancing legal protection and employment needs in changing economy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is undergoing a pivotal phase in its development trajectory, where economic reforms intersect with profound social transformations, driven by a national commitment to building a diversified and sustainable economy with human capital at its core.

Within this context, the work environment has emerged as one of the most critical arenas of change, given its direct impact on social stability, productivity, investment attractiveness, and overall quality of life.

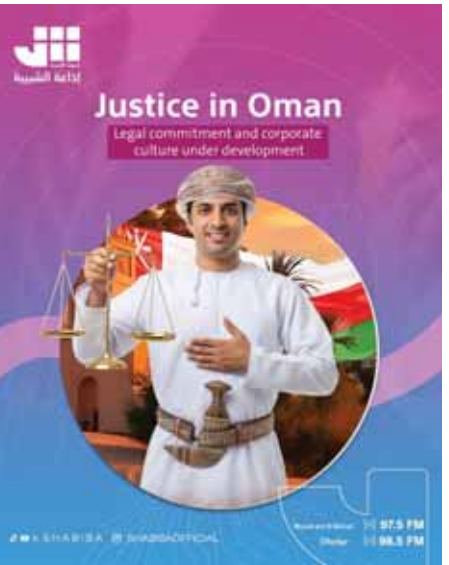
Official data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information and the Ministry of Labour indicate that Oman's labour market encompasses hundreds of thousands of workers across the public and private sectors, with continued growth in the private sector and an expansion of flexible and temporary employment models. Indicators also show that youth represent the largest proportion of new entrants into the labour market, amid intensifying competition for jobs and widening disparities in wages, social protection, and job security.

Against this backdrop, the issuance of Oman's new Labour Law marks a significant legislative milestone, aimed at modernizing the legal framework governing labour relations, strengthening principles of justice and equality, and striking a delicate balance between safeguarding workers' rights and enabling institutions to maintain the flexibility required to respond to local and global economic shifts. However, the effectiveness of any legislation is measured not by its provisions alone, but by its capacity to translate into practice, entrench a culture of compliance, and generate tangible improvements in the lives of workers.

The Work Environment in Oman

Oman Vision 2040 places human capital at the forefront of national development priorities and treats the labour market as both an economic and social driver. From this perspective, regulating labour relations is no longer a purely administrative or legal matter, but rather a central component of a renewed social contract based on justice, equal opportunity, and sustainability.

The new Labour Law reflects this orientation by redefining several traditional concepts related



to employment, wages, working hours, contracts, and social protection, in line with international standards and the demands of a rapidly evolving labour market.

Job Equity and Non-Discrimination

The Omani legislator has accorded particular importance to the principle of non-discrimination, with the law explicitly prohibiting discrimination in recruitment, remuneration, or working conditions on the basis of gender, origin, religion, social background, or opinion. This represents a progressive step within a regional and global context where many labour markets continue to face structural inequities in job fairness.

Nevertheless, the primary challenge lies in translating these principles into daily practice, particularly in labour-intensive sectors or those relying on flexible employment models. Observable gaps persist in wages, promotion opportunities, and levels of protection between workers performing the same tasks, underscoring the need to strengthen oversight mechanisms, enhance grievance and complaint systems, and foster an institutional culture that transforms equality from a legal provision into a lived reality.

Fixed-Term Contracts

The Labour Law permits the use of fixed-term contracts even for



roles of a permanent nature, granting employers greater operational flexibility. While economically justifiable in certain contexts, this option raises fundamental questions regarding job stability and employment security, particularly when used as a means to reduce long-term obligations.

In practice, the absence of strict limits on the number of renewals for fixed-term contracts may give rise to a pattern of "precarious jobs" lacking adequate benefits and protection, with adverse effects on productivity and institutional loyalty. Nonetheless, the law preserves the worker's right—whether under a permanent or temporary contract—to seek legal redress in cases of unfair dismissal, thereby reinforcing the principle of contractual justice.

mains one of the most sensitive issues in Oman's labour market. Pronounced disparities persist across sectors, between national and expatriate workers, and between large and small enterprises.

The challenge extends beyond wage levels to encompass wage quality, regularity of payment, linkage to incentives, and legal guarantees. While the Wage Protection System represents an important tool for enhancing transparency, it requires broader coverage and more robust enforcement mechanisms to achieve its intended impact.

Training and Qualification

The Sultanate is actively working to align education and training outcomes with labour market needs through national qualification programmes, accredited professional standards, and the establishment of a Human Resources Development Fund. These initiatives have contributed to the issuance of thousands of professional certifications and improved the readiness of the national workforce.

However, the gap between labour supply and demand persists, highlighting the need to strengthen partnerships between educational institutions and the private sector, link training more directly to employment opportunities, and prioritize support for vulnerable groups.

Working Hours and Overtime

The Labour Law regulates working hours and sets clear limits on overtime, with mandatory compensation. Yet, practical application reveals violations in certain sectors, particularly those dependent on informal labour or flexible contracts. Failure to adhere to regulated working hours adversely affects workers' physical and mental well-being and undermines job satisfaction, underscoring the importance of reinforcing labour inspections and adopting accurate digital systems for time and attendance management.

Strategic Conclusion

Oman's work environment today stands at a critical transitional juncture, where ambitious legislation converges with practical challenges. Success in this phase cannot be measured solely by employment rates, but by the extent to which decent work is entrenched as a fundamental right and a genuine driver of development.

Within the framework of Oman Vision 2040, the central challenge lies in transforming law into culture, protection into empowerment, and employment into a balanced partnership between worker and employer. Only then can Oman's labour market emerge as a regional model that harmonizes justice, efficiency, and sustainability.

VALUES OF PATIENCE

Oman celebrates Al Isra'a Wal Miraj Anniversary 1447

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, celebrated the Al Isra'a Wal Miraj Anniversary.

The ceremony draws inspiration from the event's faith-based, spiritual, and educational dimensions and the profound implications it holds for entrenching faith, reinforcing values of patience and steadfastness.

The ceremony was held on Monday at the theatre of the Ministry of Information under the patronage of Sheikh Ahmed Saud Al Siyabi, Secretary General of the Office of the Sultanate of Oman's Grand Mufti.

It featured a film titled "The Journey of Light and the Ascension of the Message."

The film presented a contemporary narrative style with artistic and visual treatment, embodying the event's grandeur and its stature in the Prophetic biography, and highlighted the timeless faith-based meanings and human values it encompasses, whose effects are reflected in the reality of the nation.



the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, falls within the framework of its commitment to commemorating religious occasions in an institutional manner that combines authenticity and renewal, contributing to the enhancement of religious awareness, the consolidation of faith-based values, and connecting generations with the biography of Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) and the timeless lessons it carries, valid for all times and places. -OMA

The ceremony, organised by

SULTANATE OF OMAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH, Muscat, hereby give notice of tenders for the following projects:

TENDR. No.	Project Category	Tender	Last day to purchase tender documents	Last date of tender submission
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Companies, which are registered with the Project, Tender and Local Content Authority and engaged in same category with experience in and same Grade as noted above, can obtain the Tender Documents at the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority E-tendering digital portal link (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) The last date of tender submission on above E-tendering site

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

Any participants have doubt in adopting e-tendering can contact over the phone 24402200 or through email etenderhd@ita.gov.om

BILATERAL FRIENDSHIP

Oman, UK discuss ways to boost strategic relations in various fields

LONDON: The Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom (UK) discussed the course of the bilateral friendship and cooperation relations between them and ways to enhance the strategic partnership in various political, economic, developmental, and investment fields.

This included following up on the outcomes of the Strategic Dialogue Team and the Joint Working Group, and accomplishing the programs and work tracks previously agreed upon by both sides, in a bid to serve common interests and broaden the prospects of bilateral cooperation.

This came during a meeting held in London on Monday between Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Yvette Cooper, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom (UK).

On the level of regional issues, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on a number of develop-



ments of mutual interest, including the situations in Yemen, Sudan, and Iran.

Truce in Yemen

The two ministers affirmed the importance of supporting efforts aimed at solidifying the truce in Yemen and enhancing pathways

for comprehensive political dialogue, which would guarantee Yemen's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

They also discussed developments in the situation in the Gaza Strip and the need to redouble humanitarian efforts to alleviate the suffering faced by the popu-

lation in the Strip, in addition to intensifying international efforts to reach a permanent ceasefire, supporting reconstruction endeavors, and reviving the peace process in accordance with the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Regarding the Iranian nuclear file, the two ministers affirmed the importance of creating conditions conducive to reviving the diplomatic track and resuming negotiations in a way that contributes to reducing regional tensions, enhances security and stability in the region, and spares it the risks of escalation and conflicts.

As for Sudan, the two ministers addressed the tragic humanitarian situation and the necessity of exerting efforts to reach a cessation of hostilities and establish a truce that would allow UN relief agencies to perform their humanitarian tasks and pave the way for achieving political consensus among the conflicting parties. -ONA

DIMDEX 2026

Oman participates in Doha maritime defence exhibition



EXHIBITION: The Vice Admiral and the military delegation toured the various pavilions in Doha. -ONA

DOHA: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), and his accompanying military delegation participated in the activities of the 9th Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX 2026), held in Doha, the State of Qatar.

The Vice Admiral and the military delegation toured the various pavilions and sections of the exhibition, which featured broad international participation.

During the visit, they were briefed on the latest advancements in maritime defence and security technology. -ONA

MUSCAT NIGHTS

3x3 basketball tournament announced

MUSCAT: Oman Basketball Association (OBA) announced the details of the Muscat Nights International 3x3 Basketball Tournament, which will be held on 23 and 24 January 2026, in Muscat Governorate. The announcement was made during a press conference held today at the headquarters of the Oman Olympic Committee and Sports Associations.

Eng. Khalfan Saleh Al Naabi, Chairman of Oman Basketball Association, emphasised that organising the Muscat Nights International 3x3 Basketball Tournament is an initiative by Muscat Municipality to host an international championship in cooperation with the Association. He noted that Al Araiimi Boulevard was selected as the venue because it is a vital location with a high turnout of citizens and residents, in addition to its role in promoting tourism in the Sultanate of Oman.

He explained that the tournament represents the beginning of future cooperation with Muscat Municipality, whether in hosting upcoming international championships or organising local tournaments in high-density areas across Muscat Governorate, thereby contributing to the popularisation of the game and enhancing its community presence.

The OBA Chairman noted that the international tournament will run from 23 to 24 January, preceded by a local tournament on 22 January featuring teams from within the Sultanate of Oman. This aims to expand the base of community participation and promote basketball. -ONA

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Note: Respective tenders shall clearly mention the: name of service quoted by the bidding party".

The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Online Auction to Sell Used ROP Vehicles

The Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public online auction through the ROP Auctions Platform to sell used ROP vehicles via the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om), starting from Sunday, 25 January 2026 for one day.

The vehicles displayed for sale may be inspected during the period from 20 to 22 January 2026 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Vehicle Detention Yard at the Directorate General of Transport at the Airport Heights.

Bidders must abide by the following terms and conditions:

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

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
33/2026	Supply and installation of surveillance cameras at the Child Care Center in Al-Khoud	Companies specialized in the field of supplying alarm, security and safety equipment and devices and registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority with the excellent, first, second, third or fourth class	Sunday 08-02-2026 02:00 PM	Sunday 01-03-2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Tuesday 20/01/2026

❖ 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

Dolphin Radiators & Cooling Systems LLC
P.O. Box 646, Postal Code 117, Wadi Kabir, Sultanate of Oman
Phone: +968 24811919, Fax: +968 24811202
CR:1460650; Web: www.dolcool.om

TENDER NOTICE

SI No.	Name of Tender	Tender No.	Tender Documents sale Dates	Last Date of Tender clarification	Last Date of Tender submission	Tender Fee
1	Construction of complete facility as per approved scope of work, Wadi Kabir factory - Phase 1. BUA 1600 SQM	DRCS-FC-101	22-01-2026 (Time: 10AM to 6PM) to	05-02-2026	12-02-2026	50.000 OMR
2	Construction of office building as per approved scope of work, Wadi Kabir -Phase 2. BUA 1400 SQM	DRCS-FC-102	29-01-2026 (Time: 10AM to 6PM)			

Note: “Excellent & grade A” tender board registered companies are invited to participate.

- Tender documents to be collected from the DRCS Office, Wadi Kabir.
- All enquiries or requests for clarification regarding the tender should be directed to alsaqf.om@gmail.com & tenders@dolcool.om
- Completed soft copy (USB) must be submitted in sealed envelopes Technical Bid separate and Financial Bid separate clearly marked: Tender for “Tender Name, Tender No.”
- All sealed tenders, accompanied by the necessary documentation (soft copy), must be submitted at the reception counter of the DRCS Office, Wadi Kabir.

Dolphin Radiators and Cooling Systems LLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

WORKSHOP

Economy Ministry organises workshop on advantages of Greater Arab Free Trade Area

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy is organising a two-day workshop on the benefits offered under the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) agreement.

