



50 YEARS OF LEGACY

موسك特媒体集团
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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Bahrain King meets Minister of Interior

2025, reading as follows:

Article (1) ratifies the aforementioned agreement in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) states that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. — **ONA**

1 King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain received Minister of Interior. **>A6**

2 Over one million people in northern Philippines have been evacuated. **>A7**

3 An agreement was signed for the Al Mouj Road Development Project. >B1

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, it has been decided that 26 and 27 November 2025, will be an official holiday for employees in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, other legal entities and private sector establishments on the occasion of the National Day of the Sultanate of Oman.

Employers may agree with their respective employees to continue working during the above-mentioned two days, if deemed necessary, provided the workers be compensated for that. — **ONA**

Based on the findings of its visit, the IMF delegation will issue a press release summarising the visit and its key outcomes. It will also submit a detailed report on the Sultanate of Oman's economic and financial situation to the IMF Executive Board. -ONA

A wide-angle photograph of a busy container port. In the foreground, hundreds of colorful shipping containers (red, blue, yellow, green, and white) are stacked in neat rows. Many of the containers have the 'MAERSK' logo visible. In the background, four large, dark-colored gantry cranes stand tall, their lattice structures reaching over the container stacks. Beyond the port area, a body of water is visible under a clear sky.

Preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the total value of commodity exports reached OMR15.318 billion by the end of August 2025, a

The data indicated that the total value of commodity imports to the Sultanate of Oman rose by 5.6 percent by the end of August 2025, reaching OMR11.389 billion, compared to OMR10.780

Regarding the countries exporting to Oman, China ranked second with imports valued at OMR1.166 billion, followed by the State of Kuwait with OMR1.042 billion. -ONA

Engineer Abdullah bin Ali Al Bussaidi, Director General of the Oman Logistics Centre and a member of the Net Zero Team at MTCIT, said that the ministry, in collaboration with other government bodies and

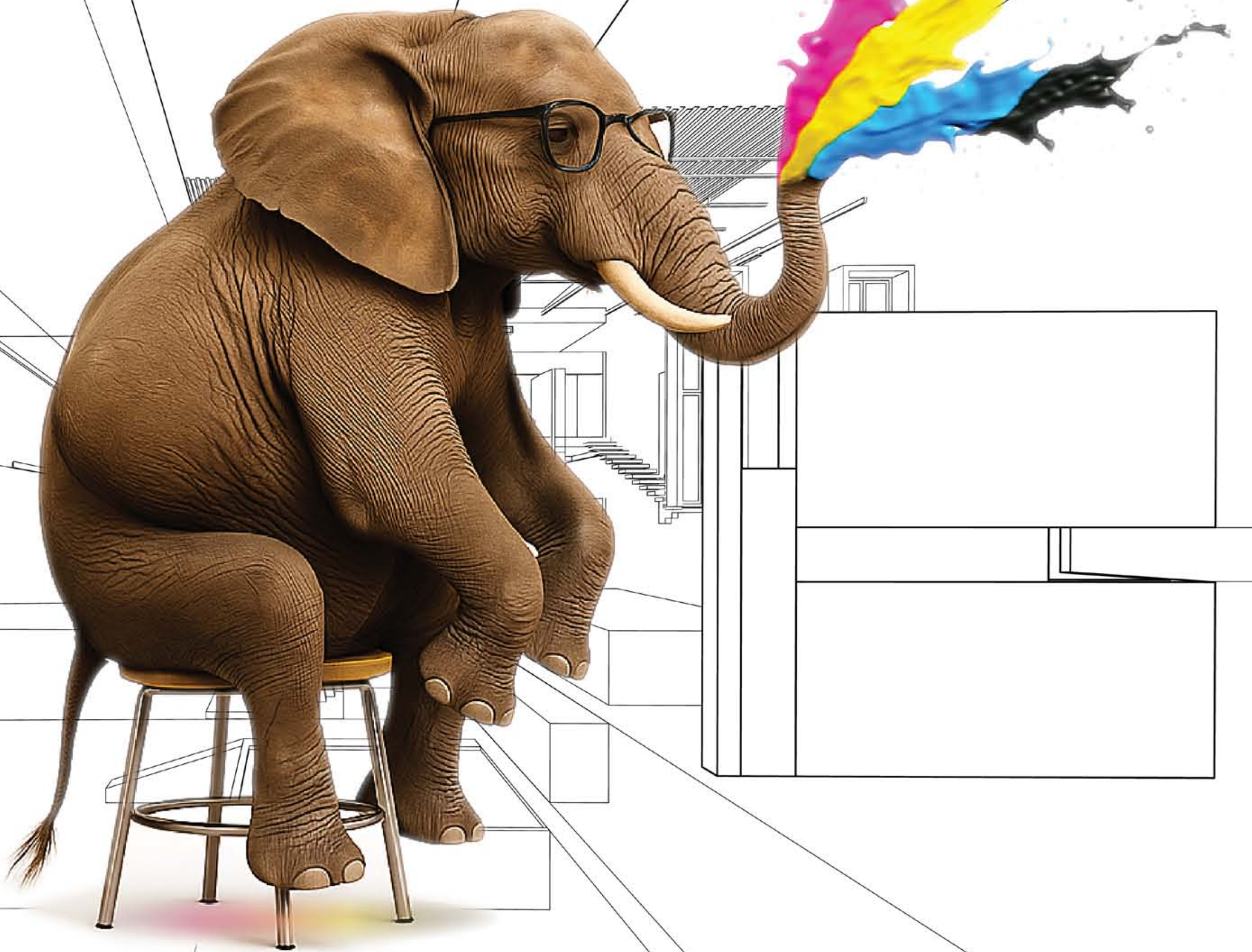
The objective, he said, was to transform what had been a loosely managed activity into a structured and credible economic sector that offers clear and stable em-

This, he pointed out, posed risks on several fronts — from the absence of legal protection for consumers to weak enforcement of food safety standards, and from limited market oversight to unfair competition against businesses

This ensures that only insured and properly equipped vehicles are used for commercial delivery. **>A3**



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Dhuhr.....	11:56pm
Asr.....	3:06pm
Maghrib.....	5:29pm
Isha.....	6:41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:00am

AT HM BEHEST

Call for efforts to attain goals of renewed renaissance

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the State Council on Sunday inaugurated the proceedings of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the 8th Term, in accordance with the provisions of Articles (38 and 41) of the Council of Oman Law.

Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdul-lah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, said in his speech that the Third Ordinary Session of the Eighth Term of the Council necessitates a determination to intensify parliamentary work, completing what was started during the previous two years of the First and Second Sessions.

He stressed the importance of exerting effort to achieve goals and attain accomplishments that will have a prominent contribution to the richness of the development and growth of the renewed renaissance.

The Chairman of the State Council added that a packed legislative agenda includes many important draft laws that must be completed with the Shura Council, so that the legislative structure of the Council of Oman system is complete.

He expressed his thanks to the members and to the General Secretariat for their appreciated national efforts in ensuring the success of the Council's work and achieving its mission.

He indicated that the agenda for the first session includes discussing the study presented by the Technology and Innovation Com-



mittee on "Data Management and Governance and its Impact on the Digital Economy".

This study aims to enhance the legislative and regulatory framework for national registries, benefit from leading global experiences in data governance, establish a

comprehensive framework for its management and security, and propose supportive legislation for secure and effective data sharing and exchange.

The Council also reviewed a number of reports related to its work. -ONA

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

Shura Council Chairman lauds work of members

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Shura Council on Sunday inaugurated the proceedings of the Third Annual Session (2025-2026) of the Tenth Term (2023-2027).

Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council, affirmed in his speech during the Third Annual Session of the Council's Tenth Term the magnitude of the responsibilities and efforts required by the national work process.

This process mandates the Council to give its utmost attention and prioritise these responsibilities within its annual plans and programmes, and to address and examine them within the framework of the Basic Statute of the State and the Council of Oman Law.

He pointed to the importance of advancing the Council's work and exercising its powers to effectively contribute to moving the national work process forward.

He noted the effective contribution and diligent work exerted by the Council members during the past two sessions, both in the Council and its committees, which enabled the Council to carry out its work and make numerous decisions and recommendations in the legislative fields.

During the session, a re-election was held for the supplementary members of the Council Office for the second half of its Tenth Term (2023-2027).



The Bureau consists of the Chairman, his two deputies, and six members elected by the Council by relative majority.

The following were elected as supplementary members of the Council Office: Hassan bin Ahmed Al Nabhani (Representative of the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar), Badr bin Nasser Al Jabri (Representative of the Wilayat of Nakhl), Said bin Mohammed Al Saadi (Representative of the Wilayat of Ja'an Bani Bu Ali), Dr. Talal bin Said Al Maharbi (Representative of the Wilayat of Bidbid), Abdullah bin Al Waleed Al Hinai (Representative of the Wilayat of Bahla), and Mohammed bin Hassan Al Ansi Al Yaf'ei (Representative of the Wilayat of Salalah).

The Council members were

also briefed on the State's General Budget Draft for the Fiscal Year 2026, the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan Draft (2026-2030), and a number of draft projects, laws, and agreements referred to the Council by the Council of Ministers.

The session also included a discussion of several topics, including: the Draft Amendment to the Unified Customs System for the GCC States, the Draft Amended Agreement between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of the Republic of Austria for the Avoidance of Double Taxation, and the Draft United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (Singapore Convention on Mediation). -ONA

Oman, KSA sign pact for Hajj arrangements

The pact stipulated registration of pilgrims' data from the Sultanate of Oman on the "Masar" platform



JEDDAH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, on Sunday in Jeddah signed the Hajj arrangements agreement for the Hajj season 1447 AH.

The signing of the agreement comes within the framework of the fraternal relations that unite the two countries and their keenness to regulate the affairs of pilgrims from the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, and on the Saudi side by Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabi-ah, Minister of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The agreement aims to regulate the affairs of pilgrims from Oman (Omanis and residents) who perform the Hajj pilgrimage under the supervision of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and who have been permitted to do so in accordance with the regulations and instructions approved by the authorities con-

cerned in Saudi Arabia.

The agreement stipulated the mechanisms for organising the registration of pilgrims' data from the Sultanate of Oman on the "Masar" platform, booking camps, purchasing basic service packages in the Holy Sites, concluding contracts for services (transportation, accommodation, and catering), and the medical services provided by the Omani Hajj Mission.

It also outlined the mechanism for grouping pilgrims in accordance with the approved grouping plans and the mechanism for their arrival and departure. -ONA

1 DECEMBER

Governorates to take over waste collection from be'ah



MUSCAT: A set of agreements were signed today between the Oman Environmental Services Holding Company "be'ah" and a number of governorates in the Sultanate of Oman for the transfer of duties and responsibilities for municipal waste collection and transport services from containers.

This transfer will cover the governorates of: Musandam, Al Buraimi, Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, South Al Sharqiyah, Al Dhahirah, and Al Wusta.

The signing of these agreements is part of the government's approach to enhancing institu-

tional integration in the management of the solid municipal waste sector and achieving the goals of governance and environmental sustainability.

Environmental standards

The agreements aim to enhance the quality and efficiency of municipal services and ensure their management in accordance with the highest modern technical and environmental standards.

This contributes to building more sustainable and cleaner cities and a safe and healthy urban environment.

The agreements stipulate that

the governorates will begin gradually assuming the responsibility of supervising waste collection and transport operations from containers starting from 1 December.

For its part, be'ah Company will continue to manage and operate its technical facilities, which include engineered landfills, transfer stations, and facilities for treating healthcare waste and hazardous waste.

It will also focus on developing circular economy projects and enhancing the efficiency of resource management and benefiting from waste as a sustainable economic resource. -ONA

TRIBUTE TO OMANI CINEMA

Oman is Guest of Honour at Rabat International Author Film Festival

RABAT: The Sultanate of Oman is participating as the Guest of Honour in the 30th edition of the Rabat International Author Film Festival, in celebration of the Omani cinematic movement and Oman's efforts in supporting cultural and creative industries. The festival continues until 14 November.

The opening ceremony witnessed a special tribute to Omani cinema, attended by Khalid Salim Bamkhalef, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Morocco, who indicated that this participation embodies the depth of the strong fraternal and historical relations between the two countries, and reflects the keenness to continuously enhance cultural and artistic cooperation.

The Oman Film Society is par-



FILM FESTIVAL: The opening ceremony witnessed a special tribute to Omani cinema, attended by Khalid Salim Bamkhalef, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Morocco. -ONA

ticipating with a diverse program that includes film screenings, seminars, and workshops, in addition to the participation of Director Ahmed Al Hadhari on the Inter-

national Jury, and the Sultanate of Oman's participation in the official competition with the film Al Majhool (The Unknown) by Director Mohammed Al Kindi.

An Omani Cinematic Night will be held during the festival events, featuring the screening of six films that represent new creative experiences in Omani cinema.

This will be accompanied by a seminar on Omani-Moroccan cinematic relations, a presentation on the "Make Your Film in Oman" initiative, and a scientific paper on Sociology between Oman and Morocco.

This participation affirms the prominent position that Omani cinema has come to occupy in international forums, the Sultanate of Oman's continuous efforts to advance the creative industries sector, empower national talents, and solidify Oman's cultural and artistic presence on the map of Arab and international cinema. -ONA

ROP

15 sailors rescued after boat collides with ship buoy



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police's Coast Guard wing, under the leadership of the Musandam Governorate Police, carried out a rescue and evacuation operation for 15 individuals following a collision between their boat and a navigation buoy at the entrance

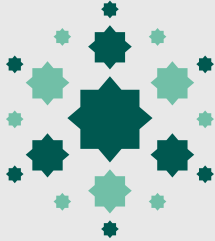
to Khasab Port,

The collision resulted in injuries ranging from moderate to minor to the sailors. They were transported to Khasab Hospital to receive the necessary medical care.

In another incident, an Asian national was arrested in the Marmul area of Dhofar Governorate, along with two African nationals who had entered the country illegally.

The Asian national is accused of facilitating their entry and transporting them in his vehicle.

The operation was carried out by the Oil and Gas Installations Security Police Headquarters. Legal proceedings are being completed against them.



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COMMENTARY

Raising eyebrows of matrimony



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Two women, who thought were alone in a corridor, shared their grief. The younger lady, who was plump, with big eyes and round face, was more vocal than the other. Her twenty three year old son insisted in marrying a divorced woman of three children. He was just a baby, the woman complained, how could he marry a woman of over thirty?

Her friend agreed saying that the divorced lady was a “baby snatcher” and she should find someone her own age. I thought I heard enough and continued with my business. However, I couldn’t take my mind off the conversation.

Men are notorious when it comes to looking for a younger model when they are tired

with their partners. But what we see now is women who have learned a few lessons from their male counterparts when it comes to a second chance.

We can open a whole new debate about it but it remains that it always raises a few eyebrows when a young man marries a much older woman. If it is about women’s liberation movement then it is making quite an impact in a very conservative region of these Gulf Arab states.

