



PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	11:58pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:09am

Sayyid Badr, Syrian counterpart discuss ways to boost cooperation

The two ministers exchanged views on a set of regional and international developments

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received in Muscat yesterday Asaad Hassan Al-Shaibani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in the Syrian Arab Republic. This marked Al-Shaibani's first official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr welcomed his Syrian counterpart, emphasising the strength of the historical relations binding the two countries and the mutual keenness to support and enhance pathways of cooperation in various fields, particularly in political, economic, and cultural aspects.

Furthermore, the two ministers exchanged views on a set of regional and international developments. Sayyid Badr affirmed Oman's



stance in support of efforts aimed at achieving security and stability in the Syrian Arab Republic, and respecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Al-Shaibani expressed his country's deep appreciation for the wise approach and balanced policies of the Sultanate of Oman, valuing its role in backing the security and stability of the Syrian Arab

Republic.

He emphasised his country's aspiration to broaden the horizons of cooperation and deepen joint coordination with Oman, in a way that serves the mutual interests of the two countries and strengthens the fraternal bonds between the two peoples.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy,

Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs and some officials from both sides.

Sayyid Badr affirmed to Oman News Agency (ONA) that Oman supports Syria's promising future in regaining its role and position on the Arab and international stages, considering it an important element within the framework of Oman's foreign relations, given its

historical status and civilizational role throughout the ages.

He stated that the meeting with the Syrian counterpart was fruitful during his first official visit to Oman. He described the visit as a confirmation of the deep-rooted relations and solid bonds between the Omani and Syrian peoples, expressing his optimism for the future of these relations and the development and growth they will bring.

He added that the meeting falls within the framework of existing structured mechanisms for cooperation between the two countries, noting an agreement to update these frameworks, particularly the resumption of work of the Omani-Syrian Joint Committee, which will hold its meetings in the next stage at the level of foreign ministers.

He pointed out that an agreement was reached to review the priorities of bilateral cooperation and to sign several agreements and memoranda of understanding in the next phase. Senior officials from both sides will meet to develop an executive work programme for the relations, Sayyid Badr affirmed.

The Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates affirmed

to Oman News Agency (ONA) that Syrian-Omani relations are longstanding and historical, based on mutual respect and constructive cooperation.

He noted that deep cultural and civilizational relations link the two countries, forming over decades bridges for continuous communication between the two peoples.

He stated, "We look forward to these relations contributing to supporting the reconstruction phase in Syria across various spheres, especially the economic and service sectors where the Sultanate of Oman has achieved remarkable progress, including ports, roads and connectivity projects. On the diplomatic front, we are also keen to benefit from Omani wisdom and the distinguished diplomatic experience of the Sultanate of Oman."

The Syrian minister added that during the meeting, an agreement was reached to reactivate all existing agreements between the Sultanate of Oman and the Syrian Arab Republic, alongside forming a joint committee tasked with preparing the conditions for linking various sectors and enhancing co-operation opportunities.

He indicated that technical meetings are scheduled to commence in the coming months.

MEETING

Egypt's former Foreign Minister received

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister on Sunday received Nabil Fahmy, the former Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The discussions covered a substantive exchange of perspectives on the most significant regional and international developments.

Nabil Fahmy lauded the foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman and its numerous accomplish-



ments on both the domestic and international stages.

Diplomatic initiatives

He further commended its dedicated diplomatic initiatives, which are purposefully directed towards fostering dialogue, underpinning efforts to establish and fortify the foundations of security and stability and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. — ONA

MEETING

Minister of Royal Office receives Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received at his office on Sunday Asaad Hassan Al-Shaibani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic, who is currently on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and existing areas of co-operation between the two countries, and ways to support and develop them.

It also touched on the developments in Syria and other topics of common interest. — ONA



HUMAN DIALOGUE FORUM

Sayyid Badr, Lebanese Culture Minister discuss means of supporting cultural initiatives

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Sunday Ghassan Salame, Minister of Culture of the Lebanese Republic. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Lebanese Minister's participation in the Human Dialogue Forum.

The meeting featured a mutual emphasis on the importance of developing initiatives that support cultural and intellectual exchange, as well as dialogue among civilizations.

The two ministers also discussed a set of regional and international developments and exchanged views on them, in line with ongoing endeavours to create opportunities for achieving security and just peace in the region. — ONA



CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE

Sayyid Badr meets CHD official

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received in Muscat on Sunday David Harland, Executive Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD).

Number of issues discussed
During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the existing cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. They also discussed ways to enhance programmes for establishing peace and supporting initiatives of dialogue on a number of regional and international issues.



The guest commended the Sultanate of Oman's constructive role in backing negotiation and promoting stability. He expressed the aspiration of the

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue to further expand areas of cooperation with the Sultanate of Oman in the next stage.

— ONA

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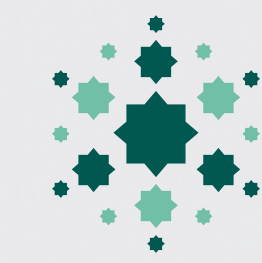
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COMMENTARY

A Tribute to His Majesty



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

where they come from and we all know that the path of the future is brighter than ever before. The social life in Oman is respectable and the standard of living is improving all the time for every citizen.

In this era of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarek, we can all look forward for social stability and fulfillment. At present, Oman never had it so good as we enter a new threshold of prominence not just locally but internationally.

When Omanis travel, we are treated with great respect because of the peace and the solitude we enjoy back home. Through our non-violence political attitude, Oman is well respected by all nations great and small.

It is also stands proud geographically. As it stands, Oman is the second biggest country in the Arabian Peninsula. It also has the longest coastline in the region. Over the centuries, Omanis used these privileges well to attract trade and market the country to the world at large.

Its population, considering the size of the country, is one of the smallest in the world per square meter for each individual who lives here. A vast country that has vast prospects economically. Talking about the economic, Oman has a leadership that works ceaselessly to bring in investors.

In the last two years, His Majesty the Sultan has personally worked hard to attract investments worth over \$35 billion into the country. His visits abroad and invitations of world leaders is leading to the signings of numerous projects that is now stimulating the economy.

From minerals, clean energy to the auto industry, these investments have been pouring without a stop to build up the economic future of Oman. Suddenly, the flurry of economic activities has no bounds.

It is setting the future to a bright scale for international partnerships where local industries are already starting to reap the benefits.

It is all leading not to only higher standard of living of the people but creating jobs for young graduates. My research has revealed that since 2023, no regional country has attracted so much foreign investments in a short time than Oman.

We can all say that we have a leader who is working tirelessly to stimulate the economy for a brighter future and it is all in the records. In conclusion, every Omani can be thankful for His Majesty's tireless work for the better future of his people.

Let us all take this opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the New Renaissance and be proud of our Sultan.

SATELLITE FOR COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Project aims to strengthen Oman's digital sovereignty

< FROM Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, stated that "the project aims to strengthen Oman's digital sovereignty by establishing a national space-based infrastructure capable of providing independent and secure telecommunications and data services. This will enhance national cybersecurity, ensure continuity of critical services under all circumstances, extend coverage to rural areas, and improve the quality of telecommunications and internet services in alignment with Oman Vision 2040".

He explained that this project represents a major step toward localising technical knowledge. It includes intensive programmes to train and qualify Omani talent across all project phases—from design to manufacturing, testing, and operation—ensuring full Omani management capability after launch. It will also empower local companies, especially SMEs, to participate in the project's supply chain, supporting local value creation and strengthening the private sector's role in the national space economy. Additionally, the project will support scientific research through collaboration between local universities and Airbus Defence and Space.

Dr. Ali bin Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology and Head of Negotiation Committee for the project stated that "this project marks a transformational milestone in Oman's technological and space development journey. It reflects the government's commitment to building a sustainable digital economy anchored in knowledge and innovation. The satellite will significantly strengthen Oman's national telecommunications ecosystem, en-



bling vital sectors and supporting digital transformation and smart services. He also emphasised the national role of Space Communications Technologies as the project's operator and executive arm, ensuring knowledge transfer and national capacity-building in this strategic field.

He added that this milestone follows years of national effort involving extensive evaluation of various proposals for designing, manufacturing, and launching Oman's satellite. He confirmed that cooperation with ADS ensures effective institutional integration between government, investment entities, and the private sector to achieve national ambitions in space and communications.

Alain Fauré, Head of Space Systems at Airbus, expressed his pleasure at signing the contract to provide Oman with world-class, fully flexible satellite communications capabilities through its first geostationary satellite. He affirmed Airbus's commitment to working side-by-side with Space Communications Technologies to support the implementation of Oman's national satellite program and the development of sovereign capabilities to serve future customers.

Dr. Saud bin Humaid Al Shoaili, Head of the National Space Program and Head of the Project Management Office, stated that "the project is a key pillar in im-

plementing the National Space Strategy (2023–2033), which aspires for Oman to become the regional gateway for space services and technologies that enable economic diversification and unlock future opportunities, enhancing the sector's contribution to GDP and expanding national space services".

Dr. Saud added that the project complements national initiatives implemented by the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technology in partnership with the local private sector, including satellite launch operations from Duqm Port under the "Itlaq" launch program, national space capacity-building programmes, the Oman Space Accelerator Programme, and geospatial data and Earth observation projects—forming a fully integrated ecosystem to support Oman's space economy.

Eng. Salim bin Said Al Alawi, CEO of Space Communications Technologies, said: "We take pride in the trust placed in us by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and the Oman Investment Authority to operate and manage this national project. This marks a major turning point in the history of satellite communications in the Sultanate of Oman. We will work closely with Airbus to implement the project to the highest global standards."

He added that the company aims to build a fully Omani-driven operational system managed by qualified national talent, enabling Oman to deliver advanced and secure satellite communication services. He clarified that the company will operate the latest software-defined satellite with high flexibility and Ka-band capacity, enabling the delivery of competitive services across targeted sectors. — ONA

Oman and Syria explore economic, trade relations



The meeting explored avenues to enhance economic relations between the two countries and discussed opportunities for joint cooperation in the future



The meeting explored avenues to enhance economic and trade relations between the two countries and discussed opportunities for joint cooperation in the upcoming phase.

The two ministers addressed various joint cooperation files, including facilitating procedures for businesspeople and investors, discussing the operation of direct flights between the two countries, and exploring opportunities for Omani companies to contribute to reconstruction projects in the Syrian Arab Republic.

They also discussed means of enhancing the utilisation of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) and facilitating the movement of land and maritime transport, as well as customs and non-customs procedures.

Furthermore, the two sides emphasized the importance of activating the work of the Omani-Syrian Joint Committee to enhance coordination in commercial and investment affairs between the two countries, and dispatching technical delegations to the two nations to explore trade, economic, and investment cooperation opportunities. — ONA

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion received on Sunday Asaad Hasan Al-Shaibani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic, as part of his official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
We Belong to Allah and to Him We Shall Return

CONDOLENCES

With hearts filled with patience and faith in Allah's will,

The Chairman, Board of Directors, Executive Management, and employees of

Taageer Finance

offer their deepest condolences on

the passing of

Sheikh Suhail Salim Abdullah Bahwan Al Mukhaini,
Chairman of Suhail Bahwan Group.

May the Almighty bless his soul with eternal peace and grant his family patience and strength during this time of grief.

تاجير للتحويل
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OMAN

TWO-DAY EVENT



Oman participates in workshop on national register and vital statistics in Iraq

BAGHDAD: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in a two-day workshop held in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq, to unify visions and efforts about the system of national register and vital statistics.

The workshop takes the theme “Your Document, Your Identity, Your Future”.