The workshop, which kicked off in Muscat yesterday, aims to address the challenges posed to Omani companies in their bid to



garner the benefits of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area agreement. It also seeks to build the capacities of these companies to help them meet the agreement's requirements and deal with the challenges.

The workshop includes visual presentations featuring the ad-

vantages of Arab trade agreements, customs exemptions, rules of origin and customs procedures within the GAFTA. The workshop is attended by experts from the Secretariat-General of the Arab League and specialists from the Sultanate of Oman's public and private sectors. -ONA



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AI, mobile apps, real-time payments: The future of financial solutions

Comviva CEO

highlighted how innovation is leading growth in MENA region

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In 2026, handling money will feel less like visiting a bank and more like using a digital utility that runs silently in the background of everyday life.

Artificial intelligence (AI), embedded finance and real-time payments are rapidly converging into a new operating system for money — one that is set to disrupt long-standing profit models and legacy banking structures.

This shift was highlighted by Rajesh Chandiramani, CEO of Comviva, a global leader in mobility and digital financial solutions, during his visit to Oman on Monday.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Chandiramani said the future of digital payments will continue to evolve, with gamification, proac-



FINTech EXPERT: Rajesh Chandiramani, CEO of Comviva, a global leader in mobility and digital financial solutions.

tive risk management and stronger cybersecurity playing a vital role.

“Gamification helps keep customers engaged on platforms. At the same time, technology today allows us to proactively identify risks, prevent money laundering and strengthen compliance,” he said.

He warned of growing cyber threats in an increasingly connected world. “Hackers today can operate from anywhere globally. There are malicious apps that can sit on your phone without your knowledge and read transactions. This

makes robust digital identification tools more critical than ever.”

Chandiramani also said Comviva's presence in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been built on long-term partnerships and deep local market understanding.

“Comviva's contribution to the MENA region has been rooted in long-term partnerships and a deep understanding of local market dynamics. We have worked closely with telecom operators and financial institutions to build scal-

EXCLUSIVE

able AI, analytics and cloud-native platforms,” he said.

He explained that the company's DigiTech, RevTech, MarTech and FinTech offerings enable financial inclusion, digital commerce and next-generation customer experiences at scale.

“From powering mobile financial services and digital payments to enabling intelligent marketing and monetisation platforms, our solutions have helped organisations unlock new revenue streams and improve service accessibility,” Chandiramani added.

He noted that Comviva's continued investment in innovation and ecosystem collaboration ensures that digital transformation across the region remains sustainable and inclusive.

“Our Agentic AI platforms going forward are expected to be a key driver of growth.”

According to Chandiramani, the MENA fintech ecosystem is witnessing rapid growth, fuelled by a young digital-first population, supportive regulatory frameworks and strong national visions focused on financial inclusion and digital economies.

“As demand grows for secure, seamless and mobile-first finan-

cial experiences, both fintech companies and established institutions are innovating across payments, remittances, lending and savings,” he said.

He added that Comviva plays a critical role as a technology enabler for banks, payment service providers and mobile money operators.

With more than 80 deployments across 55+ countries, Comviva today serves over 500 million customers globally. “Our digital payments platform powers over US dollar 1 billion worth of transactions every single day,” he said.

Chandiramani also spoke about Comviva's partnership with Global Money Exchange (GME) to launch the Global Pay Oman mobile application.

“The launch of Global Pay Oman represents a major milestone in Oman's fintech ecosystem,” he said. “This collaboration demonstrates how strategic partnerships can accelerate digital payments adoption, simplify cross-border remittances and strengthen financial inclusion.”

He said the application enables users to make fast, secure payments and manage foreign exchange services directly from their mobile devices, supporting Oman's vision of a digital-first economy.

“We view this not merely as a product launch, but as a catalyst

for wider digital adoption across sectors.”

Highlighting Comviva's technology roadmap, Chandiramani said the company follows an AI-first approach, embedding intelligence at the core of its digital platforms. “By combining advanced analytics and generative AI with deep domain expertise, we help partners improve efficiency, unlock new revenue and deliver secure, personalised digital experiences at scale,” he said.

He described the Oman visit as a landmark moment for both companies. “This is one of the most important days for Comviva and GME in Oman — launching a mobile application that enables digital inclusion for Omanis and expatriates, while delivering AI-first technology for the benefit of consumers.”

Tracing the company's journey, Chandiramani said Comviva began as an India-based platform company before expanding into Africa, where it helped digitally include nearly 400 million people. “From Africa, we expanded into North Africa and the Middle East, and now we are moving into Europe and the Americas,” he said.

Currently, Comviva processes nearly \$400 billion in transactions annually, averaging \$1 billion per day worldwide.

FRATERNAL TIES

Oman participates in 36th Islamic meeting in Egypt

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, participated in the 36th International Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Omani delegation was led by Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

In his address to the conference, the Minister emphasised the depth of fraternal ties between the two nations and commended Egypt's consistent commitment to hosting discussions on Islamic issues and fostering joint Islamic action.

He noted that the conference is being held at a critical juncture in human history, marked by accelerating technological transformations, evolving labor patterns, and the intertwining of ethical questions with the requirements of development and progress.

He stated that the choice of the conference theme reflects a deep awareness of the challenges facing contemporary societies, particularly regarding the ethics and future of professions amidst the growing reliance on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

He pointed out that the digital revolution has led to rapid shifts in the concepts of work and production, impacting the tools, values, standards, and overall effect of professions on individuals and society.

He explained that the core challenge lies in preserving the essence of professions and safeguarding the status of the human being within new work systems. This ensures that technology remains a means of progress rather than a factor that threatens social balance, weakens justice, or hollows out the spirit and value of work.

The Minister noted that the Islamic perspective views work as a “trust and responsibility” (Amanah) before it is seen as a job or a means of production. He stressed that this vision has never been confined to its time but possesses the flexibility to provide inspiration across different eras, especial-



ly in an age of rapid transitions in tools and contexts.

He remarked that civilisation is not measured by the power of means alone, but by the integrity of practice—the ethics of the physician, the honesty of the businessperson, the integrity of the judge, the precision of the craftsman, and the responsibility of everyone performing their duties.

He noted that current technological shifts, led by AI, necessitate a re-evaluation of work tools and pose a deeper question regarding who will lead the course of labour in the future.

He further stated that the real danger does not lie in the development of technology itself, but in the decline of the human ethical role and the transformation of a profession from a mission and a responsibility into a mere soulless function.

He emphasised that true progress is measured not only by technical speed but by the ability of societies to govern this progress with values that enhance, rather than diminish, the human presence.

He stressed the need for a balanced discourse that combines keeping pace with development with a commitment to values, reinforcing the principle that AI—regardless of its capabilities—

remains a tool, while moral responsibility remains an irretrievable human duty.

He called upon religious and scientific institutions to contribute actively to this global discussion by providing responsible visions that bolster professional ethics, keep pace with contemporary transformations, and contribute to formulating labor policies that preserve human dignity and achieve social balance.

He highlighted the experience of the Sultanate of Oman in this field, specifically in instilling values within the workplace. He described this as a key pillar for sustainable development, building trust, and achieving a balance between technical progress and the human dimension.

The Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs concluded by stating that this conference, with its scientific themes and international experiences, represents a genuine opportunity to launch an enduring intellectual and ethical path. He noted that its impact will be reflected in technical societies, educational curricula, and labor policies to serve future generations, adding that a profession is not only what we do with our hands, but the impact we leave on the lives of others. -ONA

OMANI GRAPHIC DESIGN

‘Alamat’ exhibition opens at Al Mirani and Muttrah forts



MUSCAT: The “Alamat” (Signs) exhibition opened yesterday at Al Mirani and Muttrah Forts and will run until 28 January 2026.

The event celebrates young Omani graphic design talent and serves as the culmination of the “Alamat Lab” for graphic design. The opening was held under the auspices of Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ).

The exhibition is the result of a two-week intensive training program that brought together an elite group of Omani and Arab artists and experts.

They conducted specialised workshops for 40 male and female designers, covering fields such as typography, poster design, and talent management within the labor market, aimed at refining skills and enhancing professional practices among young designers.

The exhibition features a collection of posters designed by participants during the lab workshops, along with other artworks. These pieces reflect diverse visual experiences inspired by local cultural transformations, invoking dimensions of historical heritage within a contemporary framework.

This initiative, which blends specialised training with artistic



display, contributes to building human resource capacity in alignment with efforts to establish and solidify creative industries in the Sultanate of Oman.

Accompanying the exhibition is a series of live activities and lectures open to the public, aimed at enhancing community interaction with graphic design and typography as tools for cultural and social expression.

The Chairman of OPAZ emphasised that the displayed works reflect an advanced level of artistic awareness and an ability to express ideas through innovative

methods.

He noted that initiatives merging intensive training with artistic exhibition contribute to preparing specialised national cadres and enhance the role of creative industries in supporting the national economy.

He added that design and visual arts are fundamental pillars in building brands and tourism destinations, areas receiving growing attention in the Sultanate of Oman through an integrated system of national programs and initiatives that support innovation. -ONA

EU to hold emergency summit over Donald Trump’s Greenland threats

The summit will assess possible retaliatory measures in response to threatened tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on countries that oppose his plan to “acquire” Greenland



BRUSSELS: Leaders of EU countries will hold an emergency summit here on Thursday to discuss US threats related to Greenland, European Commission spokesperson Olof Gill said on Monday.

The summit will assess possible retaliatory measures in response to threatened tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on countries that oppose his plan to “acquire” Greenland.

Gill said the EU continues to engage “at all levels” with Washington over its new tariff threats and is taking “every possible step” to protect the bloc’s economic interests. He added that the use of the anti-coercion instrument is not ruled out.

He stressed that the priority is engagement rather than escalation with the United States. However, “should the threatened tariffs be

imposed, the European Union has tools at its disposal and is prepared to respond,” he added.

EU ‘stands firm’ on sovereignty of Greenland and Denmark

The European Union is committed to upholding the sovereignty of Greenland and Denmark, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

Von der Leyen posted to X after speaking to NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

“We will always protect our strategic economic and security interests,” von der Leyen said. “We will face these challenges to our

European solidarity with steadiness and resolve.” NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte will meet with ministers from Greenland and Denmark at the alliance’s headquarters in Brussels on Monday.

Rutte will hold talks with Greenland’s Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt and Denmark’s Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen over the heightened transatlantic tensions between Europe and the US over Donald Trump’s desire to take over Greenland.

Trump is insisting that the US will acquire the resource-rich Arctic territory “one way or the other,” triggering a growing rift between the US and its allies in Europe.

Greenland, as a territory of Denmark, is part of NATO.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warned this month that a takeover of Greenland by

the US — which is also a NATO member — would spell the end of the alliance. “If the United States decides to attack another NATO country, then everything would stop — that includes NATO and therefore post-World War II security,” Frederiksen said.

Trump tells Norway PM that he feels no ‘obligation to think purely of peace’

US President Donald Trump has told Norway’s Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store that he doesn’t feel the need to “think purely of peace” after he failed to win the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

In a letter to Store that was published on Monday, Trump said, “Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace.”

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which is independent of the Norwegian government, Store highlighted in a statement, saying that had “clearly explained” the issue to Trump.

In the letter, the US leader repeated his aim of seizing control of Greenland, which Trump claims is needed for US national security and to ward off alleged threats from China and Russia. “Denmark cannot protect that land from Russia or China,” Trump said, adding that “the World is not secure unless we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland.”

Officials from Denmark, Greenland and Europe have dismissed Trump’s claims that Chinese and Russian warships pose an imminent threat in the Arctic.

Trump made no secret last year of his ambition to win the Nobel Peace Prize, making widely disputed claims that he had helped end more than eight wars.

Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was instead awarded the prize, although she then presented her prize to Trump.

Why does Trump want Greenland?

Donald Trump has repeatedly stated that the US “needs” Greenland for its “national security,” pointing to his unverified claims that the island is “covered with Chinese and Russian ships all over the place.”

European officials have rejected Trump’s assertions, while trying to remind him that they share Washington’s security concerns and that the US already has an agreement to deploy as many troops to Greenland as it wants.

The second Trump administration is openly pursuing a modern take on the Monroe Doctrine, a 19th-century US foreign policy that viewed the Western hemisphere as being the US sphere of influence.

Trump invoked the doctrine in the recent kidnapping and ouster by US forces of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro.

Greenland, while being part of Denmark, is geographically part of the North American continent. As such, Trump views it as firmly in America’s backyard.

Greenland is also home to a vast and mostly untapped wealth of natural resources, which have only become accessible due to rising temperatures associated with climate change. — DW

HUG, GREETINGS AND RIDE TOGETHER



Indian PM’s warm airport welcome for ‘brother’ Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at the Delhi airport on Monday as the UAE leader arrived in the national capital on an official visit. Upon arrival, the two leaders travelled together in the same car as they departed the airport.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister presented traditional Indian gifts to the visiting dignitaries.