I can’t confirm this but I hear that one influential man made sure that his son wouldn’t find a sheikh who would marry him to the ‘old woman.’ Even though, the man has got himself, not once but twice, younger women to enter matrimony with.

But women have themselves to blame about the whole bigotry. They always look critically at the brides in the wedding celebrations. If the bride appears just a shade older than the groom, then the poor woman would be the subject of a cruel gossip. They make it clear that it is unacceptable for a man to marry an older woman. Men just feel obliged to follow the trend.

But we see now the younger generations, perhaps from Western influence, find the idea of age threshold in marriage to be absurd. When I

used the word ‘absurd’ in a conversation with a woman, she said quite defiantly,” wait until it happens to your own son and it won’t be so absurd.”

I would not know about that, at least not yet, but then the younger generation has their own minds these days. Perhaps again, as we advance forward, we see a lot of changes in the social integration taking place in the region.

Social pressures like unemployment and the need to acquire all the trappings of life force young people to do things a bit different than their parents.

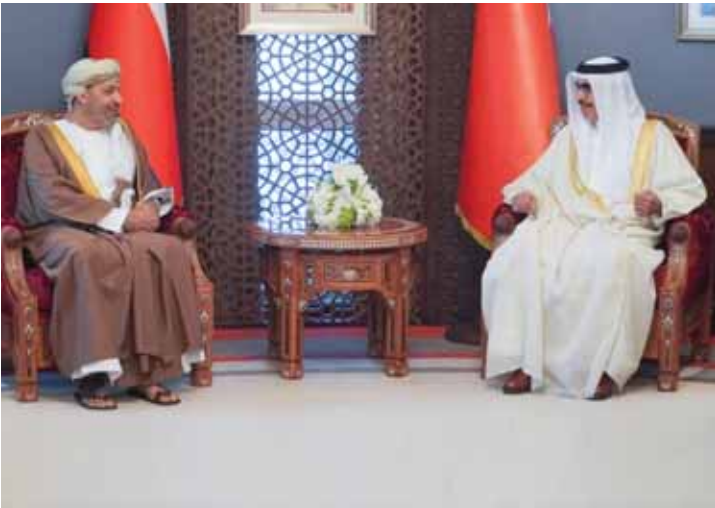
It is how you spend your life together is important and not, as one mother of the groom argued, whether the woman would “look like your mother in ten years time.”

There is a lack of conviction on many of these theories. I am not going to throw fuel on the burning fire. I know some people who would hotly try to challenge me but no one is born with a complete plan. You later meet someone you want to spend the rest of your life but you need to be careful about it. Physical attractions usually do not last long.

Over the years, married couples change and they are not what they were now when they first met. It helps to look at the future before you make that important step.

Sayyid Hamoud discusses security issues in Bahrain

The meeting comes as part of Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi’s official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain



MEETING: Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, met on Sunday in Manama with General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Manama. - OMA

MANAMA: Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, met on Sunday in Manama with General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The meeting comes as part of the Interior Minister’s official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The session was chaired on the Omani side by Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, and on the Bahraini side by General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior.

Fraternal relations

During the session, the distinguished fraternal relations between the two countries were reviewed, and ways to enhance cooperation and develop bilateral security coordination programmes were discussed.

They also looked into building upon the achievements in security cooperation, which contributes

ing, and developing coordination mechanisms between the security agencies to face all challenges.

Separately, a formal session of talks was held between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The two Ministers emphasised the importance of continuing joint coordination to enhance security and stability and serve the common interests of the two countries.

The meeting and the session were attended on the Omani side by Maj. Gen Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations, and Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman’s to the Kingdom of Bahrain. On the Bahraini side, attendees included Lt. General Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel, Deputy Minister of Interior of Bahrain, Lt. General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, Chief of Public Security, and a number of officials from both sides. -OMA

NEW REQUIREMENTS

Full Omanisation of delivery riders achieved in Nizwa, Ibri, and Sohar

< FROM A1 “Accordingly, it is now necessary for service providers to operate under licensed entities and to be registered on the ‘Naql’ platform using insured vehicles,” Al Busaidi said.

He noted that delivery platforms and restaurants have been officially instructed to comply with these new requirements.

“Major platforms have shown quick cooperation,” he added, “although there are some natural challenges during this transition period, which are being addressed through lessons learned and continuous improvement.”

The new model, he explained, brings together four regulated elements — a licensed restaurant, a licensed delivery company, a registered driver, and a certified vehicle — all linked through the Naql system for monitoring and accountability.

In addition to registration, several corrective measures have been introduced to raise safety and service standards.

Drivers and companies are now being equipped with tracking devices to ensure the safety of every journey, while food delivery protocols have been tightened.

All vehicles must use insulated thermal boxes, adhere to time limits on deliveries, and keep food separate from other materials during transport. The ministry has also introduced a professional delivery exam conducted by the Oman Logistics Association, and drivers must now obtain a preventive driving licence. Work contracts between platforms and drivers are being regulated to protect incomes and prevent exploitation.

“We are not merely localising the delivery driver role,” Al Busaidi emphasised. “Our aim is qualitative Omanisation — creating operational and administrative jobs that ensure the sector’s long-term sustainability.”

He added that at least 20 percent of supervisory and adminis-



trative positions within delivery fleets must be held by Omanis.

Full Omanisation of delivery riders has already been achieved in Wilayats such as Nizwa, Ibri, and Sohar, and similar progress is expected in Muscat as the system stabilises. Training and qualification programmes are being developed to support this transition.

No new expat workers to be recruited

Al Busaidi confirmed that, for now, companies are not permitted to recruit new expatriate workers for delivery roles. Instead, they must regularise the status of those already in Oman while ensuring that management and support positions are increasingly filled by local talent.

He stressed that the intention behind the regulation is not to restrict or limit business activity, but to professionalise it in a way that benefits both companies and consumers.

“Our objective is to ensure fast-

er service, fair costs, improved quality, and stronger food transport safety — while creating sustainable employment opportunities for citizens,” he said.

The new framework, Al Busaidi noted, also supports Oman’s wider sustainability agenda. The ministry is encouraging the use of bicycles in urban areas, describing them as faster in traffic, cheaper to operate, and more environmentally friendly.

“This framework ultimately enhances the consumer experience, improves market reputation, and establishes the right environment for the growth of the express delivery and e-commerce sectors,” Al Busaidi added. “It will also improve Oman’s ranking in logistics performance and quality of life indicators.”

Although the transition has caused temporary disruption for restaurants and cloud kitchens that depend heavily on delivery platforms, the long-term impact is expected to be positive.



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Dibba Waterfront Development Project hits 98.5% completion

This strategic development project aims to enhance tourism infrastructure, recreational facilities, and public services

DABA: The Dibba Waterfront Development Project in Wilayat of Dibba has achieved a 98.5% completion rate, with final implementation scheduled for conclusion within the current year (2025). This initiative represents a key component of the government's comprehensive development strategy to capitalise on the natural and coastal resources abundant throughout the Governorate of Musandam.

Executed by the Musandam Governor's Office with support from OQ Exploration and Production, this strategic development project aims to enhance tourism infrastructure, recreational facilities, and public services within the wilayat while stimulating local economic growth and elevating living standards for both residents and visitors. Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Al Hoom Al Mayasi, Wali of Dibba, emphasised that the 1,300-metre project establishes an integrated tourist destination for visitors to Wilayat of Dibba and Musandam Governorate at large. The development is projected to attract significant beach tourism while activating economic, tourist, and social dynamics throughout the region.