Dr. Khalifa Abdullah Al Barwani, Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), presented a working paper in which he reviewed the Sultanate of Oman’s experience in developing the national population register and systems of civil registration and vital statistics.

These systems, he said, emerge as leading regional experiences in the field of digital integration and building of reliable national databases.

The Sultanate of Oman’s participation in the workshop stems from its keenness to enhance regional cooperation and exchange experiences in the

fields of statistics and digitization. It contributes to efforts aimed at developing national methodologies for vital statistics and building advanced data systems in a manner that improves government services and raises the efficiency of development planning.

The workshop is organized by the United Nations Population Fund in cooperation with the departments concerned in Iraq.

The workshop seeks to explore successful international experiences in developing civil registration systems, in addition to discussing the best practices in institutional coordination, data automation and the use of the same to support decision-making.

The workshop also looks into mechanisms for building a comprehensive and unified national register that integrates sectoral databases, enhances data protection, secures the privacy of citizens and prepares for a new stage of digital transition in Iraq. – **ONA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Royal Office Minister receives Armenia’s envoy



MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received at his office on Sunday Hrachya Poladian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting reviewed the existing relations between the two countries. It also discussed

pathways of joint cooperation and ways to enhance them across various fields.

The Armenian Ambassador expressed his appreciation for the development witnessed in bilateral relations, valuing the role undertaken by the Sultanate of Oman in advocating security and stability. – **ONA**

NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR

Credentials received

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, was presented with a copy of the credentials of Kjersti Tromsdal, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Sultanate of Oman.

Upon receiving the Ambassador, the Undersecretary extended a warm welcome, wishing her every success in her diplomatic mission and conveying his aspirations for the continued advancement and flourishing of the bilateral relations between the two nations.

The meeting was attended by Najeeb bin Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocols Department at the Foreign Ministry, alongside senior officials from the Ministry.

In a separate diplomatic engagement, Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of

the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, met here with Mustafa Ahmed Noman, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Republic of Yemen.

The discussions provided an opportunity to review the fraternal bilateral relations and various facets of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen. The conversations also addressed the latest developments in the Yemeni situation and the ongoing endeavours to forge a comprehensive political and consensual resolution among the Yemeni parties. This sought-after outcome is envisioned to culminate in the cessation of the conflict and the restoration of stability and peace to Yemen. The meeting was attended by Dr. Khaled Saleh Shoteif, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to the Sultanate of Oman, as well as officials from the Foreign Ministry. – **ONA**

INVITATION INCLUDED

His Majesty receives written message from King of Bahrain



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The message includes an invitation to attend the 46th GCC Summit, scheduled to be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The message was handed over to Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, when he received at the general diwan of the Foreign Ministry to Dr. Juma bin Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Sultanate of Oman. – **ONA**



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The Chairman, Members of the Board of Directors,
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extend their deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies

on the passing of

Sheikh Suhail Salim Abdullah Bahwan Al Mukhaini

Chairman of Suhail Bahwan Group

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



Foreign Minister engages in high-level diplomacy, reinforcing Oman’s role in regional stability, bilateral partnerships



The meetings underscored Oman’s pivotal role in fostering regional dialogue

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, conducted a series of high-level diplomatic meetings yesterday, underscoring the nation’s pivotal role in fostering regional dialogue and strengthening international partnerships.

He commenced his diplomatic engagements by receiving Hans Grundberg, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen. The discussions centred on the critical efforts to support the Yemeni parties in committing to a negotiated path, with the ultimate goal of achieving a sustainable political resolution that ends the crisis and fulfills the Yemeni people’s legitimate aspirations for peace and stability. In a meeting with Musa Al-Koni, Vice President of the Libyan Presidential Council, the two sides examined the evolving situation in Libya. They underscored the imperative of bolstering current endeavours to secure lasting political and security stability. The conversation also explored concrete avenues to enhance the fraternal cooperation between Oman and Libya, focusing on initiatives that serve

mutual interests and advance the cause of national dialogue and reconciliation. Further reinforcing regional collaboration, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister met with Jassem Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, GCC Secretary-General. Their discussions provided a comprehensive overview of the robust cooperative ties between Oman and the GCC Secretariat General. A significant focus was placed on the strategic exchange of expertise to fortify joint Gulf action across the political, economic, and social spheres. The conversation also encompassed the GCC’s evolving role in strengthening dialogues and negotiations with international partners to best serve the collective interests of its member states. Sayyid Badr also met with Dr.

Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Minister of State at the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides undertook a thorough review of the enduring co-operative relations between their nations and identified promising opportunities for their further development across multiple domains. They also exchanged perspectives on a range of regional and international issues of common concern, jointly affirming their commitment to sustained coordination and consultation to enhance collective action and promote security and stability throughout the region. These meetings were attended by Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, alongside senior officials from the ministry.

Additionally, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received Andreas Kravik, State Secretary at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides reviewed the extensive scope of existing cooperation between Oman and Norway, with particular emphasis on their collaborative work in the fields of mediation and dialogue facilitation. They exchanged views on pressing regional and international developments, stressing the importance of enhanced coordination on matters of peace and security and reaffirming their support for peaceful conflict resolution. The conversation also ventured into opportunities for expanding the bilateral partnership into areas such as education, culture, and sustainable development, thereby deepening the bonds of friendship

and shared purpose. Sayyid Badr also met with Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two ministers took stock of the positive trajectory of bilateral relations, noting the encouraging progress across various fields of cooperation that continue to yield mutual benefits. A substantive exchange of views on regional and international developments followed, with special attention given to ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions and reinforce diplomatic channels for crisis management. Both sides emphasized the critical importance of continued coordination and consultation between their two nations, recognizing its vital contribution to entrenching security, stability, and developmental peace throughout the region. — OMA

2025 MEED PROJECTS AWARDS

Ibrahim Jaidah Architects & Engineers wins two awards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ibrahim Jaidah Architects & Engineers (IJAEE) is proud to announce its recognition as a National Winner in two categories at the prestigious 2025 MEED Projects Awards: Hotel Project of the Year – St. Regis Al-Mouj, Oman Building of the Year – Financial Services Authority (FSA) Headquarters, Oman Additionally, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) Headquarters was Highly Commended for Building Project of the Year for MENA Winners. These honours celebrate IJAEE’s unwavering commitment to architectural excellence, engineering innovation, and delivering



world-class projects that shape the region’s built environment. They reflect the dedication and collaboration of all stakeholders who share our vision for progress and quality. “We thank our clients and

partners for their trust and collaboration in making these successes possible and look forward to continuing to deliver landmark projects that set new benchmarks for design and innovation in the region,” the company said.

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES



Oman and World Bank collaborate to boost areas of educational cooperation

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the World Bank on Sunday discussed financial challenges related to providing infrastructure for government schools and building new schools to replace evening-shift schools. The discussion took place during a meeting between Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister

of Education, and Wendy Werner, World Bank Group’s Country Manager for the Sultanate of Oman. Dr. Madiha commended the efforts made by the World Bank office in Oman in supporting the development of educational action. The two sides discussed areas of educational cooperation

between the Ministry of Education and the World Bank aimed at meeting common educational goals. For her part, Wendy Werner lauded the developmental achievements made across various sectors in Oman. She welcomed initiatives to enhance the existing cooperation between the two sides. — OMA

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CONDOLENCES

The Board of Directors of
Muscat Media Group
(Al Shabiba and Times of Oman)
offers their condolences
on the passing of
Sheikh Suhail Salim Bahwan,
Chairman of the
Suhail Bahwan Group

*We pray to the God Almighty to
have mercy on him and to give
strength to his family and loved
ones with patience and solace.*



الشبابية

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Jordan discuss enhancing cooperation and regional stability

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, on Sunday received Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Sayyid Badr commended the profound and deeply rooted relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He highlighted the consistent support and high-level attention these ties receive from both nations' leadership, which serves to continually develop and enrich bilateral cooperation across a diverse range of fields.

The discussions featured a comprehensive review of the bilateral relationship and explored pathways to elevate this partnership to wider horizons, with particular focus on political, economic, educational, and tourism domains. The meeting also examined opportunities for expanding joint investments and strengthening col-



laborative efforts in vital sectors such as food security, logistics, and communications, in step with the shared aspirations of both countries. The two ministers engaged in an exchange of perspectives on pressing regional and international developments, giving primary focus to the grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

They jointly underscored the critical imperative to cease escalation, ensure the protection of civilians, and redouble efforts dedicated to revitalising the political process. This, they affirmed, is essential to achieving a comprehensive and just resolution that secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Ayman Safadi conveyed his

nation's deep appreciation for the steadfast and balanced diplomatic efforts of the Sultanate of Oman and its constructive role in bolstering regional security and stability.

He further reaffirmed Jordan's steadfast commitment to enhancing cooperation and deepening coordination with the Sultanate of Oman on all matters of mutual interest. — **ONA**

ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY

ITA Desk strengthens Oman-Italy economic ties

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The relationship between Italy and the Sultanate of Oman has grown steadily in recent years, built on mutual respect, cultural affinity, and a shared commitment to sustainable economic development.

A key driver of this growth has been the establishment of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) Desk in Muscat, located within the Embassy of Italy.

Opened two years ago, the Desk represents a cornerstone of Italy's commercial diplomacy in the Gulf, aimed at strengthening economic ties and supporting the diversification goals of Oman Vision 2040.

The ITA Desk operates under the supervision of the Trade Commissioner Valerio Soldani, based at the ITA regional office in Dubai, and is headed locally by Benedetto D'Anna, who leads the Desk's activities in Oman.

Working in close coordination with the Embassy's Commercial Office, the Desk provides direct institutional support to both Italian and Omani businesses, creating a bridge for trade, investment, and collaboration between the two countries.

Its mission is twofold: to assist Italian companies seeking entry into the Omani market and to help Omani entrepreneurs connect with their Italian counterparts. This includes providing market intelligence, organising business delegations, facilitating B2B meetings, and coordinating Italy's participation in major Omani trade fairs.

Over the past two years, the Desk has become a key point of reference for Italian enterprises operating in sectors such as renewable energy, industrial machinery, construction, design, and food technology.

The results are visible in the trade figures. Between January and July 2025, total trade between Italy and Oman reached 399 million euros, marking a



strong 17.5 percent increase compared to the same period in 2024. Italian exports totalled 267 million euros, up 14 percent, making Italy Oman's 12th largest trading partner worldwide and second within the European Union, after Germany.

This solid growth confirms the dynamism of bilateral relations and the increasing recognition of Italian excellence in Oman's industrial and economic sectors.

The main areas of Italian export are industrial machinery, construction materials, steel and metal products, chemicals, automotive components, and optics—industries in which Italy is globally renowned for its technology and reliability.

These sectors align perfectly with Oman's economic diversification agenda, which emphasises industrial development, energy transition, and infrastructure modernisation. At the same time, Oman continues to export to Italy energy and petrochemical products, creating a balanced and complementary trade relationship.

The year 2025 marks an important milestone for the ITA Desk, with Italy's first-ever institutional participation in Oman Sustainability Week (OSW).

The event, held in Muscat, is the country's leading platform for renewable energy and environmental innovation. Under the coordination of the ITA Desk, the Italian Pavilion featured 18 Italian companies specialising in clean energy, water treatment,

waste-to-energy, circular economy, and hydrogen technologies. This participation demonstrated Italy's commitment to supporting Oman's sustainability goals and promoting the expertise of Italian companies in cutting-edge sectors.