PM Modi gifted the UAE President a Royal Carved Wooden Jhula (swing), a beautifully carved wooden swing from Gujarat that sits at the heart of many Gujarati family homes. It is hand-carved with detailed floral and traditional designs, showcasing skilled craftsmanship.

In Gujarati culture, the jhula symbolises togetherness, conversation and bonding across generations. The gift also resonates with the UAE’s declaration of 2026 as the Year of Family.

PM Modi also gifted the UAE President a Pashmina shawl in an ornate silver box. The Pashmina shawl comes from Kashmir and is made by hand from very fine wool, making it soft, light and warm. Together, they represent India’s rich tradition of handloom and handicraft. The visit comes at a time of heightened tensions in West Asia, including strained Iran-US relations, continued instability in Gaza, and the unre-

solved Yemen conflict involving Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Welcoming the UAE President, Prime Minister Modi shared a post on X, stating, “Went to the airport to welcome my brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. His visit illustrates the importance he attaches to a strong India-UAE friendship. Looking forward to our discussions.”

PM Modi also posted photographs with Sheikh Mohamed, including an image of the two leaders seated inside a car and another showing them in a warm embrace.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the visit is being held at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi and builds on the strong momentum created through recent high-level engagements. These included the visit of Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, in September 2024, and the visit of Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE and Crown Prince of Dubai, in April 2025.

The UAE President’s visit also coincides with major developments in West Asia, with US President Trump preparing to launch Phase 2 of the Gaza Peace Plan, which aims to establish a National Committee for the Administration of Gaza. — ANI

FOR GAZA

What is Trump’s ‘Board of Peace’

WASHINGTON/GAZA: US President Donald Trump last week announced the creation of the Board of Peace for Gaza as the Gaza peace deal reached in October enters its second phase, which focuses on full demilitarisation and reconstruction.

Over the past few days, a number of world leaders have reportedly received invitations to join the Trump-proposed board. However, a charter of the board — reportedly attached to the invitation letters and obtained by multiple media outlets — makes no reference to Gaza. Instead, it outlines a broader vision for the body as a US-controlled organisation aimed to help resolve conflicts and wars worldwide, a role the United Nations has played for decades.

Is the board limited to Gaza?

Trump previously proposed the establishment of the Board of Peace as part of a 20-point peace plan to end the Israel-Hamas conflict in the Gaza Strip. Under the ceasefire deal reached in October, the board is meant to support stability, governance, demilitarisation and reconstruction in Gaza during the plan’s second phase.

The newly released charter makes no mention of Gaza. Instead, it describes the board as “an international organisation that seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict.”

According to The Times of Israel, a mandate of the board was approved by the UN Security Council in November and is limited to Gaza and only until the end of 2027. The newspaper published and verified the full text of the board’s chapter over the weekend.

What role would Trump play?

The charter grants sweeping authority to Trump, who would serve as the inaugural chairman of the Board of Peace and also act as the US representative. Membership would be by invitation of the chairman, who would hold key authority over terms, renewals and removals.

While decisions would be made by a majority vote of member states, all outcomes would require the chairman’s approval. The chairman may cast a tie-breaking vote and has exclusive authority to create, modify or dissolve subsidiary entities, designate a successor, and serve as the final authority regarding the meaning, interpretation and application of the charter.

The Board of Peace will have an official seal, subject to the chairman’s approval.

To carry out the board’s vision, an executive committee has been formed, including US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff, Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, among others, the White House said in a statement.

Each member will oversee a portfolio covering governance, diplomacy and reconstruction, the statement added.

However, Israel on Saturday objected that the committee “was not coordinated with Israel and is contrary to its policy,” without specifying the points of disagreement.



How would membership be structured?

The charter would enter into force upon expression of consent to be bound by three states, according to the published text of the charter.

Member states shall serve terms of no more than three years, though countries contributing more than \$1 billion within the first year of the charter’s entry into force would secure permanent membership.

Each member state would have one vote, but all decisions would still require the chairman’s approval. States may withdraw at any time and can be removed by the chairman unless two-thirds of the members veto the move.

The charter does not clearly specify how the funds would be used. It merely states that financing will come from “voluntary funding.”

Hungary and Vietnam have accepted invitations to join the board, the Associated Press (AP) reported, citing their respective foreign ministries.

Invitations have been addressed to some 60 nations, Reuters reported, citing diplomats.

Global response to the board

Trump’s Board of Peace is taking shape with ambitions to have a far broader mandate of global crises, potentially rivaling the United Nations in what would be a major upheaval to the post-World War II international order, an AP report commented on Saturday.

“It’s a ‘Trump United Nations’ that ignores the fundamentals of the U.N. charter,” Reuters quoted one diplomat as saying. Three other Western diplomats said it appeared likely to undermine the United Nations if it went ahead.

A spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Guterres “believes Member States are free to associate in different groups” in response to a question about the draft US charter for a Board of Peace.

“The United Nations will continue with its mandated work,” deputy UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said the “Board of Peace,” along with a Palestinian technocratic committee announced earlier last week in Cairo by Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye, is part of a US plan to end the conflict.

He said Palestinian internal affairs must remain “in the hands of an independent Palestinian body” and reiterated Hamas’s commitment to preventing renewed fighting and facilitating reconstruction.

“The Board of Peace is emerging within an international framework focused on crisis management rather than addressing core issues such as ending the occupation and guaranteeing Palestinian rights,” Gaza-based political analyst Ahed Ferwana said.

He added that the absence of guarantees for a permanent ceasefire continues to fuel Palestinian mistrust and cast doubt on the council’s ability to gain public confidence.

Questions have also been raised about funding and transparency. Analysts note that the charter offers few details on how funds would be used. A commentary by The Atlantic suggested this lack of clarity could leave interested world leaders wondering where, exactly, their money would go.

Finally, the cost and structure of membership have drawn scrutiny. Media reports noted that, beyond hefty financial contributions for permanent membership, the charter grants the chairman broad discretion over invitations and renewals, reinforcing critics’ concerns over concentrated authority and limited oversight. — DW

SPORTS

Mitchell hails composure after NZ's historic ODI series win

The 34-year-old was named Player-of-the-Series after smashing another century in the third and final ODI against India

INDORE: New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell said that his team's historic one-day international (ODI) series triumph against hosts India was built on calm decision-making under pressure and collective belief.

The Kiwis sealed their first-ever bilateral ODI series victory on Indian soil on Sunday.

India threatened to nail a stiff chase of 338 with a key partnership between centurion Virat Kohli and Harshit Rana but fell short once the stand broke in the series-deciding third game.

Mitchell admitted the pressure was real and praised his team's composure.

“They had a really good partnership and there was a lot of pressure, especially considering the nature of this ground, the surface and the size of the dimensions,” Mitchell, who scored 137, said.

“I was really proud of how calm the group stayed and how clear



the plans were in terms of how we wanted to operate.”

Calling the decider a contest worthy of the occasion, he added, “It was a great game of cricket to go down to where it did. I think both teams should be very proud of the way they played.” Reflecting on the magnitude of the achievement, Mitchell said the win carried special significance.

“A number of New Zealand teams have toured India in the past and every time you come here, you learn and grow. But to come here with this group and achieve what we have is something the guys in the shed are really proud of. There will be some big smiles going back home.”

Asked to place the ODI series win alongside New Zealand's recent Test series success in India, Mitchell said both achievements reflected the team's growth.

“Beating India here is not easy, in any format. To do it with this group makes it very special for New Zealand cricket.” Mitchell also spoke warmly about the experience of playing in front of Indian crowds.

“We're used to pretty small crowds back in New Zealand. Then you come here and the noise people create is very special. It's amazing to be part of that,” he said with a smile.

Mitchell, who has enjoyed consistent success in Indian condi-

tions, credited his time in the IPL for helping him adapt.

“I am very grateful for the time I spent in Chennai, and also in Rajasthan. Hopefully, I'll be back here a few more times in the future. India is a great place to tour. Playing in front of these fans is very special.” However, he stressed that New Zealand's preparation back home was equally vital.

“We spent a lot of time preparing in Lincoln and at Mount Maunganui. International cricket gives you exposure to different surfaces and different ways of scoring runs. We're very lucky to have good preparation back home and groundsman who help us simulate conditions.” Mitchell had

words of praise for Indian wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, despite New Zealand's apparent intent to attack him.

“Kuldeep is world-class. There's a reason we try to put him under pressure — when he bowls well, he sets up their whole attack. He can spin the ball both ways and I still think he has a massive role to play for India in the future.”

On India's decision to bowl first in the series decider, Mitchell said the call was understandable.

“We would have done the same. If there's any dew later on, it can become hard to control. As visiting teams, we don't always know the conditions as well as the locals, so you're guessing and trying to make

the best decisions together.”

On his crucial partnership with Glenn Phillips (106) after early wickets, Mitchell said they complemented each other well.

“With GP, we've got different angles, so we work well as a partnership. He's a very fast runner, so my challenge is trying to keep up with him. “We lost a couple of wickets early and the focus was on extending the partnership and putting the pressure back on them.”

Mitchell was particularly pleased to see Phillips return strongly after a spell out injured.

“He's been out for a long time, so it was awesome to see him come out and do what he does,” he said.. -Agencies

T20I SERIES AGAINST PAKISTAN



Maxwell, Hazlewood rested ahead of T20 World Cup

MELBOURNE: Australia will rest five top players, including Pat Cummins and Glenn Maxwell, for a three-match Twenty20 series in Pakistan ahead of the World Cup, selectors said on Monday.

Josh Hazlewood, Tim David and Nathan Ellis will also skip the series starting later this month.

Their absence opened the door to fringe players Sean Abbott, Mahli Beardman, Ben Dwarshuis, Jack Edwards, Mitch Owen, Josh Phillippe and Matt Renshaw, who came into the 17-man squad.

Chief selector George Bailey said the five were either returning

from injury or having their loads managed ahead of the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka which begin on February 7.

“The series is a great opportunity for those on the brink of selection and some young players we rate highly for valuable experience,” he added.

“Some are already experienced international players, along with Mahli Beardman who has been with the group a number of times, and Jack Edwards who joined for the last one-day match against India in Sydney last year.”

Australia will play Pakistan in

Lahore on January 29 and 31, and February 1, before travelling to Sri Lanka where it is scheduled to open its World Cup campaign against Ireland in Colombo on February 11.

Australia squad for T20I series against Pakistan: Mitchell Marsh (capt), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Mahli Beardman, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Jack Edwards, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitch Owen, Josh Phillippe, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

‘We must convert starts, improve catching’, says India skipper Gill

INDORE: India's first-ever bilateral ODI series defeat at home against New Zealand was more than a statistical anomaly - it was a moment of hard, uncomfortable clarity.

Skipper Shubman Gill did not mince words, pointing directly to the gaps that cost his side the series.

Speaking after Sunday's 41-run defeat in the series-deciding game at Holkar Stadium, Gill highlighted a recurring theme that, in his view, “made the difference between the two teams.”

“For me, it wasn't that we didn't bat well. It was that we didn't bat long enough. When batsmen are getting starts and they're not able to convert those starts, especially in high-scoring matches, it becomes very difficult. At least two batters need to go on and play that long innings,” Gill said.

The pattern haunted India throughout the series, including in Indore, where Virat Kohli's century briefly threatened to swing momentum. Gill repeatedly contrasted India's approach with New Zealand's clinical execution.

“Whenever their batsmen got set, they scored long. That's the difference. Even in the first two matches, I got set, but I wasn't able to convert it into 100, 120 or 130, and that's something we need to get better at as a batting unit.”

Gill also addressed the struggles of all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, contextualizing them within the team's wider batting inconsistency. “Jaddu bhai was looking in good touch with the bat. But it wasn't just him. I don't think any of our batsmen were able to consistently convert the starts we were getting.



On pitches like these, if you don't make those starts count, you're always chasing the game.”

He acknowledged the dip in Jadeja's wicket-taking impact as well. “The way he has been bowling in the past couple of years, he has always been a strike option for us. It's unfortunate he couldn't pick as many wickets as he would have liked, but that happens in series like these. You learn from it and you grow.”

Fielding lapses also emerged as a decisive factor, particularly as visiting sides become more adept in Indian conditions.

Gill admitted, “We dropped some catches at very important stages of the game. On wickets like these, bowlers are trying to force chances, and when those catches don't stick, it's not easy. No one drops a catch intentionally, but it's one area we really have to improve.”

Even as Rohit Sharma's modest returns across the series - 61 runs

- drew scrutiny, Gill backed his senior opener's approach. “He has been in very good form. You won't always be able to convert the starts you get. As a batsman, you always want to make it into hundreds, but that doesn't happen every time. That's impossible. What's important is that the intent and rhythm are there.”