He added that the project features comprehensive vital facilities and recreational amenities, including a concrete wave break,



wellness promenade, dedicated children's play areas, and extended beachfront parking. Additional components comprise landscaped green spaces, a 200-capacity circular open-air theater, and 150 five-meter lighting columns illuminating the entire walkway.

He confirmed that the Dibba Waterfront Project marks a transformative advancement in the governorate's tourism and recreational infrastructure, designed to foster healthy lifestyles through optimised environments for various sporting activities. He characterised the project as a cor-

nerstone in realising Musandam Governorate's vision as an integrated tourist destination blending natural splendor with modern infrastructure.

The implementing authorities have maintained rigorous environmental sustainability standards throughout project execution to preserve natural resources and coastal ecological balance. The overall design consciously harmonises with Wilayat of Dibba's inherent natural beauty and aesthetic character, ensuring seamless integration with the existing coastal landscape. — ONA

WILAYAT OF MAHDAH

Planting 2,000 seedlings in Mahdah boosts 'National Initiative to Plant 10 Million Trees'



AL BURAIMI: The Environment Authority's department in Al Buraimi Governorate yesterday carried out a programme whereby 2,000 seedlings of local trees were planted in the Wilayat of Mahdah.

The programme formed part of the "National Initiative to Plant 10 Million Trees".

As part of the programme, personnel of the Environment Authority and volunteers planted

1,000 seedlings in the Wilayat, while Al Balowra National Trading Company planted another set of 1,000 seedlings.

The programme was in pursuance of efforts undertaken by the Environment Authority to expand green cover, combat desertification and augment the sustainability of ecosystems in the different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. — ONA

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Spotlight on future of higher education, role of artificial intelligence in research

HANGZHOU: The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) is taking part in the World University Presidents Forum and the International Forum on Higher Education, being held in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China, from 7 to 10 November 2025.

The forum seeks to explore the future of higher education and the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in developing the global system of education and research.

UTAS delegation was led by Dr. Said bin Hamad Al Rubaie, Vice Chancellor of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences. The forum brings together global university leaders, representatives of international organisations and experts in education and artificial intelligence from more than 40 countries.

The programme of the forum includes panel discussions and bilateral meetings featuring several themes, including "innovation in higher education in the



age of artificial intelligence", "developing digital education models", "promoting educational equity and research", "streamlining higher education mechanisms to fit with real-world applications" and "establishing international partnerships to support the sustainability of higher education".

UTAS delegation participated in consultative meetings with representatives of international universities and educational institutions. The meetings dealt with prospects for cooperation in the fields of science and research, the exchange of students and university staff and the development

of joint programmes in AI and technology disciplines.

The participation of UTAS in the forum stems from the university's drive towards global openness and leadership in the fields of technology and innovation in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. — ONA

B2B MEETINGS

Egyptian-Gulf Trade, Investment Forum to focus on sustainable development

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will participate on Monday in the "Egyptian-Gulf Trade and Investment Forum" in Cairo, to strengthen economic ties and open new horizons for joint investments, thereby supporting sustainable development pathways.

The Omani delegation will be headed by Ibtisam Ahmed Al Farouji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion. The forum will be attended by a number of



ministers, decision-makers, and officials from the GCC States and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The forum includes extensive discussions on developmental

projects and future investment opportunities, along with direct meetings between the public and private sectors and B2B meetings that contribute to enhancing

cooperation and developing joint opportunities.

The Sultanate of Oman seeks to expand its presence in regional and international economic events, due to their contribution to enhancing communication within the business community, highlighting promising investment opportunities, exchanging successful experiences, and building partnerships that support economic growth and achieve Gulf and Arab trade and investment integration.

MEETING

Sayyid Badr bids farewell to Ambassador of Jordan

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received Tharwah Neimat, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty.

Sayyid Badr lauded the efforts of the ambassador in enhancing relations between the two countries, wishing her success in her future endeavours.

For her part, the Ambassador expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the constructive cooperation she received from the Foreign Ministry and all other entities in the Sultanate of Oman during her tenure.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Faisal bin Omar Al Marhoon, Head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of officials. -ONA



MEDICAL RESPONSE

Workshop reviews response to hazardous material mishap

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health is organising a 4-day workshop on medical response to hazardous material incidents.

The workshop, which kicked off in Muscat on Sunday, reviews the latest developments in the fields of detection and removal of hazardous materials.

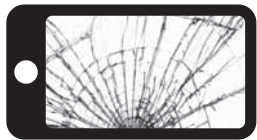
The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Ahmed bin Salim Al Mandhari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Planning and Health Regulation.

The workshop explores lessons learned from real-life incidents as guidelines to promote shared understanding, exchange experiences and develop the skills of paramedics in tackling incidents that involve chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. It also looks



into the best practices in rapid response and safe handling of complex incidents.

Organised in cooperation with the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority and the European Commission, the workshop included a visual presentation on national resilience in addressing threats and dealing with hazardous materials in the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA



**SMARTEN UP
DRIVE SAFE**



جامعة ظفار
Dhofar University

Notice for The Annual Ordinary General Meeting (AGM) of Dhofar University S.A.O.C

The Board of Directors of Dhofar University (S.O.A.C) is pleased to invite the company's shareholders to attend the twenty-first Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the company (AGM), which will take place on Wednesday, 26 November 2025, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held via the AGM's electronic platform, accessible from the Muscat Clearing and Depository (S.A.O.C.) (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum is not secured to convene the AGM, a second meeting will be held on Thursday, 27 November 2025 at 02:00 p.m. The agenda of the valid meeting will be as follows:

AGM Agenda

- 1) To consider and approve the board of directors' report on the activities of the company and its financial status during the financial year ended on 31 August 2025.
 - 2) To consider and approve the board of directors' report on the organization and management of the company, during the financial year ended on 31 August 2025.
 - 3) To consider and approve the auditor's report on the financial statements of the company for the financial year ended on 31 August 2025.
 - 4) To inform about the transactions entered into by the Company with related parties during the financial year ended on 31 August 2025.
 - 5) To appoint the External Auditor for the new financial year ending 31st August 2026 and determine his fees.
 - 6) To elect the members of the Board of Directors of Dhofar University (S.O.A.C).
- Any person wishing to be nominated as a member of the Board of Directors must fill out the nomination form prepared for this purpose. The form should be delivered to the company at least five working days before the AGM date, not later than the end of the workday on Tuesday, 18.11.2025. According to the company's articles of association If the candidate is a shareholder, he must own at least five thousand (5000) shares of the company until the date of AGM.

As per the Articles of Association of the company, the MOCI's guidelines of holding AGMs for SAOC companies via electronic means and the other relevant rules, please note the following:

a. A legal person only has the right to appoint a natural person to attend the AGM and vote on decisions taken on his behalf via electronic means. This natural person must have an ID issued by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC.

b. Shareholders have the right to vote on any of the agenda items starting no earlier than three days from the date of holding the AGM. In case the shares owned by a shareholder changed (increased/decreased), the vote shall be void and a new vote needs to be made on the day of the AGM.

In case of any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Legal Advisor: Mohammed Abbas, Tel. No.: 23237108, GSM: 94043168

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Oman-Bahrain explore ways to enhance trade relations, cooperation



During the meeting, Oman's Minister of Interior conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Majesty's best wishes to him. His Majesty also wished the Bahraini people continued progress and prosperity

MANAMA: King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on Sunday received Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, at Al Sakhir Palace in Manama.

During the meeting, the Minister of Interior conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Majesty's best wishes to him. His Majesty also wished the Bahraini people continued progress and prosperity.

The King conveyed his heartfelt



sentiments to His Majesty the Sultan. He also lauded the continuous development and growth of relations between the two countries

ways to enhance it in various fields, reaffirming the commitment of the two leaderships to continue coordination and consultation to serve mutual interests.