According to Valerio Soldani, Italian Trade Commissioner to the UAE and Oman, "our participation in Oman Sustainability Week 2025 represents a further step in the strategic development of ITA's activities in the Gulf and is in line with the relaunch of the Muscat Desk, which was strengthened in 2024. Since its renewal, the Desk has already supported more than 350 Italian companies and organised numerous targeted B2B initiatives, serving as an effective operational bridge between Italian industry and the Omani market. The OSW 2025 participation reflects our goal of ensuring that Italian excellence in sustainability, energy, and technology becomes increasingly present in Oman and the wider region."

The event attracted significant attention from Omani authorities, investors, and media, positioning Italy as a key partner in the Sultanate's green transition. Beyond exhibitions, the ITA Desk provides daily operational support to businesses through customized services such as partner search, market analysis, and assistance in tender participation.

Full story at timesofoman.com/oman

DHOFAR GOVERNORATE

Development and service projects reviewed

SALALAH: The Municipal Council of Dhofar Governorate discussed a set of developmental and service projects in the governorate, alongside reviewing reports from its specialised committees on various topics and initiatives.

This took place during the Council's meeting held on Sunday under the chairmanship of HH Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The Council views a presentation given by Dhofar Municipality regarding the determination of public parking fees across the governorate.

The Council also discussed allocating a designated site for auto enthusiasts in the Wilayat of Salalah, aiming to provide a safe and prepared environment for practicing these activities under regulations that ensure public safety and align with the optimal use of public spaces.

The Council reviewed the report of the Governorate Development Committee on the field visit to the planned agricultural investment zone in Raysut area. — **ONA**

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EXECUTIVE MOVE



Omantel board names new CEO

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) announced the appointment of Eng. Aladdin bin Abdullah Bait Fadhil as the company's new Chief Executive Officer. Prior to this appointment, Eng. Aladdin was the Chief Commercial Officer at Omantel, where he contributed to shaping Omantel's commercial strategy, driving digital transformation, and strengthening the company's position as a leading integrated telecommunications provider in the region.

With more than 20 years of experience in the telecom sector, Eng. Aladdin brings a vast industry knowledge, strategic insight, and understanding of market dynamics. He contributed to expanding Omantel's enterprise and wholesale portfolios, enhancing customer experience, and forging key partnerships that support the Sultanate of Oman's digital economy ambitions. His appointment

also reflects Omantel's commitment to empowering national talents and nurturing Omani leadership across all levels of the organisation. This leadership transition comes at an important moment in Omantel's journey, as the company advances its bold strategic vision - "Portal to the Future" - which positions Omantel as a regional digital powerhouse, enabling innovation, connectivity, and sustainable growth across the region.

Aladdin holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Sultan Qaboos University and has completed advanced executive programmes at Harvard Business School, London Business School, and Manchester Business School.

The Board expressed its confidence in Eng. Aladdin's ability to lead Omantel into its next phase of innovation and growth, building on the company's strong foundations and commitment to delivering value to customers, shareholders, and the nation.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders: -

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2025/168	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 10F/2025	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/169	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 10G/2025	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/171	Drilling of production water wells in Arsaoat, Aroqom and Qiroon Hirity	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	105.000
DISC/2025/172	Drilling of production water wells in Safaq, Zeek and Tawi Ateer	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/173	Drilling of production water wells in Ashqool, Shaat and Mudhai	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/174	Drilling of production water wells in Salalah and Mirbat	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/175	Drilling of production water wells in Burj Haloof, Mothalth Habroot and Akhrem Alsan	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/176	Drilling of Production Water Well in Muqshin	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/177	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 10E/2025	08- Dec-2025	18- Dec-2025	52.500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be placed in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



NIZWA UNIVERSITY

Graduation of 805 students celebrated

NIZWA: The University of Nizwa celebrated the graduation of 805 students from the 18th cohort of the Higher Diploma in Educational Qualification programme, spanning various educational specialisations offered by the programme.

Academic, research

The ceremony included a visual presentation highlighting the university's key academic, research, and community achievements and poetic recital in honour of the occasion.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Professor Dr. Ahmed Khalfan Al Rawahi, Vice-Chancellor of Nizwa University.

— **ONA**

Tender Notice for the sale of used materials

Tender No. AW/T/PH1/01/2025

Al Watanyiah United Engineering and Contracting Co. LLC hereby announce a Tender for the sale of used materials, as described in the table below, on an "as is, where is" basis. Those wishing to submit a Bid must obtain the Tender documents from the Company's Head Office (HO) in Ghala Industrial Area after paying the specified Tender Fee in the Company's Bank Dhofar account 01040605344006 (IBAN NO: OM080250001040605344006).

S. No.	Description	Location	Tender Fee (RO)	Earnest Money Deposit (RO)	Period for purchase of Tender	Last date for submission of offer.
1	Used Porta Cabins and GRP Ablution, used safety items/Scrap materials, Used Furniture, UPVC, PVC, HDPE, GI Pipes and Project returned items.	Sohar, Haima, Barka and Ghala	25/-	10% of the submitted offer	19/11/2025 To 03/12/2025	10/12/2025 5.00 PM
2	Aluminum Profiles (Random Lengths)	Ghala.				

The last date for submission of offers is on Wednesday, 5 PM, detailed date on the above table, accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 10% of the total offered value).

The EMD must be valid for 60 days from the last date of submission of offer and the original EMD along with the offer must be submitted in the tender box at the reception of our HO Ghala, Muscat, Oman on or before the last date & time indicated above.

Contact details: 24502581/82- Extn. 149/150, GSM: 9294 7637 / 7722 8166



With hearts full of faith in Allah's decree

Board of Directors and
all the employees of

Bahwan Veolia Water L.L.C

extend their sincere condolences

on the passing of

Sheikh Suhail Salim Abdullah Bahwan Al Mukhaini

We extend our deepest condolences and sincere
sympathy to the family.

We pray that, Allah grants the departed soul His mercy,
admits him to Paradise,
blesses his family with patience and
solace during this time of grief.

Truly, to Allah we belong and truly, to Him
we shall return.



بهوان و فيوليا
Bahwan Veolia



With hearts full of faith in Allah's decree

Board of Directors and
all the employees of

Sharqiyah Desalination Company S.A.O.G

extend their sincere condolences

on the passing of

Sheikh Suhail Salim Abdullah Bahwan Al Mukhaini

We extend our deepest condolences and sincere
sympathy to the family.

We pray that, Allah grants the departed soul His mercy,
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الشرقية لتحلية المياه
Sharqiyah Desalination

SPORTS

South Africa take command

Muthusamy's maiden ton, Jansen's 93 guided the visitors to a total of 489 against India on the second day of the second Test in Guwahati

GUWAHATI: Senuran Muthusamy struck his first Test century and Marco Jansen hammered 93 to guide South Africa to a commanding 489 all out on day two of the second match against India on Sunday.

The left-handed Muthusamy made 109 and put on 97 runs for the eighth wicket with Jansen, who was the last wicket to fall in the final session in Guwahati.

Jansen struck six fours and seven sixes in his 91-ball blitz before he dragged a delivery from Kuldeep Yadav on to his stumps and the innings ended after 151.1 overs.

The hosts reached nine for no loss in 6.1 overs at stumps, trailing South Africa by 480 runs on a pitch still looking good to bat at India's newest Test venue.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, on seven, and KL Rahul, on two were at the crease when bad light stopped play for the day in the north-eastern



city where sunsets are early.

The 6ft 8in (2.03m) Jansen frustrated the Indian attack as he hung on with No.9 and 10 after he reached his fourth Test half-century and surpassed his previous best of 84 not out in the longer format.

Jansen's seven hits over the fence are the joint-most in a Test innings against India. Pakistan's Shahid Afridi hit as many during his 103 in Lahore in 2006.

Muthusamy reached his hundred in 192 balls off pace bowler Mohammed Siraj, as he punched the air and raised his bat to a standing ovation from the crowd and the dressing room.



He fell soon after the second break but Jansen, a right-hand batter and left-arm quick, kept up the charge with Simon Harmer (5) and Keshav Maharaj, unbeaten on 12.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja ended a 88-run seventh-wicket stand after a wicketless first session when Kyle Verreynne was stumped for 45 by captain Rishabh Pant. Kuldeep finished with four wickets with his left-arm wrist spin.

Pace bowlers Jasprit Bumrah, Siraj and left-arm spinner Jadeja took two each. The tourists, who won the toss and elected to bat on Saturday, are in hunt for their first series victory in India in 25 years after they won the opener of the two-match series.

Earlier Muthusamy and Verreynne used their feet to tackle spinners in a sedate first hour of play when only 28 runs were scored, including two fours.

Muthusamy survived a scare on 48 when Jadeja had him given out lbw, but the batsman's review showed a murmur when the ball passed his glove and the decision was overturned.

Brief scores: South Africa 1st innings 489 (Muthusamy 109, Jansen 93; Kuldeep 4-115) vs India 1st innings India 9/0 (Jaiswal 7*, Rahul 2*).. - Agencies

T20I

Pakistan hammer Zimbabwe to book spot in tri-series final



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan stormed into the T20I tri-series final with a dominant 69-run win over Zimbabwe in Rawalpindi on Sunday, powered by fifties from Sahibzada Farhan and Babar Azam, and Usman Tariq's hat-trick. Farhan and Azam provided the batting foundation, while Tariq's hat-trick underlined Pakistan's dominance with the ball.

Unbeaten in all three matches of the series—and on a five-match winning streak in T20Is—the hosts marched into the final with complete authority. Asked to bat first, Pakistan's innings was built on a strong foundation laid by Farhan

and Azam. Farhan continued his rich vein of form, racing to fifty off 35 balls before expanding his stroke play to finish with a polished 63 off 41.

Azam, steady and in control throughout, notched his half-century off 42 deliveries and accelerated late in his innings to compile 74 off 52, featuring seven fours and two sixes. Together, the pair added 103 runs for the second wicket, setting Pakistan on course for a formidable total.

The final flourish came from Fakhar Zaman, who produced an explosive cameo to lift Pakistan to

195/5. Facing Brad Evans in the last over, Fakhar smashed three sixes and a four, plundering 25 runs off the over and ending unbeaten on a blistering 27 off just 10 balls.

Zimbabwe's chase never gained traction as Pakistan's bowlers struck early and often. Naseem Shah and Mohammad Wasim removed the openers inside two overs, and from there the innings unravelled rapidly. The highlight of the night belonged to Usman Tariq, whose sensational spell of 4 for 18—including a brilliant hat-trick—ripped through Zimbabwe's middle and lower order, reducing

them to 60 for 7 inside ten overs.

Ryan Burl fought a lone battle, hitting a gutsy 67 off 49 balls, including a 34-ball fifty and guiding Zimbabwe to their highest-ever 10th-wicket stand in T20Is. But his resistance merely delayed the inevitable as Zimbabwe folded for 126 in 19 overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan 195/5 (Babar Azam 74, Sahibzada Farhan 63, Fakhar Zaman 27*; Sikandar Raza 2/39, Richard Ngarava 1/34) beat Zimbabwe 126 all out in 19 overs. Ryan Burl 67*, Sikandar Raza 23; Usman Tariq 4/18, Mohammad Nawaz (2/21).. - Agencies

INJURED GILL OUT



Rahul to captain India in ODIs vs South Africa, Pant returns

MUMBAI: India batter KL Rahul will captain the side in the three ODIs against South Africa starting on November 30.

Rahul steps in with regular captain Shubman Gill still recovering from the neck injury he suffered during the first Test in Kolkata earlier this month.