Amid the disappointment, Gill found a silver lining in the rise of Harshit Rana as a lower-order batting option. “Batting at number eight is a very important position for us. All the top teams in the world bat really deep. We want to give opportunities to players who can strengthen that depth, and Harshit is someone who is constantly improving his batting.”

“You don't get too many bowlers who can consistently bowl at 140-plus with the height that he has. And the way he is batting right now, he keeps getting better. In the future, he can be a very good prospect for us,” Gill added. - Agencies

VENUE ROW

Bangladesh's participation in T20 World Cup to be finalised by January 21

DHAKA: A final call on Bangladesh's participation in the 2026 T20 World Cup, and specifically whether they travel to India for the event, is set to be taken by January 21. ESPNcricinfo has learned that the International Cricket Council (ICC) informed the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) of the deadline during their discussions in Dhaka.

In Saturday's talks, the second meeting between the two in a week, the BCB reiterated its stance of wanting to play in the T20 World Cup, but outside India. Sri Lanka, as co-hosts, is the natural alternative.

The BCB has cited security con-

cerns in their team traveling and playing in India, but the ICC remains firm that it will not change the original schedule, which sees Bangladesh placed in Group C.

The impasse has extended to nearly three weeks now, after the BCB initially communicated their concerns on January 4, with the opening games of the World Cup on February 7 three weeks away. Bangladesh are scheduled to play on the opening day against West Indies in Kolkata, which is also the venue for their next two games, followed by their final group match in Mumbai. During the talks, it is understood the ICC also did not agree



to BCB's request to consider moving Bangladesh to Group B, swapping places with Ireland, who play their group matches in Sri Lanka. The ICC is understood to have assured the BCB that there is no security threat to Bangladesh.

In an advisory sent to the 20 participating teams, prepared by an independent security agency, the overall threat level in India is identified as being in the medium to high band. But there is no direct, specified threat to any of the travelling teams.

Those familiar with the ICC-BCB discussions have indicated that the ICC will wait for the BCB

to take the final call. In case the BCB refuses to allow Bangladesh to travel to India, the ICC is likely to name a replacement team, which, based on current rankings, would be Scotland.

The tiff had begun when, on the BCCI's instruction, Kolkata Knight Riders removed Mustafizur Rahman from its IPL 2026 squad. No reason had been specified for that decision. The Bangladesh government then banned the broadcast of the IPL in the country, and the BCB sent a letter to the ICC refusing to play its T20 World Cup matches in India, a stance it has stuck to since then. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by March 2026 reaching \$62.30, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 40 cents from the price of Friday, which was which was \$62.70. -ONA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 6,233.10 points, up by 0.15% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.60% at 573.42 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 0.10%, was the top gainer while, Galfar Engineering, down 0.08%, was the top loser.



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MSX signs pact to expand access to regional and international markets

The agreements inked between Muscat Stock Exchange and KASE and AIX cover regulation of remote trading mechanisms through Tabadul Hub



MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) has signed a series of agreements with Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) and the Astana International Exchange (AIX) in collaboration with the Tabadul Hub.

The agreements complete the contractual, regulatory, and operational frameworks required to connect Muscat Stock Exchange with these markets. In addition, an agreement was also concluded between Muscat Clearing and Depository (MCD) and Tabadul Hub to facilitate the clearing and settlement of transactions executed by licensed Omani brokerage firms.

“This step represents a continuation of the MSX’s approach to strengthening its regulatory and operational infrastructure. It reflects MSX’s commitment to enhancing the integration of the Omani market with regional and international trading ecosystems, contributing to improved market efficiency, expanded investment

options, and sustainable growth over the medium and long term,” Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of MSX, said.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior executives and representatives of relevant markets and institutions, including the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) as the operator of the Tabadul Hub, alongside representatives from KASE and AIX and their respective

central securities depositories, in addition to the MCD and a number of brokerage firms.

In this context, Abdullah Salim Al Nuaimi, CEO of the Tabadul Hub, explained that Tabadul continues to undertake its role as a regional enabler of market connectivity through an integrated operating model that balances expanded market access with the highest standards of governance

and compliance, enabling brokerage firms and investors to benefit from a secure and interconnected trading environment.

Tabadul Hub ecosystem currently includes several exchanges, namely Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, Muscat Stock Exchange, Kazakhstan Stock Exchange, Astana International Exchange, the Armenia Stock Exchange, and the Bahrain Bourse. The signing

of these agreements by MSX and MCD comes as part of completing their integration with the KASE and AIX through bilateral contractual arrangements that regulate the operational relationship and clearly define roles, responsibilities, and working mechanisms.

Adil Mukhamejanov, the Chairperson of KASE stated that completing the contractual arrangements with Muscat Stock Exchange reflects an advanced level of operational readiness between both sides and represents an important step toward strengthening connectivity between the capital markets of Central Asia and the Middle East, contributing to broader investment access and increased investor interaction.

The agreements signed between MSX and both KASE and AIX cover the regulation of remote trading mechanisms through the Tabadul Hub. These arrangements enable licensed brokerage firms at MSX to access the connected markets in accordance with clear registration and accreditation procedures, while applying the host market’s rules related to trading, disclosure, and supervision, and preserving the regulatory independence of each market.

In this context, Zharas Musabekov, the CFO of AIX affirmed that this step represents a pivotal milestone in the operational integration of connected markets, contributing to a more open and efficient trading environment and enhancing the attractiveness of participating markets to regional and international investors.

Additionally, the agreements signed between MCD and the Tabadul Hub to governing the rules and procedures for the clearing

and settlement of securities under the Remote Trading Members framework across participating markets through Tabadul. The agreement regulates the clearing and settlement processes for transactions executed by Omani members in participating markets via the Tabadul Hub, as well as transactions executed by non-Omani members from all Tabadul-connected markets trading on MSX. It further defines the role of MCD in this process.

In this context, Mohamed Said Al Abri, CEO of MCD, stated: “This agreement represents a strategic step toward expanding access to regional markets and opening new channels for foreign investment. It also enhances investor confidence through compliance with internationally recognized capital market standards. The agreement establishes a clear framework for collateral management, trade settlement, and trading limits, while completing the regulatory foundations governing clearing and depository operations and defining the core infrastructure frameworks of the capital market. This ensures the protection of the rights of all relevant parties. Moreover, the agreement contributes to opening access to new markets, while safeguarding operational integrity and mitigating risks.”

Under these arrangements, clearing and settlement operations will be executed through co-ordination between MCD and the clearing and depository centres of the KASE and AIX, in accordance with the rules applicable in each market, ensuring the seamless movement of securities and cash settlements across connected markets. -ONA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



Treasury bills worth OMR20mn issued

MUSCAT: Oman’s central bank issued treasury bills worth OMR20 million on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to RO 15 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached RO 99.706 for every RO 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at RO 99.700 per RO 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.83685 per cent and 3.84817 per cent, respectively.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to RO 5 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached RO 99.036 for every RO 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at RO 99.030 per RO 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.86659 per cent and 3.90423 per cent, respectively.

Treasury Bills are short-term

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

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.25% while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 4.75 per cent.

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

STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Omani-Canadian Business Forum highlights investment opportunities in minerals sector

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals organized the Omani-Canadian Business Forum in the minerals sector in Muscat. The event aims to strengthen cooperation and partnerships between the Sultanate of Oman and Canada and to review promising investment opportunities within the sector.

Mohsin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, emphasized that the forum serves as a vital platform for enhancing bilateral partnerships between Oman and Canada in the minerals sector. He noted that it supports the establishment of long-term strategic partnerships, while empowering the private sector and facilitating the transfer of knowledge, technology, and expertise between the two sides.

In his speech, he added that the forum contributes to aligning investments with sustainability requirements to maximize added value. It also provides direct communication channels between decision-makers and investors to support integration and achieve effective investment initiatives. He stressed the importance of transforming these efforts into practical projects that contribute to the sector’s development and promote sustainable development goals.

For his part, Eng. Saud Al Mahrouqi, Director General of Minerals at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, indicated that the forum reflects the Ministry’s keenness



to attract qualitative investments and maximize the added value of mineral resources. He explained that the forum constitutes a platform to enhance long-term cooperation with Canadian mining establishments, linking strategic visions with practical investment opportunities while strengthening the sector’s role in supporting the

national economy. The forum included introductory and technical presentations that reviewed the Sultanate of Oman’s strategic vision for the minerals sector, key priority projects, geological data, and available investment opportunities.

On the sidelines of the forum, joint discussion sessions were

held between representatives of the public and private sectors from both sides. These sessions addressed regulatory frameworks, the business environment, investment incentives, and logistical support, as well as ways to develop mineral value chains and enhance industrial partnerships.

The forum also featured sessions dedicated to networking and partnership building, allowing investors and decision-makers to exchange insights and discuss opportunities for practical cooperation to support the transformation of proposed opportunities into executable projects in the minerals sector.

The participating Canadian delegation conducted a field visit to the copper quarry and processing unit of Al Hadeetha Resources in the Al Washihi area, where they were briefed on operational processes and the value chains associated with production. -ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 0.10%, was the top gainer while, Galfar Engineering, down 0.08%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 6,233.10 points, up by 0.15% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.60% at 573.42 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 0.10%, was the top gainer while, Galfar Engineering, down 0.08%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 5666 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 43.03 million, with more than 151.88 million shares changing hands. Out of 79 traded securities, 23 advanced, 30 declined, and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 2122K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 1100K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 1021K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 10,647.70 points, down -0.03%. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Takaful Oman, Financial Services, National Finance, Oman United Insurance were up by 9.82%,

9.09%, 7.94%, 2.94%, 2.11% respectively. Prices of Taageer Finance, Ahli Bank, DIDIC, Oman & Emirates Investment, Muscat Finance were down by 6.62%, 4.69%, 3.70%, 1.82%, 1.64% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 8,593.00 points, up 0.75%. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Voltamp Energy, Construction Materials, A'Saffa Foods, Gulf International Chemicals were up by 10.00%, 9.92%, 2.94%, 2.48%, 1.35% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Fisheries, Raysut Cement, Oman Chromite, Oman Flour Mills were down by 8.24%, 3.33%, 3.16%, 2.86%, 2.83% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.62% before closing at 2,523.95 points. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Oman National Engineering, Majan College, Al Jazeera Services were up by 4.55%, 2.04%, 0.81%, 0.52% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, SMN Power Holding, Ooredoo, Phoenix Power, National Gas were down by 2.81%, 2.27%, 2.01%, 1.75%, 1.09% respectively.

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

Trading Summary									
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded		
33,268,528,861	151,888,627	43,033,350	5,666	23	30	26	79		

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 19

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST HD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	42,714	59,478,520	25	1.283	1.397	1.283	1.396	1.270	0.126	9.92%	1.396	1.300	1.396	130,683,974,152
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	400,500	248,311,500	6	0.625	0.625	0.620	0.620	0.605	-0.015	2.48%	0.620	0.550	0.620	74,400,000,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	6,146,942	741,185,433	308	0.117	0.123	0.117	0.123	0.112	0.011	9.82%	0.123	0.118	0.121	21,525,000,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	200	77,600	1	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.380	0.008	2.11%	0.388	0.000	0.400	38,800,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	18,727,001	6,591,407,023	647	0.351	0.356	0.350	0.356	0.350	0.006	1.71%	0.356	0.349	0.351	2,672,277,354,072
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	27,942,062	4,571,551,415	567	0.162	0.165	0.162	0.164	0.162	0.002	1.24%	0.164	0.166	0.165	1,085,228,388,280
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	51,200	5,637,000	10	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.001	0.92%	0.110	0.109	0.110	8,900,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	93,289	17,773,555	26	0.190	0.192	0.187	0.192	0.191	0.001	0.52%	0.192	0.181	0.192	8,225,854,272
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,800	7,550,000	4	2.700	2.700	2.700	2.700	2.700	0.000	0.00%	2.700	2.610	2.700	242,190,000,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	560	498,400	1	0.890	0.890	0.890	0.890	0.890	0.000	0.00%	0.890	0.810	0.880	111,153,184,400
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	195,339	37,700,329	35	0.193	0.196	0.192	0.193	0.193	0.000	0.00%	0.193	0.190	0.195	42,480,000,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	12,894	1,534,386	4	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.00%	0.119	0.118	0.121	266,197,410,808
OM0000004925	ALBATHNAH POWER	47,372	7,911,812	11	0.187	0.188	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.00%	0.187	0.187	0.187	112,706,500,810
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	72,280	11,975,561	12	0.166	0.167	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.00%	0.165	0.165	0.170	117,877,046,100
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	8,778,963	9,643,552,964	528	1.098	1.100	1.091	1.099	1.100	-0.001	-0.09%	1.099	1.098	1.099	824,250,000,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,002,853	151,365,908	83	0.077	0.077	0.074	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.30%	0.076	0.075	0.076	27,065,674,648
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	125,510	45,067,530	8	0.398	0.399	0.397	0.397	0.398	-0.001	-0.25%	0.397	0.387	0.400	645,500,702,635
OM0000008072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	14,020,541	2,874,494,475	619	0.207	0.207	0.203	0.205	0.206	-0.001	-0.49%	0.205	0.200	0.207	887,779,903,800
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	53,132	18,805,622	22	0.362	0.374	0.340	0.368	0.360	-0.002	-0.56%	0.358	0.347	0.360	334,984,751,368
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	112,074	36,434,608	13	0.327	0.327	0.325	0.325	0.327	-0.002	-0.61%	0.325	0.325	0.330	76,833,250,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	4,730,064	1,667,361,164	240	0.359	0.360	0.350	0.356	0.358	-0.002	-0.56%	0.356	0.355	0.360	274,191,200,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	450,000	105,012,501	13	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.230	0.233	-0.003	-1.29%	0.230	0.229	0.233	46,000,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	800,609	175,572,530	48	0.290	0.297	0.288	0.292	0.298	-0.006	-2.01%	0.295	0.292	0.295	190,075,715,160
Total		23	84,596,519	27,020,301,538	3,231										