The meeting was attended on the Omani side by Maj. General Abdullah bin Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations, and Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Oman's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

On the Bahraini side, the meeting was attended by General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior. It was also attended by several officials from both countries.

— ONA



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MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION



Pact signed to support innovation, training system for persons with disabilities

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development and the Association for Children with Disability on Sunday signed a memorandum of cooperation to enhance social capital, training, scientific research, innovation, and raise awareness of issues concerning persons with disabilities.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Ministry by Sheikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development. It was signed on behalf of the Association by Khadija bint Nasser Al Sa'ati, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Association for Children with Disability.

The memorandum of cooperation aims to empower the workers in the boards of directors of civil society institutions to develop their leadership and administrative capabilities, and to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in leadership and economic empowerment programmes, thereby contributing to enhancing their effective role in society.

The memorandum also seeks to support scientific research and studies related to disability issues, and to organise joint events, including conferences, seminars, and workshops, that contribute to raising community awareness of persons with disabilities issues and promoting a culture of inclusion and comprehensive community participation.

The signing comes within the framework of the Ministry of Social Development's efforts to strengthen partnership with civil society institutions, support social capital, and build effective partnerships that contribute to empowering persons with disabilities and integrating them into various aspects of life.

— ONA

CBO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Despite challenges, Oman's economy sees strong growth

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has issued the 2024 edition of its Annual Report, providing a comprehensive assessment of the Sultanate of Oman's macroeconomic and financial developments during 2024, while highlighting the positive outlook for 2025.

The report reviews the domestic economic environment, highlighting trends in real activity, inflation, fiscal and external positions, and the performance of the banking sector. Economy activity continued to expand in 2024, demonstrating its resilience, boosted by stronger non-hydrocarbon sector performance. The Government advanced further on its comprehensive reform agenda, underpinned by Oman Vision 2040.

The global economy showed notable resilience in 2024 despite earlier concerns of a prolonged slowdown. Aggressive monetary policy tightening in advanced economies, together with ongoing geopolitical tensions had initially weighed on confidence. However, resilient labour markets, lower commodity prices, and improved supply conditions allowed major central banks to gradually shift toward more accommodative stances in the second half of the year.

Despite these challenges, the Omani economy delivered strong growth in 2024, driven by the Government's reform agenda and the continued expansion of the non-hydrocarbon sector. Inflation remained low, supported by well-coordinated monetary and fiscal policies. Fiscal and external balances posted surpluses in 2024, and public debt continued



its declining path. Oman's sovereign credit rating was upgraded to investment grade. The banking sector remained highly liquid and well capitalised. Backed by sound macroeconomic fundamentals, the domestic environment in 2024 provided a strong platform to advance the next phase of structural transformation under Oman Vision 2040.

Oman's economy performed strongly in 2024, expanding by 1.6 percent compared to 1.4 percent in 2023, supported by higher non-hydrocarbon activity and effective policy reforms. Non-hydrocarbon GDP grew by 3.5 percent, reflecting robust gains in manufacturing, services, and logistics. Industrial output reversed the contraction of the previous year, with manufacturing alone growing by 7.5 percent. Services expanded by 3.0 percent, led by wholesale and retail trade (5.3 percent) and transport and storage (4.0 percent).

Inflation in Oman in 2024 was markedly lower than the previous

year. A strong Omani Rial, combined with administrative and fiscal measures, helped contain inflation.

The average consumer price inflation in Oman was 0.6 percent in 2024, down from 0.9 percent in 2023, reflecting continued declines in transport prices and moderated food prices. Oman's inflation remains among the lowest in the region, supported by sound monetary and fiscal policies.

Oman's fiscal position continued to strengthen in 2024, maintaining a surplus driven by favourable oil prices, prudent policy measures and improved fiscal discipline. The government recorded a fiscal surplus of 1.3 percent of GDP, marking steady progress towards its fiscal consolidation and intensified efforts to achieve fiscal sustainability.

These efforts, supported by effective debt management, reduced the public debt-to-GDP ratio to 35.0 percent in 2024, down from 37.1 percent in 2023.

The external sector remained robust in 2024. The current account recorded a surplus of 2.9 percent of GDP, supported by favorable oil prices, growth in non-oil exports, the government's rationalisation of current expenditures, and attraction of various foreign direct investments (FDI). Importantly, worker remittances remained stable in 2024, in line with the economy's demand for foreign labour, and partly due to a growing inclination among Omanis toward private-sector employment.

The exchange rate peg has been instrumental in delivering low and stable inflation, serving as an appropriate nominal anchor in light of Oman's economic structure.

Throughout 2024, the CBO maintained its commitment to the established monetary policy framework, aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of liquidity management operations that support domestic economic activity, while remaining aligned with the accom-

modative monetary stance of the US Federal Reserve. Amidst these developments, CBO lowered its policy rate to reach 5.145 percent by the end of December 2024.

The banking sector continued to align with the needs and demands of economic development, with increased emphasis on digital transformation to improve the delivery of financial services. In 2024, the banking system in Oman showed improved performance with total assets of the banking sector increasing by 6.6 percent to reach OMR44.6 billion.

Total credit increased to OMR32.5 billion in 2024 showing a Y-o-Y growth of 6.7 percent compared to 4.3 in December 2023. This growth in credit was supported by stronger deposit mobilisation. Total deposits grew by 9.1 percent, reaching OMR31.7 billion in 2024 compared to their level in December 2023.

Banking profitability remained healthy, reflecting financial resilience. Gross non-performing loans (NPLs) remained reasonably low, at 4.5 percent as of December 2024. The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stood at 18.2 percent at the end of 2024 compared to 19.7 percent at the end of 2023. Liquidity conditions of banks remained comfortable, as indicated by regulatory liquidity ratios.

In 2025, the New Banking Law (Royal Decree No. 2/2025) modernised the regulatory framework, aligning with international best practices and reinforcing the sector's capacity to support economic diversification. A key initiative introduced in 2025 requires banks to allocate credit to priority sectors—including agriculture, fisheries, mining, logistics, tourism, and renewable energy—thereby aligning financial intermediation with national development priorities.

Looking ahead, Oman's outlook remains broadly positive despite global uncertainties. Real GDP is expected to grow by 2.9 percent in 2025, led by non-hydrocarbon sectors. Inflation will remain low, fiscal and external balances are projected to record small deficits, and public debt is expected to remain sustainable at around 35.6 percent of GDP.

The conclusion of the 10th Five-Year Development Plan in 2025 marks an important milestone in advancing Oman Vision 2040 objectives. Economic diversification, fiscal sustainability, private sector participation, and institutional reforms have laid the groundwork for stronger, more inclusive growth. With ongoing reforms and continued resilience in the banking sector, Oman is well positioned to navigate global challenges and advance its long-term development strategy.

The CBO Annual Report provides a detailed macroeconomic analysis of Oman's major sectors of the economy through five Chapters namely Current Assessment and Macroeconomic Outlook (Chapter I); Output, Employment and Prices (Chapter II); Public Finance (Chapter III); Money, Banking and Financial Institutions (Chapter IV); and External Sector Developments (Chapter V). The Report also presents the audited balance sheet of the CBO and the independent auditor's report to the Board of Directors. — ONA

Over 1mn evacuated in Philippines as Super Typhoon Fung-wong nears

At least two people have died amid flash flooding, one in the town of Viga in Catanduanes province, and another in Catbalogan City in Samar province, authorities said

MANILA: More than a million people in eastern, central and northern provinces of the Philippines have been evacuated from their homes as Super Typhoon Fung-wong approaches the archipelago.