Rishabh Pant was back in the ODI mix as the second wicket-keeper, having last played the format in August 2024. Jasprit Bumrah was rested having featured in all four home Tests this season, the T20 Asia Cup as well as the ODIs in Australia over the past two months. Shreyas Iyer too wasn't in the squad as he continues to recover from a lacerated spleen.

With Shreyas unavailable, a middle-order spot opened up for Tilak Varma, the left-hand batter, who featured in a recent one-day series against South Africa A in Rajkot. Tilak has so far played four ODIs with modest returns, but has established himself as a regular in the T20I set-up.

He could compete with Pant for a spot in the middle order that also has Virat Kohli, Rahul as well as Ravindra Jadeja, who was rested for the Australia ODIs. Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar are the other all-rounders in the mix. There was no spot for Axar Patel.

In Gill's absence, Yashasvi Jaiswal is expected to open the batting with Rohit Sharma. Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was in sparkling form for India A during the one-dayers against South Africa A is

the reserve opener. Gaikwad, who last played in an ODI two years ago, made scores of 117, 68* and 25 during India A's 2-1 series win.

Mohammed Siraj has been rested, presumably to manage his workloads after he featured in each of the four home Tests, with Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana as the front-line pace bowlers. The squad also comprises Dhruv Jurel as the back-up middle order batter.

Hardik Pandya, meanwhile, is undergoing the final phase of his rehab for a quadriceps injury at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. He has been named in Baroda's squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s that start on November 26, and could play the first three rounds of matches before the selectors take a call on him for the T20I series against South Africa. Hardik, who was part of the Champions Trophy winning squad in March, missed India's previous ODI assignment due to the injury he picked up during September's Asia Cup.

The three ODIs against South Africa will be played on November 30 in Ranchi, December 3 in Raipur and on December 6 in Visakhapatnam.

India's ODI squad: Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, KL Rahul (capt & wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel. - Agencies



Sultanate of Oman

Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Bid Submission Closing Date on/ Before 14:00 pm Sunday	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
4561/2025/MOH/NIZH-4	Dismantling, Replacement, Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of Steam Heated Calorifiers and its accessories at Nizwa Hospital	07/12/2025	01/01/2026	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set

Tenders should be submitted on line on <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> enclose **Electronic Bank Guarantee** issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee.

Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

For any Clarification, you may contact via Telephone: 24402200 , Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً وَأَنْذِرِي عِبَادِي أَن يُصَلُّوا لَكُمْ وَأَعْلَمِي
«صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ»

With hearts full of faith in Allah's decree

The Board of Directors and all the employees of
Hind Bahwan Group extend their
sincere condolences

on the passing of

Sheikh Suhail Salim Abdullah Bahwan Al Mukhaini
Chairman of Suhail Bahwan Group



We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Chairperson
and his family members.
We pray that, Allah grants the departed soul His mercy,
admits him to Paradise,
blesses his family with patience and
solace during this time of grief.
Truly, to Allah we belong and truly, to Him
we shall return.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

CONDOLENCES

The Board Members and Directors of
Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC
extend their heartfelt condolences
on the passing of

Sheikh Suhail Salim Bahwan,
Chairman of the Suhail Bahwan Group

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



محسن حيدر درويش ش.م.م.
MOHSIN HAIDER DARWISH L.L.C.

QUANTUM TECH TRANSFER
A new quantum computer, deployed in the eastern Chinese city of Hefei this month, is poised to be accessible to the global research and business community. The machine can reportedly solve a particular problem 450 million times quicker than the world's leading supercomputer.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 5,598.45 points, down by -0.86% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.43% at 493.16 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 3.85%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 3.57%, was the top loser.

Over OMR248 million invested to support net-zero emissions

These projects reflect OETC's continued commitment to meeting the growing demand for electricity, enhancing the reliability and resilience of the national transmission network, and supporting the country's shift toward a more efficient and sustainable energy system

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and the national strategy for transitioning to sustainable energy and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, the Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) has announced the award and assignment of eight strategic infra-



structure projects across several governorates, with a total value exceeding OMR 248 million. These projects reflect OETC's continued commitment to meeting the growing demand for electricity, enhancing the reliability and resilience of the national transmission network, and supporting the country's shift toward a more efficient and sustainable energy system. Eng. Hisham Abdullah Al Riyami, Acting Chief Executive Officer of OETC, emphasized the importance of these projects, stating: "These investments represent a strategic commitment to the future of energy in the Sultanate of Oman. They reflect our dedication to building a smarter, more sustainable, and more reliable electricity transmission network. The projects will enhance the resilience of the national grid, create local economic opportunities,



and accelerate Oman's transition toward renewable energy in line with Oman Vision 2040." Al Riyami added that each of the awarded projects will contribute 30% toward In-Country Value (ICV) by supporting national industries, creating job opportunities for Omanis, and encouraging technological innovation within the power sector. The projects will also enable the reduction of more than 1,914,000 tons of CO² emissions annually through the integration of three wind power projects with a combined capacity of 1,220 MW, a solar power project with a capacity of 500 MW, and the decommissioning of diesel-based generation units—further supporting the country's net-zero goals.

The strategic projects awarded include:
1. Construction of Al Jazir Grid

Station (400/33 kV) with associated transmission lines, valued at OMR 21.98 million, to enhance supply reliability and enable the shutdown of diesel power plants in Al Wusta Governorate.
2. Construction of Ras Madrakah Grid Station (400 kV) to connect a 300 MW wind power plant, along with associated transmission lines, at a cost of OMR 33.32 million, enabling the integration of renewable energy into the national grid.
3. Construction of Sadah Grid Station (132 kV) to connect a 120 MW wind power plant, with associated transmission lines, valued at over OMR 19.8 million.
4. Construction of Sarab Grid Station in Mahout (400/33 kV) to connect an 800 MW wind power plant, at a cost of OMR 23.8 million.
5. Construction of Al Kamil & Al Wafi Grid Station (400/132 kV) with associated transmission lines

to connect a 500 MW solar power plant, valued at OMR 33 million.
6. Construction of Al Misfah Grid Station (400 & 132 kV) with associated transmission lines to connect a 1600 MW gas-fired power plant, valued at OMR 44 million, supporting demand growth and strengthening system reliability.
7. Construction of Wadi Latham Grid Station (400/132 kV) and Al Safa Grid Station (132 kV), along with associated transmission lines, with a total value exceeding OMR 62.4 million, to meet increasing electricity demand in Al Dhahirah Governorate.
8. Expansion of Sohar Free Zone Grid Station (220/132 kV) at a cost of more than OMR 9.9 million, enabling further industrial and commercial expansion in one of the Sultanate's most important economic hubs.
Al Riyami noted that these

projects form an integral part of OETC's long-term strategy to enable sustainable growth, enhance local value creation, and support Oman's economic development. He added: "Through these strategic investments, we are not only developing the national grid but also reinforcing the company's role in driving energy transition, enabling economic and industrial growth, and supporting sustainable local value across the Sultanate." OETC is responsible for the transmission network and load dispatch across the national grid, covering all governorates of the Sultanate. The company also manages interconnections with the GCC Interconnection Grid at 220 kV and operates under the Nama Group framework to support Oman's vision of building a secure, reliable, and sustainable electricity ecosystem.

CONDOLENCES

The Khimji Ramdas Group, its directors, management, staff and families express their profound sorrow on



the passing away of
Sheikh Suhail Salim Bahwan,
Chairman of the Suhail Bahwan Group

He has been one of the most charismatic corporate leaders of our time.

May the Almighty bless the departed soul with everlasting peace.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 3.85%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 3.57%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,598.45 points, down by -0.86% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.43% at 493.16 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 3.85%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 3.57%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 4504 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 31.6 million, with more than 135.61 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 9 advanced, 25 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for RO 487K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 466K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 20K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 9,046.74 points, down -0.31%. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, Oman Arab Bank, and

Ominvest were up by 3.85%, 0.68%, 0.66% respectively. Prices of DIDIC, Sohar International Bank, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Anwar Investment, and Bank Dhofar were down by 2.72%, 2.56%, 2.22%, 1.96%, and 0.63% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 7,208.65 points, down -0.26%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cement, and Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 1.86%, 1.61%, 0.84%, and 0.35% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf International Chemicals, and A'Saffa Foods were down by 2.33%, 1.43%, 0.22% respectively. Services Index was down by -1.27% before closing at 2,309.97 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, and OQ Exploration & Production were up by 2.30%, and 0.53% respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Al Batinah Power, Oman Education & Training, Renaissance Services, and Phoenix Power were down by 2.72%, 2.38%, 1.88%, 1.64%, and 1.34% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	5,643.86	5,596.81	5,598.45	5,647.10	-48.66	-0.86
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,086.80	9,046.74	9,046.74	9,074.80	-28.07	-0.31
Industry Index	7,254.27	7,189.82	7,208.65	7,227.30	-18.65	-0.26
Services Index	2,339.50	2,306.20	2,309.97	2,339.58	-29.61	-1.27
MSX Shariah Index	495.31	491.25	493.16	495.31	-2.15	-0.43
MSX TR INDEX	8,476.75	8,406.08	8,408.53	8,481.61	-73.08	-0.86
FINANCIAL TR IDX	10,795.44	10,747.84	10,747.84	10,781.18	-33.35	-0.31
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,943.88	8,864.43	8,887.64	8,910.64	-23.00	-0.26
SERVICES TR IDX	3,039.78	2,996.51	3,001.41	3,039.88	-38.47	-1.27
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
135,616,683	31,598,239	4,504	31,312,812,619	9	25	18	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

REGULAR MARKET

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	100	219	1	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.150	0.040	1.860	2.190	2.150	2.190	0.100	196,443,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	76,758	23,400	11	0.302	0.307	0.302	0.303	0.301	0.002	0.664	0.303	0.303	0.306	0.100	283,520,614
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	116,752	30,362	13	0.259	0.261	0.259	0.259	0.259	0.000	0.000	0.259	0.254	0.260	0.100	25,900,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,664	6,152	3	0.600	0.600	0.575	0.575	0.575	0.000	0.000	0.575	0.571	0.589	0.100	71,816,327
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	282,500	16,800	9	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.100	22,752,147
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	32,083,455	10,690,947	602	0.334	0.335	0.332	0.334	0.334	0.000	0.000	0.334	0.334	0.334	0.100	2,507,136,619
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	4,032	3,726	11	0.920	0.925	0.920	0.925	0.925	0.000	0.000	0.920	0.920	0.925	0.100	86,592,175
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	435,444	45,286	16	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.103	0.106	0.100	232,643,115
OM0000004768	MADINA TRAFUL	4,720	416	2	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.086	0.088	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	259	130	1	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.466	-0.001	-0.215	0.465	0.455	0.465	0.100	55,800,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	776,384	788,719	91	1.017	1.017	1.015	1.015	1.018	-0.003	-0.295	1.015	1.015	1.015	0.100	761,250,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	16,757	3,039	6	0.182	0.182	0.181	0.181	0.182	-0.001	-0.549	0.181	0.181	0.182	0.100	775,481
OM0000002968	ORIEDOO	939,892	263,613	57	0.283	0.284	0.277	0.282	0.285	-0.003	-1.053	0.282	0.285	0.282	0.100	183,566,373
OM0000000972	OQ GAS NETWORKS	7,490,080	1,373,637	548	0.184	0.185	0.182	0.183	0.185	-0.002	-1.081	0.183	0.183	0.182	0.100	792,504,177
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	225,438	37,094	40	0.169	0.169	0.160	0.165	0.167	-0.002	-1.198	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.100	11,877,046
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	3,758,165	1,191,056	556	0.319	0.320	0.315	0.315	0.319	-0.004	-1.254	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.100	242,613,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	360,100	109,000	23	0.306	0.306	0.300	0.300	0.305	-0.005	-1.639	0.300	0.300	0.304	0.100	70,823,000
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	323,884	54,930	28	0.170	0.170	0.168	0.168	0.172	-0.004	-2.326	0.168	0.168	0.175	0.100	36,960,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	331,320	54,924	52	0.167	0.167	0.164	0.164	0.168	-0.004	-2.381	0.164	0.164	0.166	0.100	110,681,539
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	44,955,188	7,032,114	619	0.155	0.162	0.152	0.152	0.156	-0.004	-2.564	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	1,005,821,433
Total		92,170,912	21,725,554	2,889												