Parallel Market

OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	1,900	229,900	5	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.110	0.011	10.00%	0.121	0.121	0.000	23,918,907,683
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	2,488,162	202,678,176	146	0.077	0.084	0.077	0.084	0.077	0.007	9.00%	0.084	0.084	0.077	21,000,000,000
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	41,050	2,694,150	10	0.064	0.068	0.064	0.068	0.063	0.005	7.94%	0.068	0.065	0.068	1,360,000,000
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	24,500	4,285,500	8	0.174	0.175	0.174	0.175	0.170	0.005	2.94%	0.175	0.172	0.175	106,422,144,150
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	104,592	9,386,083	20	0.092	0.092	0.088	0.092	0.088	0.004	4.55%	0.092	0.085	0.092	14,013,636,800
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVNT	70,500	10,511,500	12	0.148	0.150	0.148	0.150	0.147	0.003	2.04%	0.150	0.148	0.150	22,500,000,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	7,428	519,960	3	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.002	2.94%	0.070	0.071	0.070	4,375,000,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	78,635	7,871,194	18	0.100	0.101	0.099	0.101	0.099	0.002	2.02%	0.101	0.100	0.101	65,507,622,118
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	39,300	4,695,700	4	0.121	0.125	0.119	0.125	0.124	0.001	0.81%	0.125	0.118	0.125	12,375,000,000
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	614	429,800	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.699	0.001	0.14%	0.700	0.000	0.768	7,717,532,200
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	3,736,632	655,846,600	275	0.177	0.177	0.175	0.177	0.176	0.001	0.57%	0.177	0.175	0.177	538,044,340,164
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	380,000	28,217,445	35	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.075	0.074	0.001	1.35%	0.075	0.073	0.075	15,735,000,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	17,000	3,587,000	3	0.211	0.211	0.211	0.211	0.210	0.001	0.48%	0.211	0.211	0.215	3,718,592,893
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	969	172,482	1	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.177	0.001	0.57%	0.178	0.178	0.190	356,488,312,274
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	9,441	71,751,160	10	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.000	0.00%	0.760	0.760	0.789	72,200,000,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	25,623	1,007,875	5	0.039	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.00%	0.040	0.039	0.043	3,400,000,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,500	1,318,120	2	0.878	0.879	0.878	0.879	0.879	0.000	0.00%	0.879	0.800	0.879	53,860,725,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MARKNG	467	499,690	1	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	0.000	0.00%	1.070	1.070	1.080	73,830,000,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,000	750,000	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.00%	0.150	0.144	0.150	47,312,550,450
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	8,550	4,195,550	4	0.490	0.491	0.490	0.491	0.491	0.000	0.00%	0.491	0.490	0.515	162,458,500,610
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	64,900	9,929,700	5	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.000	0.00%	0.153	0.000	0.000	14,963,730,480
OM0000000475	SEMECORP SALALAH	549,000	119,320,300	19	0.217	0.217	0.216	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.00%	0.217	0.200	0.217	207,142,113,150
OM0000009710	BARKA DESALINATION	9,941	1,222,232	1	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.00%	0.152	0.142	0.000	11,479,344,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	17,100	3,234,000	5	0.189	0.190	0.189	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.00%	0.190	0.190	0.191	112,373,007,200
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	200,100	20,210,100	18	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.000	0.00%	0.101	0.099	0.101	17,574,000,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	14,598,557	5,648,297,684	191	0.385	0.388	0.385	0.387	0.387	0.000	0.00%	0.387	0.387	0.387	3,096,000,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,620,919	210,841,547	71	0.132	0.132	0.129	0.131	0.131	-0.001	-0.76%	0.131	0.129	0.130	39,110,433,961
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	373,696	33,863,746	39	0.092	0.094	0.089	0.091	0.092	-0.001	-1.09%	0.091	0.088	0.091	7,735,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	432,903	25,860,600	25	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.64%	0.060	0.059	0.060	14,828,779,500
OM0000001020	ASVAD SHIPPING	14,707,930	2,849,640,372	493	0.195	0.197	0.192	0.194	0.195	-0.001	-0.51%	0.194	0.192	0.194	1,010,496,390,320
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	366,611	38,529,333	36	0.103	0.110	0.103	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.82%	0.108	0.103	0.110	13,162,500,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	23,752,531	4,468,563,702	684	0.191	0.191	0.187	0.188	0.190	-0.002	-1.05%	0.188	0.184	0.191	650,384,279,900
OM0000003683	PHENIX POWER	1,361,129	229,068,389	51	0.171	0.171	0.165	0.168	0.171	-0.003	-1.75%	0.168	0.171	0.175	245,717,045,280
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	20,000	1,700,000	2	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.088	0.085	0.003	3.41%	0.085	0.082	0.088	18,890,400,000
OM0000003041	BARKA WATER AND POWER	35,894	6,247,814	12	0.175	0.175	0.171	0.173	0.178	-0.005	-2.81%	0.173	0.169	0.173	6,778,260,000,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER PLANT	5,737	1,244,323	8	0.219	0.219	0.215	0.215	0.220	-0.005	-2.27%	0.215	0.217	0.240	4,422,654,000
OM0000009505	AL MAHA CERAMICS	11,404	936,000	4	0.316	0.304	0.294	0.290	0.295	-0.006	-1.70%	0.290	0.290	0.308	15,550,000,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	143,527	53,983,814	64	0.381	0.381	0.370	0.375	0.381	-0.006	-1.55%	0.375	0.375	0.380	17,622,174,250
OM00000020200	AHLI BANK	98,269	14,671,647	5	0.188	0.188	0.183	0.183	0.192	-0.009	-4.89%	0.183	0.188	0.195	495,344,459,109
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	153,679	19,667,454	13	0.130	0.130	0.126	0.127	0.136	-0.009	-6.62%	0.128	0.126	0.130	354,124,948,051
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVNT & INVNT	5,379	1,432,815	3	0.270	0.270	0.260	0.260	0.270	-0.010	-3.70%	0.260	0.265	0.279	128,974,596,660
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,271	1,083,867	2	0.477	0.480	0.477	0.480	0.474	-0.014	-2.83%	0.480	0.455	0.494	79,380,000,000
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	147	499,800	1	3.400	3.400	3.400	3.400	3.500	-0.100	-2.86%	3.400	3.240	3.500	11,220,000,000
Total		43	65,594,46314	712,122	334		2,318								



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Death toll rises to 39 in high-speed train collision in Spain’s Cordoba

At least 75 passengers were hospitalised after a high-spded train derailed and collided with an oncoming train, Andalusia’s regional President Juanma Moreno told reporters

CORDOBA: A total of 39 people have died in the train accident that occurred on Sunday, in the town of Adamuz, in southern Spain’s Cordoba province.

At least 75 passengers were hospitalised after a high-spded train derailed and collided with an oncoming train, Andalusia’s regional President Juanma Moreno told reporters.

Among them were 15 people with serious injuries.

Most of the injured passengers were taken to hospital in Cordoba, close to the town of Adamuz where the crash happened.

Moreno said rescuers would continue to work to remove bodies from the wreckage. Andalusia’s regional health minister earlier warned of “a very difficult times ahead.”

Rescue operations are still underway, with Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez calling it ‘a night of pain’ for the nation.

Spain has Europe’s largest high-speed rail network, with more than 3,100 kilometres (1,900 miles) of track for trains travelling over



250km/h (155 mph).

Operator says train last inspected on Thursday

The rail operator Iryo has said the last inspection of the train that derailed and then collided with another service in southern Spain was carried out on Thursday.

In a statement sent to the AFP news agency, the company said

the train, built in 2022, left Malaga for Madrid with 289 passengers, four crew members, and one driver on board.

The operator said that at 7:45 pm local time (1845 GMT/UTC), and for reasons that remain unknown, the train entered the adjacent track near the town of Adamuz, where it collided with a train traveling in the opposite direction.

Guardia Civil continues response after Adamuz train crash

Spain’s Guardia Civil has continued operations following the train crash in Adamuz, deploying more than 220 officers, the force said on X.

It said personnel from citizen security units, the traffic division, rapid response groups, and



the air service are working at the scene in Adamuz, in the province of Cordoba.

The Guardia Civil said its Central Criminalistics team is carrying out victim identification.

PM Sanchez, King Felipe VI offer condolences to victims

Spain was witnessing a “night of deep pain” after the deadly collision of two high-speed trains in the southern Andalusia region, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said.

“I want to express my sincerest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims,” Sanchez said in a statement on X.

“No word can alleviate such great suffering, but I want them to know that the whole country is by their side in this tough moment.”

King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia also said that they were following the news of the accident “with great concern.”

“We extend our most heartfelt condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the dead, as well as our love and wishes for a swift recovery to the injured,” the royal palace wrote on X.

Passengers evacuated, waiting for buses to Madrid

Journalist Salvador Jimenez, who

was on one of the trains involved in the accident, is posting that uninjured passengers have been evacuated from the accident site to a sports center in Adamuz.

They are now waiting for buses to take them to Madrid.

In an earlier post, he said they had been given emergency blankets as the night was “freezing.”

Jimenez earlier told Spain’s national broadcaster RTVE in an interview that passengers had used emergency hammers to smash the windows and climb out.

Spain’s transport mnister calls derailment on straight stretch of track ‘strange’

The cause for the high-speed train crash is not yet known, Spanish Transport Minister Oscar Puente told reporters at a press conference at in Madrid.

He added that it was “really strange” that derailment should have happened on a straight stretch of track. This section of track was renewed in May, he added. He also gave an update on the injured.

“Thirty injured have been taken to hospitals and were in serious condition,” he told reporters, adding that all the injured have now been evacuated to receive care.

— DW

TO SEEK A FRESH MANDATE



Japan PM Takaichi announces dissolution of lower house and calls for snap election

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Monday announced her decision to dissolve the House of Representatives, the lower house in the National Diet, paving the way for a snap general election on the opening day of the current ordinary parliamentary session, Kyodo News reported.

The decision to dissolve the lower house was taken on Friday.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, Takaichi said she intends to seek a fresh mandate from voters and has staked her continuation as prime minister on the election outcome.

According to senior leaders of the ruling parties, polling is expected on February 8, with the official election campaign beginning on January 27, as reported by Kyodo News.

The proposed election will be the first since Takaichi assumed office as Japan’s first woman prime minister on October 21.

It will also be the first electoral test since her Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) entered into a coalition agreement with the Japan Innovation Party (JIP) a day earlier.

Takaichi is aiming to leverage her Cabinet’s strong approval ratings to secure public backing for what she has described as a “responsible yet aggressive” fis-

cal policy approach, along with the newly formed ruling coalition framework, Kyodo News reported. The snap poll comes less than 18 months after the previous lower house election held in October 2024.

Under Japan’s Constitution, members of the House of Representatives serve four-year terms unless the chamber is dissolved earlier.

Last week, Takaichi had informed senior ruling party figures of her intention to dissolve the lower house “at an early stage” after the 150-day regular Diet session convenes next Friday, Kyodo News reported.

Her administration has faced difficulties in managing parliament, as the LDP-led bloc holds only a narrow majority in the lower house and lacks a majority in the House of Councillors, the upper house in the Diet, making cooperation with opposition parties necessary to pass legislation.

Meanwhile, opposition forces have moved to consolidate ahead of the election. The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and Komeito, a former long-time LDP ally, agreed on Thursday to form the Centrist Reform Alliance, which is set to become the largest opposition grouping in the contest, Kyodo News reported. — ANI

EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS

How mainstream European cinema is stealing Hollywood’s spotlight

BERLIN: European cinema is having a moment — and not the kind engineered by marketing departments or toy companies.