At least two people have also died amid flash flooding: one in the town of Viga in Catanduanes province, and another in Catbalogan City in Samar province, authorities said. Fung-wong, which intensified to become a super typhoon early on Sunday, is expected to make landfall over the northern province of Aurora later on Sunday or in the early hours of Monday.

The storm, called Uwan in the Philippines, comes with the island nation still reeling from another powerful typhoon, Kalmaegi, which left at least 224 people dead in central provinces amid flash floods and landslides. Kalmaegi hit the archipelago on Tuesday, before moving across the South China Sea to Vietnam, where at least five people were killed.

How powerful is Super Typhoon Fung-wong?

The country's weather bureau said



Fung-wong was carrying maximum sustained winds of 185 kilometres (115 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 230 kph as it passed close to the eastern province of Catanduanes on Sunday morning.

The massive storm — the biggest to threaten the Philippines so far this year — spans 1,600 kilometres (994 miles), which could cover two-thirds of the archipelago nation.

The Philippines classifies tropical cyclones with sustained winds of 185 kph or higher as super typhoons to highlight the urgency of taking precautionary measures.

Climate scientists warn that

such extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense as the Earth's atmosphere warms, largely owing to human use of fossil fuels.

Fung-wong forces school closures, flight cancelations

Schools and most government offices in northern provinces have been ordered to remain closed through Tuesday, while at least 325 domestic and 61 international flights were canceled over the weekend into Monday.

The civil aviation regulator has closed several airports as a precautionary measure, including Bicol



International Airport and Sangley in Metro Manila. Power has also been cut in parts of the eastern provinces ahead of the expected landfall, while ships have been prohibited from taking to the sea from at least 109 seaports.

Authorities have warned of a "high risk of life-threatening and damaging storm surge" of more than 3 meters (nearly 10 feet) along the coasts of more than 20 provinces and regions, including metropolitan Manila.

Officials warn of Fung-wong's potentially catastrophic impact

Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., who is in charge both of the country's disaster response agencies and the military, warned that Fung-wong could have a catastrophic impact.

He said that the central province of Cebu, already devastated by Typhoon Kalmaegi, and the region centering on the densely populated capital, Manila, could be among the areas most affected.

In a televised address, Teodoro Jr. urged people to heed official warnings and evacuation orders. "We need to do this because when it's already raining or the typhoon has hit and flooding has started, it's hard to rescue

people," he said.

The Office of Civil Defence said that more than 30 million people could potentially be exposed to risks associated with the storm.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has declared a state of emergency amid the extensive devastation caused by Kalmaegi and the dangers posed by Fung-wong.

The Philippines is hit by an average of about 20 tropical cyclones per year. In November 2013, more than 6,300 people were killed by Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the biggest storms ever to affect the country. — Agencies

OFFICIAL VISIT

Syrian President in US ahead of landmark meeting with Trump

Washington: Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa arrived in the United States on Saturday for an official visit that includes a scheduled meeting with President Donald Trump next week, a diplomatic gesture that was previously unimaginable.

Al-Sharaa arrived a day after the US removed the Syrian president from a terrorism sanctions list, just one day after the United Nations Security Council lifted similar sanctions. Al-Sharaa led the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham militant group, previously affiliated with the US-designated terror group al-Qaeda, that overthrew the regime of Bashar Assad last year. Shortly after Assad's ouster in December 2024, the US lifted a \$10 million (€8.6 million) reward it had earlier put in place for al-Sharaa's arrest.

In May, Trump signed an executive order to end American sanctions on Syria, with an aim

to boost the nation's war-ravaged economy, and met with al-Sharaa for the first time on the sidelines of a summit in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Sharaa was also in New York in September and he was the first Syrian president to address the United Nations General Assembly in decades.

Still, his official visit to the White House is considered a first by a Syrian president since the country gained its independence in 1946, analysts told the French AFP news agency.

Al-Sharaa's visit to the White House: What's on his agenda?

The Syrian president is scheduled to meet Trump on Monday.

Earlier this month, US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack said al-Sharaa was going to "hopefully" sign an agreement to join the US-led alliance against the IS militant group. — DW

FOR SECOND DAY

US airlines ground hundreds of flights

NORTH CAROLINA: Tens of thousands of airline passengers faced disruption across the United States on Saturday as airlines grounded more than 1,300 flights for a second day.

The cancellations were ordered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as part of a mandate to cut air traffic because of the US government shutdown, which began on October 1.

The FAA began cutting flights on Friday, ordering a 4% reduction at 40 major airports across the country.

By Saturday, more than 1,300 flights had been canceled, and over 5,000 were delayed nationwide, Reuters news agency reported.

Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina saw the highest number of cancellations, with 130 flights grounded by mid-afternoon.

Other major hubs — including Atlanta, the busiest airport in the US, as well as Chicago, Denver, and Newark — also experienced delays and cancellations.

Reagan National Airport in Washington, DC, was hit especially hard on Friday, with 18% of



its arrivals cancelled, NBC News reported.

Officials warned that even if the shutdown ends, air traffic operations won't return to normal immediately.

Why is the US government shutdown affecting flights?

Over the past 39 days of shutdown, some federal employees have been temporarily furloughed, while others remain on the job without pay.

Air traffic controllers and many airport security screeners are federal employees, which is why the aviation sector has been hit especially hard, due to ongoing staffing shortages in radar centers and

control towers at airports.

Many staff are working without pay, some are calling in sick, while others are taking second jobs to cover basic expenses after going more than a month without a paycheck.

Officials say between 20% and 40% of workers are not showing up on any given day.

In total, about 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 airport screeners are still reporting to work without pay. Many were recently told they won't receive another paycheck next week.

Despite the financial strain, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said most controllers

are continuing to work six days a week to keep flights moving.

Will the cancellations get worse?

The FAA has warned that flight cuts will increase to 6% on Tuesday, 8% on Thursday and 10% by Friday at major airports, depending on staffing levels.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said even deeper cuts may be needed. If more air traffic controllers call in sick or stop reporting to work, the FAA could reduce up to 20% of flights nationwide. While many passengers have been able to rebook so far, experts say the situation could worsen quickly.

The Thanksgiving travel rush begins in less than three weeks, and even small disruptions could snowball into major delays and cancellations.

US President Donald Trump's administration is urging Congress to pass a funding bill to reopen the government. Democrats say Republicans are responsible for the shutdown because they refuse to negotiate over extending health insurance subsidies. — DW

COP30 SUMMIT IN BRAZIL

India reaffirms commitment to equitable climate action plan

Belem: India's consistent commitment to climate action based on equity, national circumstances and the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) is intact, Ambassador of India to Brazil Dinesh Bhatia said as he delivered India's National Statement at the Leaders' Summit of the CoP30.

India has reaffirmed its commitment to equitable climate action at the Leaders' Summit held on Friday. India asserted that equitable, predictable, and concessional climate finance remains the cornerstone for achieving global climate goals.

The 30th Conference of the Parties (CoP30) to the UN Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in Belém, Brazil, from November 10 to 21.

India thanked Brazil for hosting CoP30 on the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and recalled the 33-year legacy of the Rio Summit.

India's statement, delivered on Friday, noted that this is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to the challenge of climate change.

"It is also an opportunity to celebrate the legacy of the Rio Summit, where the principles of equity and CBDR-RC were adopted, laying the foundation for the international climate regime, including the Paris Agreement," India's



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in their statement.

India welcomed Brazil's initiative to establish the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), recognising it as a significant step

towards collective and sustained global action for the preservation of tropical forests, and joined the Facility as an Observer.