Parallel Market

OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	1,650,145	214,547	17	0.130	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.130	0.005	3.846	0.135	0.130	0.134	0.100	42,581,295	
OM0000000740	DHOFAR GENERATING	100	9	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.087	0.002	2.299	0.089	0.089	0.080	0.094	0.100	19,779,360
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,738	5,102	4	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.000	0.000	0.475	0.469	0.479	0.100	158,488,028	
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	195,655	28,957	24	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.147	0.001	0.680	0.148	0.149	0.150	0.100	296,040,013	
OM0000009758	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	12,623,219	4,758,802	364	0.376	0.378	0.375	0.377	0.375	0.002	0.533	0.377	0.377	0.377	0.010	3,016,000,000	
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	55,926	16,019	10	0.290	0.290	0.286	0.286	0.285	0.001	0.351	0.286	0.286	0.290	0.100	13,089,018	
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	288,040	42,085	8	0.147	0.147	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.146	0.147	0.100	395,192,847	
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	3,527	2,769	1	0.785	0.785	0.785	0.785	0.785	0.000	0.000	0.785	0.750	0.785	0.100	48,100,875	
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	10,200	1,465	3	0.143	0.144	0.143	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.140	0.143	0.100	97,570,221	
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	100	102	1	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	0.000	0.000	1.020	1.018	1.020	0.100	70,380,000	
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	33,266	2,961	11	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.087	0.091	0.100	57,224,538	
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	30,592	4,589	4	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.100	88,715,532	
OM0000003341	BARKA WATER AND POWER	16,350	2,819	8	0.172	0.173	0.172	0.172	0.173	-0.001	-0.578	0.172	0.172	0.173	0.100	97,320,000	
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	8,500	1,482	2	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.158	-0.001	-0.633	0.157	0.157	0.160	0.100	47,248,370	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	15,000	3,275	5	0.219	0.219	0.218	0.218	0.220	-0.002	-0.909	0.218	0.216	0.225	0.100	43,520,561	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	150,205	12,740	10	0.085	0.087	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.080	0.084	0.100	6,970,000	
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	58,4783	7,773	29	0.150	0.150	0.147	0.147	0.149	-0.002	-1.342	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.100	215,082,415	
OM0000003026	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	20,462	1,400	5	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.069	0.070	0.001	1.428	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	1,449,000	
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV.	5,090	8,021	2	1.600	1.600	1.570	1.570	1.600	-0.030	-1.875	1.570	1.500	1.570	0.100	109,900,000	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	814,700	82,463	45	0.103	0.103	0.100	0.100	0.102	-0.002	-1.961	0.100	0.100	0.103	0.100	29,855,293	
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	318,500	28,228	15	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.088	0.090	-0.002	-2.222	0.088	0.087	0.089	0.100	10,725,000	
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	17,551,034	3,050,611	589	0.174	0.176	0.172	0.172	0.176	-0.004	-2.273	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.040	595,032,426	
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	7,674,434	1,308,346	547	0.171	0.172	0.169	0.169	0.173	-0.004	-2.312	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.000	880,277,778	
OM00000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	1,068,886	190,976	82	0.180	0.183	0.177	0.179	0.184	-0.005	-2.717	0.179	0.177	0.179	0.100	170,868,379	
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV.	12,012	3,003	2	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.100	12,012,000	
OM0000000775	MUSCAT CASAS	1,000	1,951	3	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.108	0.112	-0.004	-3.571	0.108	0.101	0.109	0.100	3,240,000	
Total		26	431,004.94	9,850.501	1,792												



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CONTACT: 95392251

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Chartered Accountant with 16+ yrs Exp-as Finance Head (Halliburton, ASAAS, ATC, ME). Expertise in IFRS, Reporting, Consolidation, MIS, Budgets, Tax, ERP. Seeking senior finance role in Oman.
CONTACT: 96741587
Email-umarustad@gmail.com.

FINANCE
Indian Male B.Com, MBA, with 18 yrs in healthcare, trading, logistics, IVMS up to finalization with MIS, LC, LTR software expertise, ERP, tally, Odoo & online Ac-countings, valid Omani D/L, can be join with short notice period.
Contact : 99279626

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Indian, B.Tech-Mech Engineering Holder having 13 years of experience in Oman specialized in Steel Fabrication looking suitable position.
Contact: Mobile : 95945230
Email : Arungopalakrishnan85@yahoo.com

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Senior HR & administration professional with strong advisory experience, expert in Oman labour law, office management, business operations setup & administration. Indian male, valid Oman D/L, NOC available.
Contact: 94948676

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Experienced Senior Accountant 10+ years in financial accounting, auditing, VAT, and reporting seeks opportunity in Oman. MBA-Finance. Skilled in Tally ERP, Excel, Autoline, reporting, audit, tax, and compliance.
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Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91417133

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

Indian Female 5 yrs of experience in accounts, administration, and customer care looking for suitable job. Currently in Muscat. Contact: 75019077, 79718900 Email: Hmakwana995@gmail.com

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

Indian Male, M.com (finance) 10 years experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently & Business development. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141

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

Indian Male MMS (Master in Management Studies) with 2 yrs of experience in Data Entry and Sales , looking for suitable position. available to join immediately. Contact: 91415250 Email: tambesalwan@gmail.com

Group of 20 adopts declaration to address global challenges

The move broke with protocol as declarations are typically adopted at the end of G20 summits

JOHANNESBURG: World leaders attending a Group of 20 (G20) leaders' summit in South Africa on Saturday adopted a declaration addressing global challenges despite opposition from the United States. The move broke with protocol as declarations are typically adopted at the end of G20 summits. In his opening remarks, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "We should not allow anything to diminish the value, the stature and the impact of the first African G20 presidency."



This year's summit has been overshadowed by President Donald Trump's decision not to send a US delegation. South African officials said Washington had put pressure on South Africa not to adopt a declaration in its absence. While the world's largest economy boycotted the summit, Ramaphosa argued that the G20 still played a key role in international cooperation. "The G20 underscores the value of the relevance of multilateralism. It recognizes that the challenges that we face can only be resolved through cooperation, collaboration and partnership," the summit's host said. **G20 amid geopolitical crisis** Despite Ramaphosa's optimism, French President Emmanuel Macron noted that "the G20 may be

coming to the end of a cycle." "We are living in a moment of geopolitics in which we are struggling to resolve major crises together around this table, including with members who are not present today," said Macron. "There's no doubt, the road ahead is tough," he said. "We need to find ways to play a constructive role again today in the face of the world challenges."

Meanwhile, Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who was attending the summit instead of President Xi Jinping, said "unilateralism and protectionism are rampant" and "many people are pondering what exactly is happening to global solidarity." **What did G20 leaders agree on in the declaration?** The 122-point declaration de-

manded more global action to cope with climate change. Endorsed on the same day that the COP30 talks ended in Brazil, leaders acknowledged that "investment and climate finance" need to be scaled up "from billions to trillions globally from all sources." The declaration also addressed the need to reform international financial systems to help low-income countries deal with their debt. Its language on taxing the super-rich was weaker than in the previous G20 declaration in Rio de Janeiro, where leaders agreed for the first time "to ensure that ultra-high-net-worth individuals are effectively taxed." Leaders also urged for a "just, comprehensive, and lasting peace" in Ukraine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the "Occupied Palestinian Territory" based on the UN Charter. Although Ukraine appeared only once in the 30-page text, Western leaders at the summit scrambled on the sidelines to address a peace plan proposed by the US that would end the war in Ukraine on terms considered favorable to Russia. -**AW**

BELEM

COP30 ends with finance boost, no fossil fuel roadmap

BELEM: The COP30 climate summit in Belem closed with a compromise agreement that expands financial support for developing nations but avoids any reference to phasing out fossil fuels, CNN reported. Brazil, which held the presidency of COP30, pushed the deal through after two weeks of tense and extended negotiations between representatives of more than 190 countries. The United States did not send an official delegation to the summit that ended on Saturday. India extended strong support to Brazil, praising the COP30 presidency for its inclusive approach and for steering a difficult negotiation process with fairness. India welcomed several significant decisions adopted at the conference, in the "High-level Statement" at the Closing Plenary of the UNFCCC CoP30 in the port city of Belem, known as the gateway to the Amazon. The statement conveyed India's gratitude to the CoP President for his leadership, which it said was rooted in inclusion, balance, and the "Brazilian spirit of Mutirão," and guided COP30 with integrity. India also highlighted that the GGA discussions finally acknowl-



edged the overwhelming demand for adaptation finance across the Global South. Despite pressure from the EU, Colombia, Panama and Uruguay, the final package avoided any mention of fossil fuels, the biggest driver of global warming. Colombia warned that "a consensus imposed under climate denialism is a failed agreement," while Panama said a deal that does not even name fossil fuels amounts to "complicity." "Science has been deleted from COP30 because it offends the polluters," said Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez, Panama's special representative for climate change. "A 'Forest COP' with no commitment on forests is a very bad joke. A climate decision that cannot even say 'fossil fuels' is not neutrality, it is complicity. And what is happening here transcends incompetence." Saudi Arabia, Russia and other fossil-fuel-dependent nations opposed any language on transitioning away from oil, gas or coal. COP30 President Andre Correa acknowledged the disagreements and said the presidency will issue separate documents on fossil fuel transition and forest protection, keeping them outside the official deal due to lack of consensus. Under the new agreement, developed countries are urged to triple climate finance for poorer nations by 2035, especially for adaptation to rising seas, extreme heat and intensifying storms. reported. -**ANI**

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONS

More than 102 people dead in Vietnam floods

HANOI: The toll from flooding in Vietnam has risen to 102 people dead or missing, with thousands of homes inundated or destroyed, according to disaster authorities, local media reported on Sunday. Relentless rain and floods that have lashed across the central and Central Highlands regions of Vietnam since late October have caused exceptionally severe damage, according to Vietnam News Agency. The country's environment ministry was quoted as saying by the media outlet that over 12 people are still unaccounted for, a significant increase compared to 24 hours before - Saturday morning updates had the toll at 55 deaths and 13 missing. The updated toll shows 90 confirmed fatalities, with 63 deaths in the Dak Lak Province, while Khanh Hoa reported 14 deaths and Lam Dong recorded five fatalities. Several locations on national highways remained blocked on Sunday due to flooding or landslides, according to the environment ministry, and some sections of railways were still suspended. Houses remained without electricity and forecasters have



predicted very heavy rain in Hue, Da Nang and eastern Quang Ngai Province from November 23 to 25 with totals of 60 to 120mm and, in some areas, more than 250mm. The environment ministry estimated economic losses of USD 343 million across five provinces due to the floods, and authorities expect the figure to rise as assessments continue when floods have eased. Rivers in Dak Lak, Khanh Hoa and the Dong Nai basin are receding but remain high. Flooding continues in parts of Dak Lak where four communes and wards, including Hoa Xuan, Dong Hoa, Hoa Thinh and Hoa My remain underwater. Agriculture has taken a massive hit, with 80,825 hectares of crops and 117,067 hectares of perennial plants ruined. More than 3.23 million livestock and poultry have died or been swept away, the local media reported. Transport networks remain fragmented. While National Highway 1 has reopened, 12 locations on other highways are still blocked by landslides or deep water. Six railway sections remain closed, VNA reported. -**ANI**