As much of Hollywood doubles down on sequels, superheroes and slasher movies, the most vital films of the past year have come out of Europe. Not as escapist fantasy adapted from comic books, toys or video games, but as demanding, politically engaged stories. These are films that assume viewers are willing to sit with ambiguity, moral discomfort and unresolved questions. They don’t flatter their audiences; they challenge them.

That sensibility is on full display at this year’s European Film Awards (EFA), Europe’s top cinema prize, which takes place in Berlin on January 17.

The films competing for the EFA’s top honours — from France, Germany, Spain, Scandinavia and beyond — share a seriousness of purpose that feels increasingly rare in mainstream US cinema. They are formally adventurous, often unsettling, and unashamedly political. And, for the first time in years, several of them are also central players in the wider awards-season conversation, including the Oscars.

A top contender is Jafar Panahi’s drama “It Was Just an Accident,” a film that manages to combine dark comedy and political satire with moral ferocity and the pace of a Hitchcockian thriller.

The premise is deceptively simple: Vahid, a former political prisoner, believes he recognises the man who once tortured him. Acting on impulse, he kidnaps the man and takes him to the desert to bury him alive. But in prison, Vahid was always blindfolded. He cannot be sure he has the right man. So, with the man bound and gagged in the back of his van, he travels the city, picking up other former prisoners to debate whether to take revenge or show mercy.

What follows is a grimly funny, increasingly unsettling road movie. Made after Panahi himself the film is both furious and darkly playful.



Cinema at the end of the world

If Panahi’s film is a political thriller disguised as a moral puzzle, Oliver Laxe’s “Sirat” is something stranger and more elemental.

The film begins as a search story: A father looking for his missing daughter, who has disappeared into Morocco’s underground rave scene. Then the ground shifts. The military arrives. Some kind of global conflict — perhaps World War III — seems to be underway, though the film never explains exactly what has happened. The father, his young son, and a group of ravers flee into the desert in their camper vans. What follows is a nerve-shredding hybrid of genres: part post-apocalyptic chase movie, part existential thriller, all driven by a relentless techno score from Berlin-based electronic artist Kangding Ray. Think “The Wages of Fear” filtered through “Mad Max: Fury Road,” but stripped of cynicism and with a strangely spiritual, psychedelic undertow.

This year’s EFA lineup also includes films that operate in a quieter, more intimate register. Joachim Trier’s Norwegian melodrama “Sentimental Value” and Mascha Schilinski’s German period epic “Sound of Falling” privilege character and emotion over plot and action.

Trier’s film centers on Gustav Borg, a once-celebrated film director (played by Stellan Skarsgard, who just won a Golden Globe

award for the role) in a personal and creative crisis, who attempts to reconnect with his estranged adult daughter (Renate Reinsve), now a famous actress. His solution is predictably misguided: He writes a film for her, hoping to both revive his career and repair their relationship. When she refuses, Borg ponders replacing her with an American star (Elle Fanning) and rewriting the project in English.

The film flirts with industry satire — there are echoes of Bergman and Fellini here — but its emotional core is raw and personal. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, “Sentimental Value” is quietly devastating, a film about how art can sometimes express what people cannot say to each other directly.

History seen through women’s lives

“Sound of Falling” works on a broader historical canvas. Set on the same rural German farm, the film follows four generations of women across a century of German history. Its visual austerity recalls Michael Haneke’s “The White Ribbon,” and the generational storyline is reminiscent of Edgar Reitz’s “Heimat” movies, but by focusing on women’s stories, on the ignored and forgotten figures of history, Schilinski breaks new ground. “Sound of Falling” is a film that feels simultaneously old-fashioned and radical.

What unites these works — and many EFA nominees — is an unapologetic engagement with politics.

Petra Volpe’s Swiss drama “Late Shift” turns the care crisis into a real-time ordeal, following a single nurse (Leonie Benesch) through one exhausting night on duty.

Kaouthar Ben Hania’s “The Voice of Hind Rajab” confronts viewers with the harrowing, true-life story of the killing of a young girl in Gaza, refusing the comfort of abstraction or distance.

Even Yorgos Lanthimos’ “Bugonia,” the oddball out, uses its story of conspiracy theories and alien paranoia as tools for social satire rather than escapism.

From Europe to the Oscars

That these kinds of movies — intelligent, radical, and challenging — are getting recognition from the European Film Academy is nothing new. This kind of cinema has always been central to the EFA’s identity. What feels different this year is how far these films are reaching beyond Europe.

“It Was Just an Accident,” “Sirat” and “Sentimental Value” are not only serious Oscar contenders — not only in the international feature category, but in races for best director and even best picture. Two EFA-nominated features, the hand-drawn French films “Arco” and “Little Amelie or the Character of Rain,” are also among the Academy’s favourites. — DW



LIFESTYLE

How AI can detect health risks — just from the way you sleep

A new artificial intelligence model in the United States, SleepFM, has found that patterns in human slumber can be used to predict a person’s risk for about 130 diseases, including dementia and certain cancers.

All it takes is one night’s sleep in a laboratory, during which physiological signals are recorded, for a new artificial intelligence model to be able estimate a person’s risk for about 130 diseases later in life. That includes risks for Parkinson’s disease, dementia, heart disease, and cancers of the prostate and breast.

SleepFM can make these predictions years before the first symptoms become evident, said James Zou, a Stanford University professor of biomedical data science and a co-senior author of the the SleepFM study, published in early January in the journal Nature Medicine.

SleepFM was fed nearly 600,000 hours of sleep data collected from 65,000 sleepers. The study and measurement of sleep is called polysomnography and it uses various sensors to measure brain waves, heart activity, breathing, muscle tension and eye and leg movements while the patient is asleep.

For SleepFM, the team used data collected primarily from Stanford University’s Sleep Medicine Center in the US state of California.

In Good Shape — How sleep is affected by daily life

After that, SleepFM was taught about the different stages of sleep, as well as sleep apnea, a disorder in which breathing repeatedly stops and starts during sleep. The researchers then connected the sleep data with electronic health records going back 25 years and examined how later health diagnoses correlated with the measurements from polysomnography.

SleepFM was then able to detect patterns in the data and, out of about 1,000 possible diseases, identified 130 that could be predicted with medium to high accuracy using the data.

“Our results reveal that many conditions — including stroke, dementia, heart failure and all-cause mortality — are highly predictable from sleep data, further reinforcing the potential of sleep as a powerful biomarker for long-term health,” said Rahul Thapa, a PhD student in biomedical data science and co-lead author of the paper.

A doctor watches a patient in a sleep lab. A doctor watches a patient in a sleep lab.

Artificial intelligence can support medical professionals in evaluating the data but, so far at least, it cannot replace themImage: Thomas Koehler/photothek/picture alliance

“In principle, an AI model can be trained for a very large number of possible predictions, provided the basic data is available,” said Sebastian Buschjäger, a German expert on machine learning at Dortmund’s Technical University who has been working on a sleep-related project, Sleepwalker, in Germany. (He was not involved in the US-based SleepFM project.)

Analysis using advanced algorithms showed that heart signals during sleep can help predict cardiovascular disease while brain signals are more significant for future neurological and psychological disorders. However, the most informative results come as a combination of all the different signals. For example, when the brain’s electrical activity indicates a stable state of sleep but the heart actually appears more “awake.”

Interdisciplinary collaboration crucial

“If our colleagues in sleep medicine suspect a connection, we AI specialists can incorporate this into a predictive system,” Buschjäger explains, “and conversely, [we can] provide indications of where connections might exist.”



Artificial intelligence can provide statistical correlations, he said, but what they mean and any causal relationships must still be interpreted by qualified professionals in the field of medicine.

SleepFM’s predictions are primarily based on data from sleep labs, meaning data from people who were usually referred to doctors for sleep problems and who live in regions with access to high-tech medicine like this, which are likely to be more affluent areas.

The SleepFM researchers integrated data from US and European sleepers, but generally people without sleep problems and people from less affluent parts of the world are underrepresented in SleepFM’s modelling.

“Most AI methods do not learn causal relationships,” explains computer scientist Matthias Jakobs from Dortmund’s Technical University, who’s also working on analyzing sleep data for the Sleepwalker project in Germany.

Potential for more medical knowledge

AI uses machine learning, programming that allows computers to find patterns in huge amounts of data. The machines “learn” from the patterns in the data.

But even if the computers only find statistical correlations, there is still potential for diagnosis and medical therapy, Jakobs wrote in an email interview with DW.

Models like SleepFM can record sleep stages or sleep apneas more efficiently, Jakobs says, which allows doctors to spend more time with their patients.

Buschjäger notes the crucial importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. “An AI [model] can be trained for planning therapy but it’s humans — the doctors — who interpret the results and choose the therapy, often without knowing all the underlying causes,” the data scientist explains.

There’s also potential for sleep diagnosis like this that goes beyond the current correlations between polysomnography and disease prediction.

If certain sleep signals are repeatedly associated with specific diseases, they could well provide clues as to which processes in the nervous system, cardiovascular system or immune system are disrupted early on, experts say. This sort of information could help make everyone healthier, well beyond the sleep labs. -nw

SPORTS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Tennis Australia defends prize money after complaints from leading players

MELBOURNE: Governing body Tennis Australia (TA) has defended the amount of prize money on offer at the Australian Open as two-time Grand Slam champion Coco Gauff warned that players would raise the pressure if their demands were not met.

The Australian Open hiked prize money to A\$111.5 million (\$74.56 million) for the current tournament, bringing it ahead of last year's French Open (\$65.42 million) and Wimbledon (\$71.60 million) but short of the U.S. Open's purse (\$90 million).

The world's top players wrote to the Grand Slams calling for significant improvements in prize money in April last year, and a number of them have expressed dissatisfaction with the situation at Melbourne Park in recent days.

Tournament director Craig Tiley, however, said no players had approached him with any complaints about the Australian Open.

"I've also spoken to the players directly, not through third agents, and they are very happy with the Australian Open," Tiley told the Australian Financial Review (AFR).

"Not one of them has shown

any dissatisfaction to me about what we are doing. And I'm not really concerned with what's said because I know the facts.

"As I said from the beginning, I believe the players should continue to be paid more and more players paid more, we have 128 in the main draw and 128 qualifying (men and women), so we are supporting over 500 players financially each Grand Slam."

The AFR reported that agents of the world's top 10 men's and women's players had met in Melbourne over the weekend and agreed to take further action seeking a bigger share of the Australian Open revenue.

American world No.3 Gauff told reporters on Monday she had not heard concrete plans for action over pay but said players would raise the pressure if their demands went unmet.

"I feel like that we have to make a collective decision and that we would all have to talk about," she said after her 6-2, 6-3 win in the first round over Kamilla Rakhimova.

"I do know players are going to put more pressure on the Slams if certain things aren't being met to where we see it." - Agencies



Djokovic secures 100th Australian Open win

Second seed Iga Swiatek sealed a patchy straight-sets win over Yuan Ye

MELBOURNE: Serbia's Novak Djokovic made an impressive start at his 21st Australian Open campaign on Monday.

The 38-year-old outplayed Pedro Martinez in the first round with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory at Rod Laver Arena.

The legend sealed the deal in two hours, outplaying the Spaniard on serve and return and delivering his 100th Australian Open victory.

Djokovic became the second player in tournament's history to achieve that after his great rival Roger Federer.

Djokovic looked sharp in his first match since November last year. He lost only a couple of points in his games and offered his rival no break chances. Martinez could not follow that pace.

The lower-ranked player dropped 41% of the points in his games and suffered five breaks from 12 chances provided to the ten-time champion. The veteran attacked and fired 49 winners and 21 unforced errors.

Pedro denied set points on serve at 2-5 before Novak wrapped up the set with another fine hold at 5-3. The Serb dropped one point on serve in the second set and secured a couple of return games for 6-2. World No. 4 took 20 of the final 24 points from 1-2 in the third set, storming over his opponent and sailing into the second round.

The 38-year-old has now



reached 100 match wins at three of the four Grand Slams.

Earlier on Monday, former world No. 1 and three-time Australian Open finalist Daniil Medvedev began his campaign with a 7-5, 6-2, 7-6(2) victory over Jesper de Jong to move into the second round.

But the tournament was over for seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime who retired from his opening match with cramps.

Canada's Auger-Aliassime called for the trainer while down 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Portugal's Nuno Borges before pulling out.

Former Australian Open finalist Marin Cilic turned back the clock with a ruthless display to beat Germany's Daniel Altmaier 6-0, 6-0, 7-6(3) in the first round.

The towering 37-year-old Croatian won the opening 12 games with minimum fuss to spark chatter of a rare Grand Slam main draw

"triple bagel", which has been achieved by only five players in the professional era, the last being Sergi Bruguera in the 1993 French Open.

Fellow veteran and 2014 Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka then joined Cilic in the second round, the Swiss battling from a set down to see off unseeded Serb Laslo Djere 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(4).