Highlighting India's low-carbon development path under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, the statement emphasised that between 2005 and 2020, India reduced the emission intensity of its GDP by 36 per cent, and this trend is expected to continue.

Non-fossil power now accounts for over 50 per cent of India's installed capacity, enabling the country to reach the revised NDC target five years ahead of schedule, it noted.

The statement further underscored India's expansion of forest and tree cover, as well as the additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent created between 2005 and 2021. Additionally, it highlighted India's emergence as the world's third-largest producer of renewable energy, with nearly 200 GW of

installed renewable capacity.

Further, global initiatives like the International Solar Alliance now unite over 120 countries and promote affordable solar energy and South-South collaboration, it added.

India emphasised that after 10 years of the Paris Agreement, NDCs of many Nations fall short, and while developing countries are taking decisive climate action, global ambition remains inadequate.

The statement highlighted that, given the rapid depletion of the remaining carbon budget, developed countries must accelerate emission reductions and deliver the promised, adequate and predictable support. — ANI

SPORTS

RANJI TROPHY PLATE GROUP

Indian batter hits eight sixes in eight balls, fastest first-class 50

MUMBAI: Akash Choudhary, an all-rounder playing for India's domestic state team of Meghalaya, made history on Sunday, becoming only the third player in first-class cricket to smash six sixes in an over and scoring the fastest fifty in the format. He did so by hitting an unprecedented eight sixes in a row, en route to his 11-ball fifty.

Primarily a seamer, Choudhary achieved the feat on the second day of the Ranji Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh in Surat. Coming in at No. 8 with Meghalaya 576 for 6, he began his innings with a dot and two singles

before smashing six sixes off left-arm spinner Limar Dabi in the 126th over of the innings. Thus, he joined an elite club that previously included only Garry Sobers and Ravi Shastri. Mike Procter had also hit six consecutive sixes but across two overs.

Choudhary continued his onslaught in the next over as well, hitting off-spinner TNR Mohith for two back-to-back sixes to bring up his fifty. He broke the previous record - off 12 balls by Leicestershire's Wayne White against Essex in 2012 - by one ball.

Choudhary's was also the



second-fastest fifty in first-class cricket in terms of time taken (where data is available). He took nine minutes. The record belongs to Clive Inman, who took eight minutes for his 13-ball half-century for Leicestershire against Nottinghamshire in 1965.

Choudhary finished on 50 not out off 14 balls - the last three balls he faced were dots - as Meghalaya declared their innings on 628 for 6. In response, Arunachal Pradesh were all out for 73 with Choudhary taking one wicket. With Meghalaya enforcing the follow-on, Choudhary picked up two more

wickets to leave the opposition at 29 for 3 at stumps.

Choudhary, 25, was playing his 31st first-class match. Before this, he had scored 503 runs at an average of 14.37 with two half-centuries.

He has also played 28 List-A matches and 30 T20s. He had also smashed four sixes during his unbeaten 60 off 62 against Bihar in the previous game.

With the ball, he has taken 87 wickets in first-class cricket at an average of 29.97, 37 in List-A (average 29.24) and 28 in T20s (average 26.25). - Agencies

THREE-MATCH SERIES VS WI



NZ call up Henry for ODIs, Tickner retains his spot

NELSON: Matt Henry is set to return to action for New Zealand's upcoming three-match ODI series against West Indies, starting November 16 at the Hagley Oval.

Henry, who missed the final two ODIs against England due to a calf strain, has been undergoing a "planned conditioning and rehabilitation block" to prepare for the ODI series, as well as the subsequent three-Test series in December.

Blair Tickner, who was an injury replacement for Kyle Jamieson for the England series, has also retained his spot despite Jamieson's return to action. Tickner took eight wickets in two matches against England.

The pace bowling group also includes Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes and Nathan Smith, while captain Mitchell Santner, Michael Bracewell, and Rachin Ravindra will handle spin duties.

Several players remain unavailable due to injury, including Mohammad Abbas (ribs), Finn Allen (foot), Lockie Ferguson (hamstring), Adam Milne (ankle), Will O'Rourke (back), Glenn Phillips (groin), and Ben Sears (hamstring).

The New Zealand Cricket stated in a release that Kane Williamson, who is recovering from a groin injury, has not been considered for

the ODI series and will focus on preparing for the Test series, which begins on December 2.

"Matt is a vital member of this group and the senior leader of our pace attack, so it'll be great to have him back for both the ODIs and Tests," New Zealand head coach Rob Walter said of Henry. "He will be fresh and fit after a good rest, and we know he will be raring to go ahead of what promises to be a big five weeks with both the white and red ball."

Looking ahead to the West Indies challenge, Walter said: "They're always a dangerous side, with players who can turn a game in an instant. It's an important series for us as we continue to develop and grow in the format."

The New Zealand squad will gather in Christchurch on November 14. The team will be keen to extend their streak of ten consecutive home ODI series wins, following last month's 3-0 clean sweep over England.

New Zealand squad for West Indies ODIs: Mitchell Santner (capt), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham (wk), Daryl Mitchell, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner, Will Young. - Agencies

New Zealand defeat Windies in a thriller

Hosts took a 2-1 lead in the five-game series as Jamieson held his nerve and defended 11 runs in the final over

NELSON: Seamer Kyle Jamieson held his nerve in the final over for a second straight game to seal a nine-run victory for New Zealand over West Indies in a tense finale to the third T20 International on Sunday.

The visitor threatened to surpass New Zealand's 177 for nine in Nelson but was dismissed for 168 when Romario Shepherd was caught in the deep off the penultimate ball for a career-best 49.

New Zealand took a 2-1 lead in the five-game series, following a match that emulated the pattern of the first two, with the chasing team falling just short.

West Indies' hopes appeared dashed at 88 for eight in the 13th over before Shepherd and fellow seamer Shamar Springer began striking the ball cleanly to the boundary.

The pair combined for 78 off just 6.3 overs before Springer was splendidly caught and bowled by Jacob Duffy for 39 with an over remaining.

Needing 12 to win, the final pair could only score two off Jamieson's first four deliveries before the towering pace bowler removed Shepherd to spark victory celebrations. Jamieson had also been effective when New Zealand levelled the series in Auckland on Thursday, conceding 12 in the final over of a nerve-jangling three-run victory.



New Zealand lost its way after opener Devon Conway was run out for 56 off 34 balls, with Daryl Mitchell the most effective of the middle order with a lively 41.

Alick Athanaze, with 31, and Ackeem Augustine, who scored 24, provided a steady start to the West Indies chase, but the loss of six wickets for 35 runs stunted their hopes.

Duffy took three for 36 and Ish Sodhi three for 34, which moved the leg-spinner to third on the all-time list of T20 International wicket-takers with 156.

Sodhi is behind only the 182 victims of Afghanistan's Rashid Khan and the 164 of fellow New Zealander Tim Southee.

"The heart rate was pumping there again. Those death bowlers are doing a great job," Sodhi said.

"The West Indies have such power through that lower to middle order. It's on show at the moment and the series has been a great spectacle so far."

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner said: "It was a very scrappy win, but it's nice to be on the right side of one. It's always a challenge when you come up against a team that bats so deep, and we know they've got power all the way through. I



thought we probably should have gotten 190 at least. But after the collapse, their partnership from 88-8 showed they have power all the way through."

He added: "Our main goal is to try and keep taking wickets. The way the boys started when the ball was swinging was nice, and

when it wasn't, Ish Sodhi was outstanding again. The boys adapted quickly with cutters, bounces, and slow balls. The bowling unit was outstanding. Different guys stepping up at different times, which is pretty key over a five-match series."