SOUTH AFRICA

India's priorities shine at G20 meeting

NEW DELHI: India has successfully ensured that key outcomes of its 2023 G20 Presidency continue to resonate strongly in the Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G20 Summit in South Africa, while amplifying the voice and priorities of the Global South. The declaration unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, reflecting India's consistent stance on the issue. On the technology front, the transformative potential of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has been prominently highlighted. The Declaration reiterates New Delhi's commitments to harness digital and emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, while reaffirming the need for safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, deployment, and use. Women-led development, one of the landmark outcomes of India's presidency, has found strong encouragement in the document, with a clear push for greater empowerment of women and girls. Disaster resilience, a key focus of the South African presidency, builds directly on India's initiative. Outcomes of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group launched during India's tenure have been reinforced, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) -- an Indian



initiative -- has received explicit recognition. In the area of food security, the Deccan High-Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition, adopted under India's presidency, have been reaffirmed. The role of traditional and complementary medicine in health systems, another highlight of the New Delhi Declaration, has also been acknowledged. One of the most significant wins for India came on climate finance, where the declaration adopts more ambitious language than last year. It recognises the need to scale up climate finance from billions to trillions of dollars and, crucially, notes that developing countries require an

ship in championing Global South priorities **Long live the friendship between our countries: Macron after meeting Modi** Following his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 2025 G20 Summit in Johannesburg, French President Emmanuel Macron expressed gratitude and reaffirmed the strength of India-France relations. "Thank you, my friend, dear Narendra Modi. Nations are stronger when they move forward together. Long live the friendship between our countries!" Macron wrote on X. Prime Minister Modi, on his part, described the meeting as a "delightful exchange" and said that India-France ties remain a "force for global good." "Delighted to meet President Macron during the Johannesburg G20 Summit. We had an engaging exchange on different issues. India-France ties remain a force for global good!" PM Modi wrote. Meanwhile, during the second session of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the urgent need to enhance international cooperation for disaster preparedness and response. -**ANI**

RISK OF FLEEING

Ex-Brazilian president held for trying to break his ankle monitor

SÃO PAULO: Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro was taken into custody after the Supreme Court ruled that he posed a high risk of fleeing the country, France 24 reported. The 70-year-old former leader, who is currently under house arrest, was accused of trying to break his electronic ankle monitor he has been wearing since August. The court said Bolsonaro used a soldering iron on the device in an attempt to escape, noting that he had become a "high flight risk." Supreme Court judge Alexandre de Moraes described the arrest on Saturday as a preventive step as Bolsonaro's appeals continue. A video made public by the court showed the monitoring bracelet burnt and damaged but still strapped to his ankle. In the footage, Bolsonaro admitted he had used the tool on the device out of "curiosity." According to France 24, Moraes also cited concerns over a Saturday vigil announced by Bolsonaro's eldest son, Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, outside the condominium where the former president had been staying. He said the gathering risked cre-



ating "an environment conducive to his escape." Flavio Bolsonaro had urged supporters earlier to "fight for your country." Moraes told Bolsonaro's lawyers to explain the incident within 24 hours. Reacting to his father's detention, Flavio warned in a live video that the judiciary would be responsible if anything happened to the former president. "I don't know what's going on inside the Federal Police now. If something happens to my father, Alexandre de Moraes, if my father dies in there, it's your fault," he said, while maintaining his call for a vigil, France 24 reported. -**ANI**



LIFESTYLE

FUNERALS



FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY



TO ECO-FRIENDLY

Diamonds made from ashes, burial forests, restoring memorials — the ways we say goodbye are growing more diverse. More people want funerals that respect nature, and the trend carries symbolic weight

A massive rock wall towers over a small plateau in France's southern Haute-Provence region. At its base, a few stones sit in the grass, looking as if they've fallen there by chance. Beneath them rest the ashes of a young man — it was his favourite spot — where his family have chosen to have him rest in peace. In Germany, that wouldn't be possible.

German law generally requires that the dead be buried in an approved cemetery, a burial forest or a designated section of the sea. Keeping an urn in your backyard is also not permitted. Nor is scattering a loved one's ashes in the wind.

Hot-air balloons and diamonds

While Germany is strict about burial rules, people in other countries are exploring new ways and places to bid their last farewells.

In Switzerland, some mourners scatter ashes among alpine meadows and rocky outcrops. There and in the Netherlands, ashes can also be released from a hot-air balloon. Once the balloon reaches the chosen spot, the ashes are scattered in the wind, and the coordinates are later sent to the family with a certificate. Another option is a farewell from a small aircraft.

Some US companies offer an even loftier goodbye, sending a small portion of ashes into space. A legal gray area makes that possible for Germans, too, since most of the remains do not leave Earth and are buried in an urn.

An increasing number of companies also offer memorial or cremation diamonds. Over several months, carbon extracted from a person's ashes or hair is pressed into synthetic diamonds that can be set into jewelry.

The trend to sustainable funerals

For people who value sustainability even in death, the options are expanding. Environmental consciousness is clearly on the rise across Europe. In Scandinavia and the Netherlands, new cemeteries are emerging that focus on natural materials and environmentally friendly design.

Across Europe, natural and eco-conscious funerals are gaining traction. In meadows and forests, the dead are laid to rest in biodegradable coffins made without varnish or metal, and without embalming or chemical additives.

Environmental concerns are shaping cremation as well. According to the German Quality Association for Cremation Facilities, cremation accounted for 81% of burials in Germany in 2024. Modern crematoriums now use heat-recovery systems, and funeral directors increasingly offer biodegradable urns. These urns are often used in tree burials in forest cemeteries, where graves blend naturally into the landscape.

In some places, burials can be anonymous; in others, small plaques mark the spot.

When a person becomes human compost

Some funeral homes are now offering a more natural option known as human composting. The body is placed in a cocoon of straw, hay, flowers and a small amount of plant charcoal. After a few days, a gentle, cradle-like mechanism rocks the cocoon at regular intervals, helping distribute moisture evenly.

Natural microorganisms in the body, combined with the plant material, break down the remains into fine soil

in about 40 days. A biological air filter prevents odors. The remaining bones are ground into a fine powder and mixed into the soil. The resulting earth is placed in a cemetery plot and planted — often with a rose bush, lavender or another plant the person chose before their death.

Pulverised in flash freezing

Swedish biologist Susanne Wiigh-Masak is considered a pioneer of another environmentally-friendly burial method — promession. In her process, the body is first flash-frozen at minus 18 degrees Celsius (64°F), then immersed in liquid nitrogen at minus 196 degrees (-321°F). The extreme cold makes the body so brittle that even slight vibrations cause it to crumble into a fine powder. In a vacuum chamber, moisture is removed, and any metal — such as dental fillings — is taken out.

The remains can then be placed in a small, compostable coffin made of corn or potato starch and buried in the ground. Although the procedure is patented in more than 30 countries, it has yet to be put into practice anywhere.

Cryonics, a method that also involves freezing and is used in countries such as the United States and Russia, differs from promession, as bodies are frozen below minus 130 degrees Celsius and kept intact — in the hope of future revival. Scientists consider the prospect extremely unlikely.

The way people are buried says much about the way they lived. Between an ornate grave and a tree root lies not only an aesthetic difference, but also a shift in how societies think about religion, ownership and nature — and, ultimately, how we remember our dead. -nw

SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool in crisis, Slot under pressure after Forest rout

LONDON: Arne Slot is no longer trying to save Premier League champions Liverpool from a stumble.

Saturday's Anfield horror show at the hands of Nottingham Forest, a 3-0 defeat at home, was a head-long fall into the abyss.

What most generously believed was a blip, based on the compelling evidence of Slot's first title-winning campaign last season, is now a full-blown crisis for Liverpool and their beleaguered head coach.

Chairman Tom Werner was at Anfield to witness a 3-0 loss to impressive Forest thanks to a performance as poor as anything seen at home in recent years.

"How bad that is difficult to measure but it was very bad," said Slot. "Playing at home, losing 3-0 no matter which team you face is a very, very bad result."

No-one can suggest Slot's job is in immediate danger after his deeds following his succession to Jurgen Klopp, but such is this game's brutality that he is now under serious pressure to turn the tide that threatens to engulf Anfield.

Liverpool's manager, whoever it is, is always under pressure to win games. He is under even greater pressure and scrutiny when he loses six Premier League games out of seven. This is as many as in their previous 58.

They have lost two of their past three home league games, as many as in the previous 53.

The cloak of invincibility that Liverpool carried last season has been replaced by a soft - very soft - underbelly. And it has been there since the start of the season.

It takes some doing to spend £450m to make a Liverpool side



that strolled to the title last season worse but, based on what has been produced so far, Slot and the club's recruitment team have achieved that feat.

Former Arsenal and England defender Martin Keown told BBC Sport: "Whether it's a crisis, I don't know.

"It's certainly a major problem

for the manager to go six defeats from seven. Unthinkable.

"The wheels are coming off now for Arne Slot.

"It was Jurgen Klopp's team and he has tried to come in and make changes, but he has spent £450m on players and they are going backwards."

Slot told BBC Sport's Match of

the Day: "Another big disappointment.

"We started off quite well for the first half an hour. We conceded the 1-0 and we weren't able to play the way we did in the first half hour.

"If things go well or things go bad, it's my responsibility.

"We weren't able to create enough. I tried to adjust a few things but it didn't work out."

For Slot, the problems and the unflattering statistics are starting to pile up like rubble around his feet.

The Dutch coach who showed such a sure touch last season is suddenly floundering. He has not had any answers since Eddie Nketiah's stoppage-time goal inflicted on Liverpool their first loss of the season at Crystal Palace in September.

Liverpool hinted at a revival with wins against Aston Villa, then

a Champions League victory at home to Real Madrid, but what has become normal service resumed when they were worked over in a 3-0 loss at Manchester City, then went down without barely a fight against Sean Dyche's revitalised Forest.

As for the stats, it is look away now time for Slot and Liverpool:

This is only the second time they have lost as many as six of their opening 12 Premier League games. They lost six in 2014-15.

They are only the fourth side to start a season as Premier League champions but lose at least six of their first 12 games, after Blackburn Rovers in 1995-96 (6), Chelsea in 2015-16 (7), and Leicester City in 2016-17 (6). This is the first time Liverpool have lost back-to-back league games by three or more goals since April 1965 under Bill Shankly. (With BBC Sport inputs)

Chelsea climb to second, Newcastle shock City

Manchester City had two penalties overturned by the VAR in the first half, before a frantic seven minutes in the second half decided the match

LONDON: Manchester City's title chances suffered a major setback after a 2-1 defeat away to Newcastle United on Saturday, as Chelsea overtook Pep Guardiola's side into second place in the standings.

Manchester City had two penalties overturned by the VAR in the first half, before a frantic seven minutes in the second half decided the game.

Harvey Barnes put Newcastle ahead in the 63rd minute. Although Ruben Dias leveled from inside the Newcastle penalty area five minutes later, Barnes was on hand to win the game for Newcastle with his second goal of the match in the 70th minute.

A diving header from Pedro Neto in the 37th minute and Enzo Fernandez's side-footed finish to finish off a counter-attack in the 88th minute gave Chelsea a 2-0 win away to Burnley.