The 40-year-old, who won his three Grand Slam titles during the golden era of Roger Federer, Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic, is making his final Melbourne Park appearance as a wild card after announcing that 2026 would be his last season on the tour.

by to win the first set in tie-breaks before wrapping up the match 7-6(5), 6-3.

American Coco Gauff came through against Uzbekistan's Kamilla Rakhimova on centre court 6-2, 6-3, but was less than convincing, with seven double faults and 31 unforced errors. Her reward is a clash next with Venus Williams' conqueror Olga Danilovic.

Meanwhile, 2020 winner Sofia Kenin crashed out 6-3, 6-2 to fellow American Peyton Stearns as temperatures soared past 30C and fans again faced long queues to get into Melbourne Park.

Meanwhile, Belgium's Elise Mertens has won in straight sets against Thailand's Lanlana Tararude. The world No. 21 won 7-5, 6-1.

Amanda Anisimova began her quest for a third consecutive Grand Slam final with a ruthless straight-sets win at the Australian Open on Monday.

The fourth seed from the United States overpowered Simona Waltert of Switzerland 6-3, 6-2 in an hour on Margaret Court Arena.

"It's really good to be back here, I feel like Australia is my second home," said Anisimova, who enjoyed a breakthrough in 2025.

Earlier on Sunday, Carlos Alcaraz kicked off his latest bid for a career Grand Slam by dismantling unseeded Australian Adam Walton 6-3, 7-6(2), 6-2 in the first round of the Australian Open, as the world No.1 showcased the power and precision befitting a player chasing history.

The 22-year-old Spaniard, who can eclipse Don Budge and become the youngest man to win all four major singles titles at least once, gave a packed Rod Laver Arena an exhibition in shot-making that had fans either glued to their seats or rising in ovation. - Agencies

PARADINE COMPETITION BMW

Late brake failure ends Al Harthy's podium challenge at 24H Dubai

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Late brake failure denied Ahmad Al Harthy and the Paradine Competition team a near-certain GT3 AM class victory and overall podium finish at the Michelin 24H Dubai on Sunday, with just 30 minutes remaining in the race.

The No.992 Paradine Competition BMW M4 GT3 EVO was leading the GT3 AM category and running third overall when a front-left brake disc failure caused a puncture and forced the car into retirement. The incident ended a consistently strong performance from Al Harthy and team-mates Darren Leung, James Kellett and Anthony McIntosh, who were later classified fourth in class and 16th overall.

Starting from GT3 AM pole position, secured through combined qualifying efforts from Al Harthy, Leung and Kellett, the BMW was competitive from the outset. Kellett took the opening stint and climbed rapidly through the field into the overall top four while maintaining the class lead.

Al Harthy took over after the



first pit-stop and continued the strong pace through multiple Code 60 periods and strategy cycles. The Paradine BMW remained firmly in contention for both class honours

and an outright podium as the race progressed into the night and early hours of Sunday.

With two hours remaining, Al Harthy was back in the car, lead-

ing GT3 AM and running second overall. He completed the opening part of the final hour before handing over to Kellett for the run to the finish.



The race came to an abrupt end when the front-left brake disc failed on the start-finish straight, causing extensive damage that could not be repaired safely, despite Kellett managing to return the car to the pits.

Reflecting on the outcome, Al Harthy said: "I'm speechless. From the start of the race we were so competitive. We wanted to win GT3 AM, but our goal was actually the overall podium the whole time. It's one of the longest 24-hour races I've done and the most stints

- in total I think I completed nine hours. It's so disappointing with the brake failure, but I'm super-proud of everybody in the team for doing such an amazing job.

"Our lead was so great in GT3 AM that we still finished fourth, so I think we all take the positives from that. I'm really happy with how we approached the weekend and how we all performed. It's still a very positive way to begin the 2026 season for me, and I think everyone who watched would agree."

Senegal lift title after triumph over Morocco in chaotic final



Brahim Diaz could have won the trophy for the hosts when he stepped up to take a spot-kick in the 24th added minute at the end of normal time, but Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy easily saved the weak attempted chip

RABAT: Senegal stunned hosts Morocco in Sunday's Africa Cup of Nations final (AFCON) as Pape Gueye's goal gave it a 1-0 extra-time win over the host at the end of a match marred by disgraceful scenes following a controversial penalty award.

Brahim Diaz could have won the trophy for Morocco when he stepped up to take the spot-kick in the 24th added minute at the end of normal time. But Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy easily saved the weak attempted chip by

the Real Madrid winger, who was clearly distracted by the long delay of almost 20 minutes that followed the penalty award.

Congolese match referee Jean-Jacques Ndala gave the penalty right at the end of the allotted eight added minutes following a VAR check for a challenge on Diaz in the box by Senegal defender El Hadji Malick Diouf.

Diaz, the rest of the Moroccan team and the bench vehemently protested to the referee to check the images, but the decision to

eventually give the spot-kick was met with fury by Senegal and its fans. As most of its players walked off the pitch, some Senegal supporters in the small section of away fans at the opposite end of the stadium threw chairs and other objects and attempted to get onto the field of play.

They were eventually contained by a large barrier of police and stewards, and their anger turned to delight and disbelief when the penalty was saved.

The Senegal team had initially been riled by the referee's decision to disallow for a foul a goal it had scored in the second added minute when Abdoulaye Seck headed off the post at a corner and Ismaila Sarr nodded in the rebound.

After Diaz's penalty miss, however, it felt almost inevitable that a galvanised Senegal would go on to score, and it did so in the fourth minute of extra time to stun the home fans in the crowd of 66,526 at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium.

Gueye the hero

Sadio Mane won possession in midfield and found Idrissa Gana Gueye, who released his namesake Pape Gueye. The Villarreal midfielder held off the backtracking Moroccan captain Achraf Hakimi as he advanced towards the box before beating goalkeeper Yassine Bounou with a superb strike into the top corner.

Morocco was distraught, in particular Diaz who was promptly substituted. The hosts could still have forced a penalty shoot-out, with Nayef Aguerd heading against the crossbar in the second half of extra time.

But it was not to be for the hosts, which had been dreaming of winning the title in front of its own fans, to end a 50-year wait to become African champion for just the second time. Senegal won second Cup of Nations title in the last three editions, after they defeated Egypt on penalties in Yaounde in 2022 to win the trophy for the first time in their history. - Agencies

FIFA president condemns walk-off

RABAT: FIFA president Gianni Infantino has condemned the 'unacceptable scenes' that unfolded during the Africa Cup of Nations 2025 final, involving several Senegal players walking off the pitch after Morocco was awarded a penalty in Rabat on Sunday.

Infantino, who was present at the stadium, expressed his condemnation hours later.

"We strongly condemn the behaviour of some 'supporters' as well as some Senegalese players and technical staff members. It is unacceptable to leave the field of play in this manner," said Infantino in a statement sent to media.

Infantino while congratulating Morocco on "a fantastic tournament, both as runners-up and exceptional hosts" -- a boost ahead of them co-hosting the men's 2030 World Cup - said teams have to abide by the match officials' decisions.

"We must always respect the decisions taken by the match officials on and off the field of play," he said.

"Teams must compete on the pitch and within the Laws of the Game, because anything less puts the very essence of football at risk."

"The ugly scenes witnessed today must be condemned and never repeated. I reiterated that they have no place in football and I expect that the relevant disciplinary bodies at CAF will take the appropriate measures."

Senegal coach apologises

Senegal coach Pape Thiaw apologised for asking his players to leave the pitch in the final.

"I didn't appreciate at all that I told my players to leave the field. I apologise for



football," Thiaw told beIN SPORTS said after the match.

"After reflection, I had them come back. Sometimes, you can react in the heat of the moment. But we accept the referee's mistakes."

'African football image suffered'

"The image we gave of African football was rather shameful. Having to stop the game for more than 10 minutes with the world watching is not very classy," Walid Regragui, Morocco's coach, said after the match.

"Football sometimes is cruel and today we lost -- we know in a final that you get few chances and you need to take them," said Regragui, who played in the last Moroccan team to reach the final, when they lost to Tunisia in 2004.

"That penalty in the last seconds could have won us the title, but it was not to be. We could talk for hours but I hope this squad comes back stronger. Now we know what it takes to get to a final -- we hadn't reached one for 22 years. We have missed the chance of a lifetime." - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton's Barry puts dent in Aston Villa's title hopes

LONDON: Thierno Barry scored a second-half winner as Everton ended title-chasing Aston Villa's 11-game home winning run with a 1-0 Premier League victory at a wet Villa Park on Sunday, a result that will be celebrated in North London. Villa stay in third place in the table on 43 points from 22 games, seven points behind leader Arsenal, which now have a sizeable lead in the title race. Everton climbed to 10th place on 32 points.

The visitor took the lead on 59 minutes when Pau Torres's poor touch was collected by Dwight McNeil, and when the latter's shot was parried by Emi Martinez in the home goal, Barry followed up to chip the ball into the net.

Both teams struck the woodwork, Everton after 11 seconds in the game. The visitor also had a goal ruled out for offside by the Video Assistant Referee.

It was a good weekend for Arse-



nal, the only one of the top three to secure a point following its 0-0 draw with Nottingham Forest.

None of the top six teams heading into the weekend managed a win, and none of the bottom five were beaten.

Elsewhere, Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Premier League's

last-placed team, continued its resurgence by holding Newcastle United to a 0-0 draw to extend its unbeaten run to five games in all competitions.

Wolves collected just two points from its first 18 league games, but has earned six points from its last four. - Agencies

AFCON FINAL

'Senegal walked off in heat of the moment but football won': Mendy

RABAT: Senegal's decision to storm off the pitch during the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 final came in the heat of the moment but football won in the end, goalkeeper Edouard Mendy told reporters after the Teranga Lions beat Morocco 1-0 on Sunday.

"We're not going to talk in the heat of the moment. Things happened, but in the end what matters is that football won," Mendy said of the farcical scenes which saw Senegal coach Pape Bouna Thiaw order his players off the field and talisman Sadio Mane persuade them to return.

"Morocco has been waiting for this trophy for over 50 years. They had everything going for them, but we responded in our own way, and tonight we celebrate Senegal," Mendy added.

"We were determined to win this final, to bring the trophy home. Millions of Senegalese are happy, and we're going to enjoy this.

"We need to put this contro-



versy behind us," he said, although there is likely to be a stiff punishment for Senegal, which spoiled an otherwise impressive month-long tournament.

Mendy saved Brahim Diaz's Panenka-style penalty that should have won the game for Morocco. It took 14 minutes from the time the kick was awarded after a VAR review before Diaz took it.

"He attempted the Panenka, but I stayed on my feet. We kept the

team in the game, and I helped my team at that moment," Mendy explained.

The goalkeeper was one of the players who went into the changing room as part of the protest before Mane convinced them to return. "What did we say to each other? That's between us. We did it together and we came back together, that's all that matters. We can be proud tonight," Mendy added. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Real Sociedad stun Barcelona to end leader's winning streak

SAN SEBASTIAN: Real Sociedad earned a pulsating 2-1 home victory over La Liga 2025-26 leader Barcelona on Sunday, ending the Catalans' 11-match winning streak in all competitions.

The thrilling encounter in a rain-soaked San Sebastian saw Sociedad withstand relentless pressure as Barcelona struck the woodwork five times in the second half. Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring with a volley in the 32nd minute, but Barca equalised with a Marcus Rashford header from close range in the 70th.

However, a minute later, Goncalo Guedes sealed the victory for the home side with another volley

from inside the box. Sociedad was reduced to 10 men in the final minutes after Carlos Soler was given a straight red card for a reckless sliding tackle on Pedri.

Despite the defeat, Hansi Flick's Barcelona remains top of the standings on 49 points, one point ahead of second-placed Real Madrid. Villarreal and Atletico Madrid trail far behind with both on 41 points.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 32nd minute when Oyarzabal volleyed home from close range following an inch-perfect cross from Guedes. Barcelona pushed for an equaliser, and Olmo forced a sharp save from Remiro in



the 37th minute with a venomous strike from distance.

Barcelona's misfortune continued as it struck the frame of the goal for the third time in the 65th minute, with Remiro once again thwarting Robert Lewandowski's header from point-blank, deflecting it just enough to keep it out before it hit the post.

The equaliser finally arrived in the 70th minute, with substitute Rashford making an immediate impact. Yamal delivered a pinpoint cross, and Rashford headed home from close range to level five minutes after coming off the bench.

However, Real Sociedad struck back immediately. A quick coun-

ter-attack down the left wing culminated in Soler lifting a cross to the far post, where Guedes was waiting unmarked to rifle a stunning volley into the net and restore Sociedad's advantage.

The drama escalated when Sociedad was reduced to 10 men in the 88th minute after Soler's studs-up tackle on Pedri.

Despite the numerical advantage, Barcelona couldn't find a way through in the dying minutes, with Rashford's curling corner in added time clipping the near post.