Defending champions Liverpool's dreadful form continued with a 3-0 home defeat to struggling Nottingham Forest.

Murillo put the visitors ahead in the 33rd minute, and Nicolo



Savona's effort in the first minute of the second half, following Neco Williams' pass, doubled the lead, before Morgan Gibbs-White ended any slight hopes of a comeback with Nottingham Forest's third goal 12 minutes from time.

Sunderland's excellent start to the season suffered a setback with a 1-0 defeat away to Fulham, who

took all three points thanks to Raul Jimenez's 84th-minute winner, after Fulham had created chances to have won more easily.

Wolverhampton Wanderers had new coach Rob Edwards in charge for their home game, but it made no difference to the bottom side's fortunes as it fell 2-0 to Crystal Palace, who took the points with

goals from Daniel Munoz and Yerry Pino.

Callum Wilson scored two first-half goals against his former club to put West Ham United 2-0 up away to Bournemouth, but the home side fought back in the last 20 minutes, with Marcus Tavernier scoring a penalty before Enes Unal saved a point in the 81st minute.

Danny Welbeck's seventh league goal of the season after 71 minutes and Jack Hinshelwood's 84th-minute winner saw Brighton come back from a goal down to beat Brentford 2-1.

Igor Thiago had put Brentford ahead from the penalty spot, and the visiting side should have taken a point, but Brighton goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen saved Thiago's second penalty deep in injury time.

Arsenal has the chance to extend its lead at the top of the table when it entertains Tottenham Hotspur in the North London Derby. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA



Olise helps Bayern rally to big victory

MUNICH: Michael Olise scored twice and provided a hat-trick of assists as Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich came from two goals down to thrash Freiburg 6-2 on Saturday.

The visitors stunned the defending champions by taking a 2-0 lead after just 17 minutes when Yuto Suzuki scored from close range and Johan Manzambi rose highest to head home Jan-Niklas Beste's corner.

Bayern, who had not lost in the league since March, responded superbly and had restored parity by half-time.

Teenager Lennart Klär fired into the bottom corner from Olise's pass in the 22nd minute and set up the Frenchman for a fierce finish in first-half injury-time, although Freiburg goalkeeper Noah Atubolu should have done better.

Bayern took control in the second period as Dayot Upamecano headed home Olise's corner to put them ahead for a first time.

England captain Harry Kane netted his 14th league goal of the campaign on the hour mark, before Olise made it three assists when he threaded a pass through for Nicolas Jackson to finish at

the first time of asking in the 78th minute.

Winger Olise completed a sensational afternoon with his second of the game six minutes later, driving at the Freiburg defence and curling into the far corner.

A 10th victory in the first 11 games left Bayern eight points clear of second-placed Bayer Leverkusen, while Freiburg remain 10th in the standings.

Vincent Kompany's side visit Arsenal in the Champions League on Wednesday with both sides having a perfect record of four wins so far in the league phase of the competition.

"Early on, it was a difficult spell for us. Then two players produced something special, and we got our momentum back again," said Kompany.

Elsewhere, Bayer Leverkusen climbed to second with a 3-1 victory away to Wolfsburg, Borussia Dortmund squandered a two-goal lead in a 3-3 draw with Stuttgart, Augsburg edged Hamburg 1-0, Borussia Monchengladbach swept bottom side Heidenheim 3-0, and Jonathan Burkardt's brace helped Eintracht Frankfurt overpower Cologne 4-3. - Agencies

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Pogba plays for first time in 811 days in Monaco defeat



PARIS: Paul Pogba played his first minutes of professional football in more than two years as he came off the bench during Monaco's 4-1 defeat by Rennes in French Ligue 1 on Saturday.

The 32-year-old was introduced in the 85th minute at Rennes' Roazhon Park, though his side were already four goals and a player down following a red card for captain Denis Zakaria.

French World Cup winner Pogba broke down in tears when he joined Ligue 1 club Monaco last summer, after his four-year doping ban was reduced to 19 months by the Court of Arbitration

for Sport (CAS). Pogba's last competitive appearance was 811 days ago, when he featured for Juventus in a Serie A match against Empoli on 3 September 2023. He left Juventus by mutual consent in November 2024.

Pogba watched from the bench as goals from Abdelhamid Ait Boudlal, Mahdi Camara, Breel Embolo and Ludovic Blas put Rennes out of sight. Fellow substitute Mika Biereth pulled a goal back for Monaco in the 95th minute, but a second consecutive 4-1 defeat meant Sebastien Pocognoli's side dropped to eighth in the table with 20 points. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Barca enjoy happy return at Camp Nou

BARCELONA: Barcelona moved to the top of La Liga with an emphatic 4-0 win over 10-man Athletic Club in their first match at the Spotify Camp Nou since May 2023 on Saturday.

Robert Lewandowski scored their first goal back in their iconic home, which had been closed for extensive renovations, in the fourth minute. Ferran Torres netted towards the end of both halves, each assisted by wonderful skill from Lamine Yamal, who was aged just 15 in his only previous Nou Camp appearance.

Fermin Lopez also struck in the 48th minute, while visiting midfielder Oihan Sancet was sent off for a crude challenge on Lopez just six minutes later.

And just before full-time, Yamal twisted and turned before sending Torres away to claim his second goal, which was originally disallowed for offside but overturned following a VAR check.

Large sections of the Nou Camp remained closed for the game, which was played in front of a 45,157 crowd. The rebuilding work, which was originally scheduled to be finished in November 2024, will eventually increase the stadium's capacity to 105,000.



Barca moved to 31 points from 13 games and top on goal difference, but Real Madrid will replace them, if they win at Elche in their game in hand, on Sunday night.

It was a dream return to their ground, with the reigning Spanish champions having mostly played at the 55,000 capacity Olympic Stadium on the city's Montjuic hill since renovations on the Nou Camp began in June 2023.

They were forced to play two matches at the 6,000-capacity Johan Cruyff Stadium, home to their women's team, this season after failing to get a permit for the Nou Camp through safety reasons.

Villarreal remains third after a 2-1 win at home to Mallorca. Gerard Moreno got on the end of Ayoze Perez's assist to put the home side ahead in the sixth minute.

Samu Costa only needed two minutes to level the score with a powerful shot, but Tani Oluwaseyi won the match for Villarreal seven minutes from time with a goal that was given after a VAR check for a possible offside.

Celta Vigo returned to winning ways thanks to Iago Aspas' penalty early in the second half of the 1-0 win away to Deportivo Alaves.

Second-half goals from Brais

Mendez, Goncalo Guedes, and Ander Barrenetxea helped Real Sociedad rally past Osasuna 3-1 for its first away win of the season.

Alejandro Catena had headed Osasuna in front on the stroke of halftime from a corner, but the home side was outplayed after the break.

On Friday night, Hugo Duro's overhead kick with just over 10 minutes left to play gave Valencia a 1-0 win in the city derby against Levante.

The win lifts Valencia clear of the bottom three while leaving its neighbor deep in the relegation zone. - Agencies

Verstappen wins Las Vegas GP as Norris and Piastri disqualified

Oracle Red Bull driver remains in contention for overall title after the latest victory

LAS VEGAS: Max Verstappen claimed an impressive victory in the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Saturday, with the Dutchman denying Lando Norris in a race that later saw both Norris and McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri disqualified from the results.

As a result, race winner Verstappen has made a significant gain with regards to the 2025 Drivers' Championship, as the Red Bull man now sits level on points with Oscar Piastri on 366. Lando Norris is 24 points ahead on 390 at the top of the standings with just two rounds of the season to go.

With two Grands Prix and one Sprint remaining, there are 58 points on offer over the next two weekends to determine the outcome of the 2025 title. Verstappen has won the past four drivers' championships, while Norris and Piastri are both seeking their first.

On Saturday, Verstappen was left in control of the 50-lap race on the streets of Las Vegas after the opening corners, passing poleman Norris when the leader ran wide through Turn 1 having initially chopped across his title rival off the line. Norris also slipped behind



George Russell and only re-passed the Mercedes driver in the latter stages but was unable to mount a challenge on Verstappen, eventually limping home nearly 21 seconds adrift after nursing a late problem.

However, following the race it was confirmed that Norris – along with Piastri, who had originally taken fourth place – had been dis-

qualified due to the rearmost skid wear on both cars being found to be below the minimum thickness required in the technical regulations.

After the race, Verstappen said: "In the race I think everyone was just trying to find a rhythm and see how much you could push, especially in the first stint because being on the more fragile tyre."



He added: "It worked really well, normally the race is always a tough one for us – we are normally not that great on tyres, but today it seemed like we had that a little bit more under control and I could push a little bit more and that unlocked a bit more pace.

"I could stay out a bit longer and split basically the race in half. It

definitely helped a lot and the car was working pretty well, much more to my liking and it was at the end quite a decent gap. It was just every lap feeling comfortable and not taking too much out of the tyre."

Following the disqualification of Norris and Piastri, Russell – who had held on for the podium

despite complaining of his own issues with his Mercedes' steering – was promoted up into P2 ahead of team-mate Kimi Antonelli, the Italian having put in a fighting drive to finish fourth on-the-road after starting P17.

The rookie had held off a charging Piastri and Charles Leclerc in the closing stages, but a five-second penalty for a false start dropped Antonelli behind Piastri in the classification, just one-tenth ahead of Leclerc who fell back in the final laps.

While Piastri originally claimed P4 – having slipped as low as seventh at one stage in the early running after being hit by Liam Lawson's Racing Bulls in the opening turn – the Australian's DSQ, alongside that of his team-mate, boosted Charles Leclerc to P4, the Monegasque having made an early charge from P9, with Carlos Sainz completing the top-five having put in a measured drive aboard his Williams from Isack Hadjar's Racing Bulls.

Nico Hulkenberg's Kick Sauber claimed seventh ahead of Lewis Hamilton, the Ferrari driver taking points having started at the back of the grid and utilising an opening stint on the hard tyre, as did Hulkenberg.

The Haas pairing of Esteban Ocon and Ollie Bearman were moved up into a double points finish, the latter having run inside the top-10 initially along with Fernando Alonso, the Aston Martin driver finishing just behind in P11.

The Spaniard headed Yuki Tsunoda's Red Bull, and Pierre Gasly,

Lawson was P14, as Franco Colapinto's Alpine completed the classification of finishers. - Agencies

DAVIS CUP FINALS



Spain to meet Italy for title

BOLOGNA: Spain will face two-time defending champions Italy for the Davis Cup title after beating Germany in a deciding doubles match to reach their first final in six years on Saturday.

Pablo Carreno Busta gave Spain an early lead with victory over Jan-Lennard Struff in the opening singles.

But German world No.3 Alexander Zverev battled past Jaume Munar to send the tie to a decider.

Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez, called upon to settle their nation's quarter-final against the Czech Republic on Thursday, delivered once again to beat Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

It is a first final for six-time champions Spain since 2019 - and

an especially pleasing one given the absence of injured world No.1 Carlos Alcaraz.

They face another tough task against home favourites Italy in the showpiece in Bologna.

Italy - themselves without world No.2 Jannik Sinner and eighth-ranked Lorenzo Musetti - beat Belgium on Friday to reach their third consecutive final.

Spain and Italy are set for their first Davis Cup meeting for 19 years, having last faced each other in the 2006 World Group play-offs when team captains David Ferrer and Filippo Volandri both played.

Spain captain Ferrer said: "I am really proud of my players, they fought a lot to be here. "We are really excited but we have to rest and be ready for the final. Italy

have very good players. They do not have Jannik and Lorenzo, but also we do not have Carlos. I am sure that we will compete."

Carreno Busta had given Spain the perfect start on Saturday afternoon with a 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) win over Struff.

Zverev, the only top-10 singles player competing at this year's Finals, said after his 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-5) victory he had not been feeling well in the lead-up to the tie.

The out-of-sorts German made 28 unforced errors but found consistency when it mattered to win both tie-breaks against world No.36 Munar.

However, the doubles loss means Germany's wait for a first final appearance since 1993 goes on. - Agencies

SEVEN-TIME WORLD CHAMPION

Ferrari's Hamilton 'not looking forward to 2026 F1 season'

LAS VEGAS: Lewis Hamilton said he is not looking forward to the 2026 Formula 1 season after a difficult year continued with a tough Las Vegas Grand Prix weekend. Britain's seven-time world champion qualified last for the race, the first time that had happened on pure pace in his 19-year F1 career.

The Ferrari driver swiftly worked his way up the field to get into the points positions, but he could not overtake the Sauber of Nico Hulkenberg on the medium tyre in the closing stages of the race. Having finished 10th, Hamilton's classification was later moved up to eighth by virtue of the McLaren's of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri being disqualified for a technical infringement.

"It's a terrible result. There is nothing positive to take from today," Hamilton told BBC Radio 5 Live. "I'm eager for it to end, I'm looking forward to it ending. I'm not looking forward to the next one."

Asked if that meant he was not looking forward to the next race in Qatar, Hamilton replied: "Next season."

Ferrari team principal Frederic Vasseur said he would consider Hamilton's comments after the team debrief, noting they were made in the heat of the moment.

"Let's calm down. To jump out of the car and to make the first com-



ment it's always a bit too much and let's discuss after the debrief," Vasseur said.

"Obviously it's been tough for Lewis the last couple of weekends and he said it's been hard.

"I can understand the reaction from Lewis just after the race, but we just have to calm down to discuss and to be focused on the next two [races], because the next two we will be back.

"And keep in mind also that Lewis was there in FP1, in FP2 the pace was good, and it means that we have to build up the weekend like this and for sure to start from P20 is not the best way to have a good result."

Hamilton is sixth in the driv-

ers' championship, 73 points behind Ferrari team-mate Charles Leclerc who sits fifth.

The 40-year-old Hamilton has yet to finish on the race podium for Ferrari, but he did win the sprint race in China in March.

Should he fail to finish in the top three in the final two races of 2025, it would mark a first season without a podium finish for Hamilton in F1. Hamilton described his first year with Ferrari as "a nightmare" after he retired from the Sao Paulo Grand Prix two weeks ago.

In an interview with Sky Sports after the Vegas race, he said: "I feel terrible. It's been the worst season ever and no matter how much I try, it keeps getting worse."

BOXING

Benavidez bloodies, stops Yarde to retain WBC light heavyweight crown

RIYADH: Mexico's WBC champion David Benavidez pummelled Britain's Anthony Yarde for a seventh-round TKO win in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday.

The win for Benavidez added the WBA crown to his WBO and WBC super-flyweight titles.

Benavidez retained his WBC light heavyweight championship in the process and immediately announced his plans to become a three-division titlist by moving up to cruiserweight to challenge Mexico's Gilberto Ramirez for the WBA and WBO cruiserweight titles on 2 May, aiming to become a three-weight world champion.

"I got some news for you guys," Benavidez declared after the fight. "May 2, me vs. [Gilberto] 'Zurdo'

Ramirez. I'm going up to cruiserweight to challenge for his titles. I'm excited for that."

Benavidez said his WBA and WBO cruiserweight title bout with Ramirez could take place in Las Vegas. Ramirez's promoter, Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, also confirmed plans for the fight on social media.

After a slow start, American Benavidez seized control, sending 34-year-old Yarde to the canvas with a barrage in the seventh.

With blood streaming from Yarde's nose and smeared across the canvas, another heavy flurry of punches with minute left in the round forced the referee to halt the contest.

Benavidez was deducted two



points for punches while Yarde was down, but the outcome was already inevitable.

The Londoner had previously lost in world championship bouts

to Sergey Kovalev in 2019 and Artur Beterbiev in 2022.

Benavidez, 28, remains unbeaten and extends his record to a formidable 25 knockouts in 31 wins.

Gutsy Briton Noakes loses in epic fight

Also, Briton Sam Noakes put in a gutsy performance but fell short in his bid to become lightweight world champion, losing on points to Abdullah Mason for the vacant WBO title on Saturday.

In a thrilling and close contest between two unbeaten stars, Noakes, 28, was hampered by a bloodied left eye after a clash of heads in the third round but kept coming forward, landing thudding punches on the inside.

It was the eye-catching uppercuts and slick long-range boxing from 21-year-old southpaw Mason, however, that made the difference, as he upped the tempo in the second half.

Mason rocked Noakes in the 10th, but the Maidstone fighter clung on and fought back valiantly until the final bell.

With scores of 117-111, 115-113, 115-113, American Mason claimed his 20th pro win and becomes the youngest reigning male world champion.

Noakes suffered the first defeat of his career after 17 straight wins, including 15 stoppages.

Earlier, Devin Haney became a three-weight world champion with a points victory over Brian Norman Junior to claim the WBO welterweight belt.

Haney dropped the champion in the second round and cruised to a dominant decision against his opponent. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat announces special offers on personal and auto loans to mark Oman’s National Day

As a part of the National Day offer, customers can now enjoy extended auto loan repayment tenures up to 120 months for Omanis employed in government, quasi-government, and approved private companies, and up to 84 months for Omanis in private sector approved companies of second category

MUSCAT: In celebration of the National Day of Oman, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced special offers on Personal and (Sayarati) Auto Loans featuring competitive interest rates and flexible repayment options, valid until the end of December 2025. These offers reflect the bank’s continued commitment to celebrating national occasions



with its customers while supporting their diverse financial needs. As a part of the National Day offer, customers can now enjoy extended Auto Loan repayment tenures up to 120 months for Omanis employed in government, quasi-government, and approved private companies, and up to 84 months for Omanis in private sector approved companies of second category. Expatriates employed in government, quasi-government, approved private companies can also benefit from tenures up to 72 months. In addition to offering longer repayment flexibility, Bank Muscat is providing reduced interest rates across Auto Loans, Eco Friendly Vehicle Loans, and Short-Term Personal Loans. This initiative also includes employees from second category companies. The Bank continues to encourage environmentally responsible choices through its Eco-Friendly Vehicle Loan, in line with its commitment to promoting green key and sustainability. Auto Loan customers can enjoy attractive rates starting 4.25% annum, while Personal Loan customer can benefit from preferential rates. Customers applying for Auto Loans can also enjoy free third-party insurance for used-car financing in collaboration with GIG Insurance, alongside quick approval, hassle-free documentation, and flexible repayment options. Furthermore, employees in government entities with total loan exposure of RO15,000 and below can avail this offer without the requirement of a salary transfer, making this offer more accessible to wider customer base

At Bank Muscat, we always strive to provide innovative, convenient, and flexible solutions that enhance our customers’ experience, whether through personal or auto loans. These offers reaffirm our dedication to supporting individuals and communities while delivering exceptional banking experiences across all segments.” To simplify the process of completing financing requests, customers can submit their applications at the nearest Bank Muscat branch. All required documents and details are available on the Bank Muscat website, customers can simply visit the website for more information: <https://www.bankmuscat.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>. Over the past years, Bank Muscat has been keen to strengthen its relationship with leading car agencies and specialized showrooms across all governorates of the Sultanate. These collaborations aim to provide customers the best services, exceptional offers, and exclusive benefits that meet their expectations while ensuring fast processing of financing transactions. The Bank continues to enhance the “Sayarati” product by attractive offers that empower customers to own their dream cars with greater ease and convenience.

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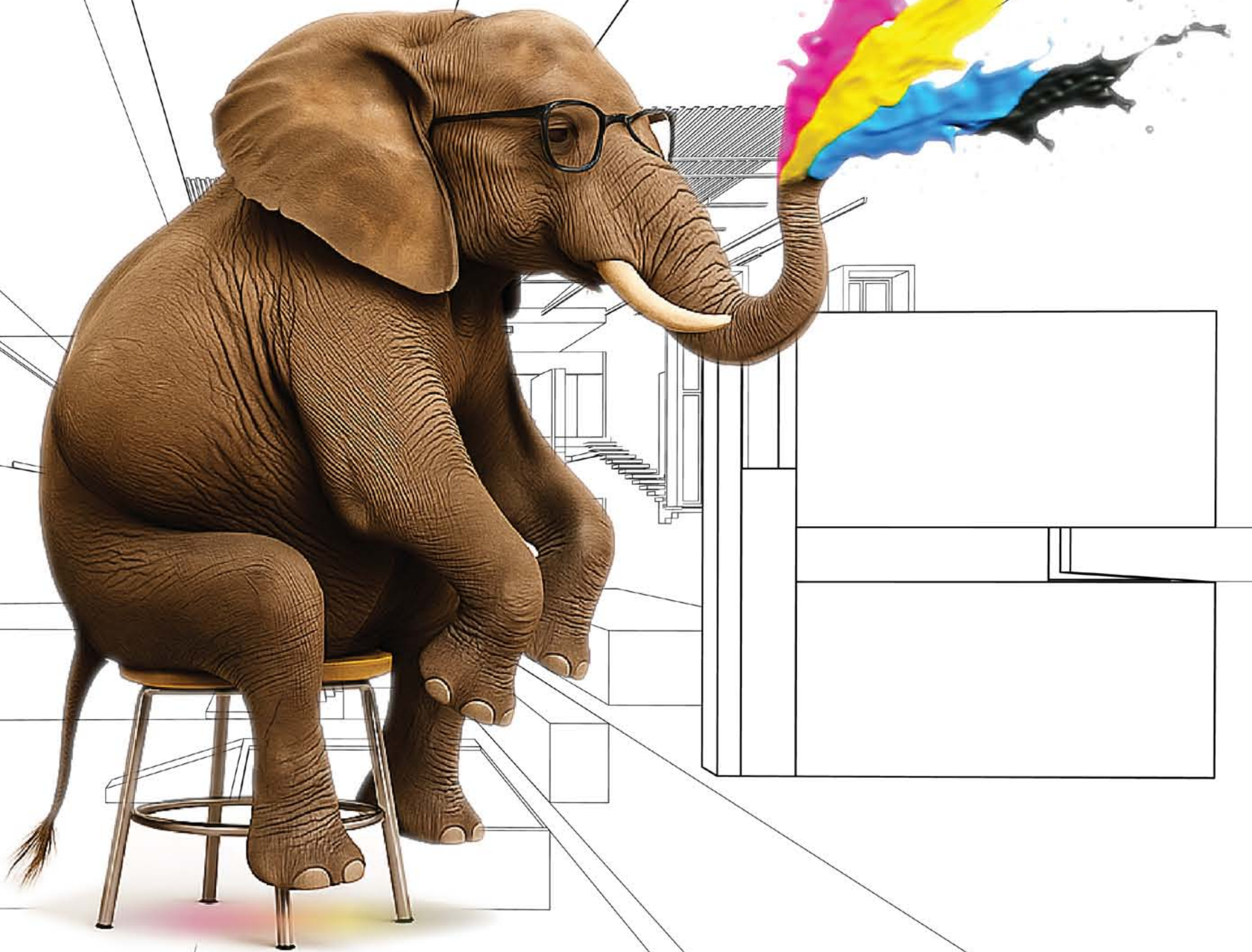
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