Elsewhere, Alexander Sorloth's towering header secured Atletico Madrid a 1-0 victory against Alaves in La Liga on Sunday. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Toyota concludes 50th Anniversary campaign with 50 Yaris winners

Saud Bahwan Automotive, the official distributor of Toyota in Oman, announced the final winners of the 50th Anniversary campaign raffle, bringing the landmark campaign to a triumphant close with all 50 Toyota Yaris vehicles won by customers across the country

MUSCAT: Toyota's historic 50th Anniversary campaign has concluded on a high note, marking the successful completion of one of the most exciting customer engagement campaigns in the Sultanate of Oman.

Saud Bahwan Automotive, the official distributor of Toyota in Oman, announced the final winners of the 50th Anniversary campaign raffle, bringing the landmark campaign to a triumphant close with all 50 Toyota Yaris vehicles won by customers across the country.

What began as a celebratory tribute to five decades of shared journeys, trust, and reliability culminated in an overwhelming response from customers nationwide. Each draw added to the growing excitement, transforming every Toyota purchase into a moment of anticipation and celebration. With



the final winners announced, the campaign stands as a powerful testament to Toyota's enduring bond with the people of Oman.

Beyond the thrill of winning, the anniversary campaign delivered exceptional value to customers, offering a comprehensive ownership experience. Exclusive benefits included 50% VAT coverage, 5 Years / 50,000 Km Service package, 50% Insurance coverage and RO 50 worth of Thiqah Loyalty Points (Terms & Conditions apply), ensuring peace of mind and unmatched value throughout the campaign period.

The final draws showcased Toyota's wide customer base, featuring

both individual and business customers from across the Sultanate. Taher Said Salim Hamed Al Maharbi from Sinaw, who purchased the iconic Land Cruiser, said: "The Land Cruiser has always been our vehicle of choice for its unmatched capability. Winning a Yaris is a fantastic addition to our family and validates the trust we have placed in Toyota for so many years."

Omar Abdul Wahid Mohamed Busal Al Bulushi from Seeb, who purchased a Yaris, shared his excitement: "I bought the Yaris knowing it offers the best value. Winning another Yaris is an incredible surprise. It truly reinforces why Toyota remains the num-

ber one choice for me."

Gulf Medical Supplies from Seeb, following the purchase of a RAV4, commented: "Our business depends on vehicles that offer consistency and versatility, which is why we chose the RAV4. This win is a great testament to the value that Toyota brings to its loyal customers."

Adding to the list of winners, Mansoor Khalfan Hamood Al Aamri from Seeb Sanaya, who purchased a Camry, expressed his delight: "The Camry perfectly meets my expectations for comfort and reliability. Winning a Yaris during Toyota's 50th Anniversary makes this purchase even more special."

Wabel Premium Services from

Sur, following the purchase of a Hiace, also celebrated their win, stating: "We chose the Hiace for its proven dependability for our operations. Being rewarded with a Yaris highlights Toyota's commitment to supporting both individual and business customers."

Another winner, Yousuf Abdul Rahman Najbakht Al Zadjali from Seeb Sanaya, who purchased an Urban Cruiser, shared his joy: "The Urban Cruiser is a fantastic vehicle that perfectly fits my lifestyle. Winning a Yaris as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations is an unexpected and wonderful surprise. I am grateful to Toyota for this incredible gesture."

Further elevating the excitement during the campaign, customers holding Coupon Nos. 11704 and 15078 marked significant celebratory milestones, reinforcing the spirit of appreciation that defined Toyota's Golden Jubilee year.

As the 50th Anniversary raffle draws to a close, Saud Bahwan Automotive extends its sincere gratitude to all customers who participated, making this campaign a resounding success.

The celebration may have concluded, but Toyota's commitment to delivering quality, reliability and customer-first experiences continues—driving forward into the next chapter of excellence.

OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Matthew Mullan named Resort General Manager of Hilton Barr Al Jissah Resorts in Muscat

MUSCAT: Hilton announced the appointment of Matthew Mullan as Resort General Manager, overseeing the newly rebranded hotels — DoubleTree by Hilton Muscat Al Waha, Hilton Muscat Al Bandar, and Al Husn Hotel Muscat — three iconic properties that together form one of Muscat's most established and celebrated resort destinations.

Located along Oman's picturesque coastline, Barr Al Jissah Resorts has been a landmark address in Muscat for more than 20 years, welcoming generations of international and regional travelers. Renowned for its expansive beachfront, world-class leisure facilities and diverse dining offerings, the destination continues its legacy under Hilton, entering a new chapter since 1 January 2026, while preserving the essence that has made it one of Oman's most recognizable hospitality destinations.

In his role, Mullan will shape the strategic direction, guest engagement initiatives, and operational excellence of the three properties which comprise a total 680 keys. He will lead all aspects of resort operations – from brand alignment and guest experience to commercial performance and team development – across a destination that caters to families, leisure travelers and luxury seekers.

We are delighted to welcome Matthew to Muscat and to this iconic resort destination," said Niels Bormans, Group CEO of The Zubair Corporation. "His extensive global experience with Hilton, combined with his proven leadership across complex resort operations, makes him well-suited to guide these properties as they



build on their 20-year legacy while embracing an exciting future under Hilton's portfolio of brands."

"I am honored to lead these iconic hotels in Muscat," said Matthew Mullan, Resort General Manager, Hilton Muscat, Bar Al Jissah Resorts. "This destination holds a special place in the region's hospitality landscape. I look forward to working with our talented teams to celebrate that heritage, while delivering fresh, elevated experiences that reflect Hilton's global standards and Oman's unique sense of place."

Mullan brings more than 30 years of international hospitality experience with Hilton, having held senior leadership and executive roles across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. Most recently, he served as General Manager of London Hil-

ton on Park Lane, one of Hilton's flagship hotels globally. His career also includes leadership roles at Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island, Hilton Barbados Resort, Hilton Malta, and Hilton Sharm El Sheikh, with a strong track record in hotel openings, resort transformations, and multi-property operations.

DoubleTree by Hilton Muscat Al Waha, Hilton Muscat Al Bandar, and Al Husn Hotel Muscat are part of Hilton Honors, the award-winning guest loyalty program for Hilton's world-class brands. Hilton Honors members who book directly through preferred Hilton channels enjoy exclusive benefits, including flexible payment options using Points and money, member-only discounts and complimentary standard Wi-Fi, as well as access to contactless technology via the Hilton Honors mobile app.

NEW CARD

BankDhofar redefines premier banking with launch of Mastercard World Elite Credit Card

MUSCAT: BankDhofar has announced the launch of the Mastercard World Elite Credit Card, introducing one of the most prestigious card offerings in the global Payment's ecosystem to customers in Oman. Designed for affluent, globally connected individuals, the new card reinforces the Bank's commitment to delivering best-in-class lifestyle, travel, and financial solutions tailored to the evolving expectations of discerning customers.

Positioned at the highest tier of Mastercard's portfolio, the World Elite Credit Card is the ideal companion for luxury-oriented customers who value exclusivity, convenience, and superior rewards. Cardholders can earn 1.5 % value back on international spending and 1% value back on domestic purchases, enabling them to enjoy tangible rewards on both domestic and overseas transactions.

A defining feature of the Mastercard World Elite Credit Card is its premium travel proposition. Cardholders benefit from unlimited airport lounge access worldwide, with complimentary access for themselves and one accompanying guest. To further enhance the travel experience, the card offers airport fast-track services, allowing cardholders to bypass standard queues and enjoy priority processing, with three complimentary fast-track services available annually at select destinations.

The card also delivers comprehensive protection benefits designed to provide peace of mind while travelling. These include travel inconvenience insurance and travel medical insurance, offering coverage against unexpected disruptions and medical emergencies. Combined with Mastercard's advanced security features and global acceptance,

Positioned at the highest tier of Mastercard's portfolio, the World Elite Credit Card is the ideal companion for luxury-oriented customers who value exclusivity, convenience, and superior rewards. Cardholders can earn 1.5 % value back on international spending and 1% value back on domestic purchases, enabling them to enjoy tangible rewards on both domestic and overseas transactions



the World Elite Credit Card ensures a secure and seamless payment experience wherever cardholders go.

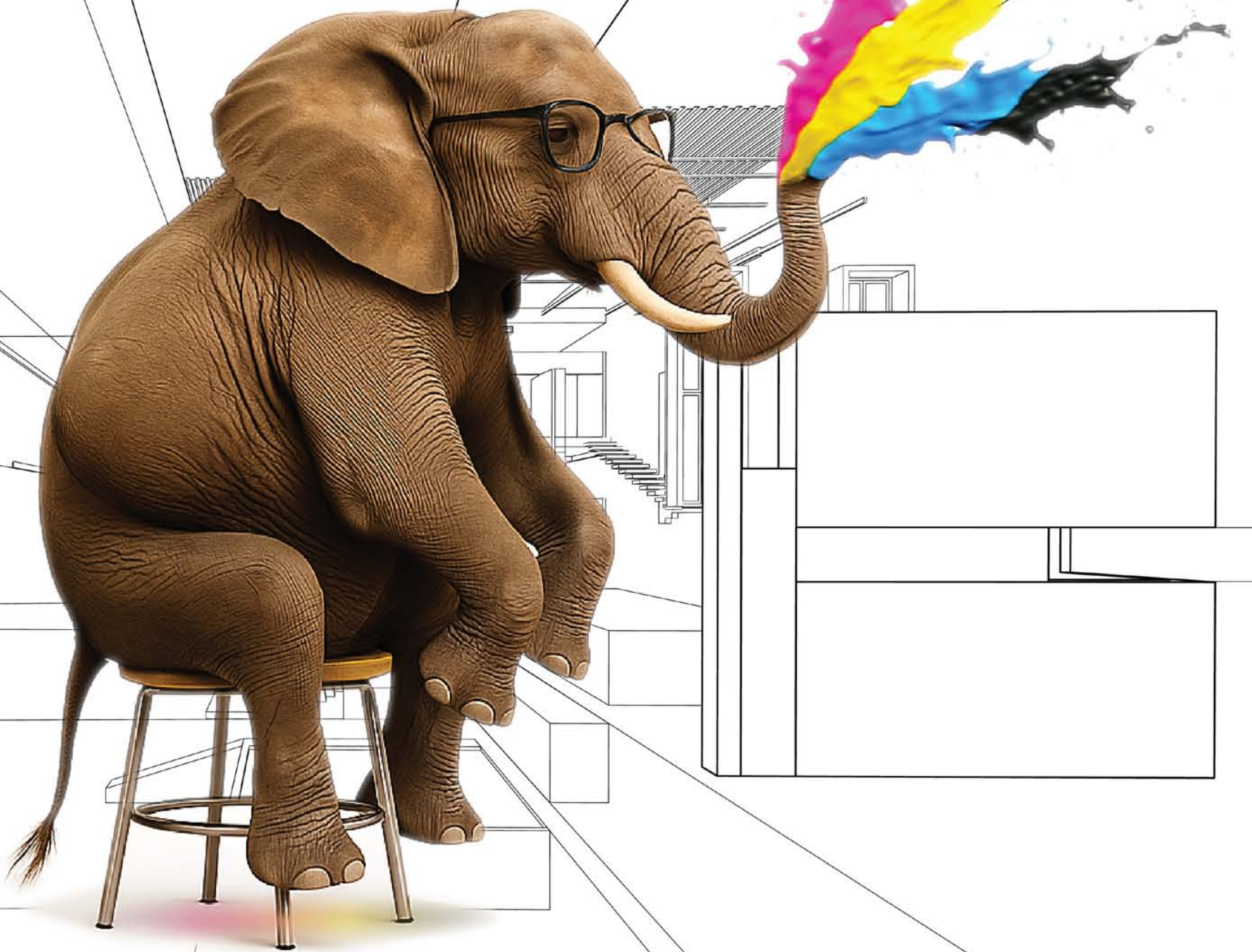
Beyond travel, the Mastercard World Elite Credit Card offers elevated everyday value through preferential merchant offers, curated luxury experiences, and

access to exclusive events and partnerships. Supported by higher credit limits, tailored rewards, and premium service standards, the card functions not merely as a payment tool, but as a lifestyle enabler aligned with the aspirations of high-net-worth and high-income customers.

The card is available to Omani nationals and residents aged 18 and above, with supplementary cards available from the age of 13. Applicants must meet a minimum monthly salary requirement of OMR 3,000, in line with BankDhofar's credit card policy criteria. The annual fee is set at OMR 60 for the primary card and OMR 30 for supplementary cards, with fee waivers available from the second year upon meeting specified annual spend thresholds.

With the launch of the Mastercard World Elite Credit Card, BankDhofar continues to expand its premium banking proposition, delivering globally recognised products that combine status, security, and superior value—while reaffirming its position as a leading provider of innovative financial solutions.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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