West Indies captain Shai Hope said: "Taking it to the last over means you're always in the contest. It's just unfortunate we're not coming out on the winning side in the last two. Still, there are a lot of positives, especially from the last two games."

On Shamar Springer's knock, Hope said: "He's known now as a death specialist. He showed he has the ability to come in and restrict teams in the back end with the ball, and he certainly has power with the bat as well. It's great to see him showing his all-round game today. The same goes for Romario Shepherd; they both came to the party. It's just unfortunate we didn't get the start. We wanted to make it a little bit easier for them in the back end. So many positives to take from this one." **Brief scores:** New Zealand 177/9 (Conway 56, Mitchell 41; Forde 2-20, Holder 2-31) beat West Indies 168 in 19.5 overs (Shepherd 49, Springer 39; Sodhi 3-34, Duffy 3-36) by nine runs. - Agencies

'ICE HAS BEEN BROKEN'

BCCI secretary hopeful of Asia Cup trophy resolution with Naqvi

MUMBAI: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia is hopeful of a resolution with PCB and Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Mohsin Naqvi over the Asia Cup trophy dispute after the "ice has been broken" between the two boards during the recent ICC meeting in Dubai.

"I was a part of both the informal and formal meeting of the ICC. PCB chairperson Mohsin Naqvi was also present. During the course of a formal meeting, it was not on agenda but ICC facilitated a meeting between myself and the PCB chief separately in the presence of a senior ICC office-bearer and another senior official," Saikia told an Indian news agency. "It was really good to start the process of negotiation.

"Both sides will work out something to solve the issue at the earliest. The ice has been broken now, so various options will be worked out. There will be options from the other side as well and we will also give options on how to settle this issue and come to an amicable solution."

India have not yet received the Asia Cup trophy after beating Pakistan in the final on September



28. There was a standoff at the presentation ceremony with India refusing to accept the trophy from Naqvi, the ACC and PCB chair who is also Pakistan's Interior Minister, following the cross-border skirmish between the two countries in the wake of the terror attack in Pahalgam in April.

India and Pakistan played each other three times during the Asia Cup - in the group stage, the Super Fours, and the final - with all the fixtures fraught with tension that began with India's decision not to shake hands with the Pakistan players in their first meeting

on September 14. The matches were ill-tempered with Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Haris Rauf and Sahibzada Farhan all receiving penalties of varying severity from the ICC for their comments or on-field actions.

After the final, the presentation ceremony was delayed by more than 90 minutes while Naqvi remained insistent that he be the person handing over the trophy to India, who did not budge from their stance. Eventually the trophy was taken away from the stage and the team has not received it to date. - Agencies

ODI AND T20I TRI-SERIES

Pakistan drop Nawaz from ODIs and T20I tri-series

LAHORE: Pakistan have dropped batter Hasan Nawaz from their upcoming ODI and T20I series later this month against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. He has been sent instead to participate in the ongoing Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. No replacement was nominated for him for the ODIs, while Fakhar Zaman was called up to the T20I squad in his stead.

Pakistan play three ODIs against Sri Lanka from November 11 before commencing a T20I tri-series that also involves Zimbabwe from November 17. It will be the first multi-team T20I tournament ever held in Pakistan.

Nawaz, who initially rose to prominence when he scored a match-winning T20I hundred against New Zealand at Eden Park in March in his third T20I, was initially marked out as a shining talent. Consequently, he was allowed an extended run in the side despite numerous failures including five ducks in his first ten games.

However, his ability for big hitting, especially during the middle and late stages of T20 innings, was deemed extremely valuable, and his ceiling was considered higher than just about every other player. That reputation was tarnished



further thanks to a dazzling PSL campaign where he took Quetta Gladiators to the final, finishing as the third highest run-scorer at a strike rate over 162.

But over the past two months, he has begun to be viewed as more dispensable. He was dropped from the later stages of Pakistan's run to the Asia Cup final this year for Hussain Talat, a batter with a much lower explosive profile. He has only played four ODIs - three against the West Indies in August, and averages over 56.

Pakistan squads: ODIs: Shaheen Shah Afridi (capt), Abrar Ahmed,

Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah, Hussain Talat, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha.

T20I tri-series: Salman Ali Agha (capt), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Naseem Shah, Sahibzada Farhan (wk), Saim Ayub, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan (wk), Usman Tariq. - Agencies

CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION
In a move that reinforces its long-term commitment to sustainability and responsible growth, BankDhofar has unveiled a renewed focus on carbon footprint reduction —key pillar of its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 5,573.28 points, up by 0.52% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.30% at 473.86 points. Salalah Port Services, up 8.20%, was the top gainer while Global Financial Investments, down 5.13%, was the top loser.

Agreement signed for Al Mouj road development project in Muscat

The OMR44.940 million project aims to raise traffic efficiency, improve traffic flow, and enhance commercial, economic, and tourism activity

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Sunday signed an agreement for the Al Mouj Road Development Project in the Wilayat of Al Seeb, Muscat Governorate, and the related section of 18th November Street, with a total cost exceeding OMR44.940 million.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Ministry by Eng. Said bin Hamood Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. It was signed on behalf of Strabag Oman by Sheikh Hamid bin Abdulqawi Al Ya'ei, the company's Executive Director.

The project aims to raise traffic efficiency, improve traffic flow, and enhance commercial, economic, and tourism activity.

The project includes: Adding a third lane in each direction of the road from Muscat International Airport Bridge to Al Ishraq Roundabout, heading towards Al Seeb Beach; constructing a bridge and a four-way traffic light intersection at Al Mouj Roundabout; constructing an overpass roundabout and a vehicle underpass at the existing Al Bahja Roundabout; developing Al Ishraq Roundabout into a three-way traffic light intersection with lanes allowing continuous movement toward Al Seeb Beach; Adding a third lane from Al Mouj Roundabout to Al Mawaleh Bridge and constructing two vehicle underpasses for traffic heading from 18th November Street to Al Mawaleh Bridge.



Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Transport, explained that the project will enhance the efficiency of roads in Muscat Governorate by reducing traffic congestion. He not-

ed that the project was redesigned and a traffic congestion simulation model was executed to achieve the best results, in cooperation with relevant parties, most notably the Royal Oman Police.

Al Shamakhi clarified that the implementing company will work



on the initial preparations for the project for two months, after which the actual construction will commence. The project is expected to be completed within 30 months. He pointed out that the project requires vehicle traffic management, which will be achieved through

the creation of temporary diversions, working during off-peak hours, and opening sections of the project immediately upon their completion.

Regarding the Muscat Expressway, he explained that the tender process is currently underway,

with a large part of the procedures related to tendering, receiving offers, financial analysis, and financial approvals having been completed. Work is currently focused on the final procedures with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority. -OHA

RBI STATISTICS



India's forex reserves drop further, but still around record high of \$704.9bn

NEW DELHI: India's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$5.623 billion in the week that ended October 31 to \$689.733 billion, driven by a slump in both foreign currency assets and gold reserves, the Reserve Bank of India's latest 'Weekly Statistical Supplement' data showed.

Over the past month, the forex kitty has been in a downtrend, except for one week. Still, the country's foreign exchange (forex) kitty is hovering close to its all-time high of \$704.89 billion, reached in September 2024.

For the reported week (that ended October 31), India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at \$564.591 billion, down \$1.957 billion.

The RBI data showed that gold reserves currently stand at \$101.726 billion, down \$3.810 billion from the previous week. The price of the safe-haven asset gold has been on a sharp uptrend over recent months, perhaps amid heightened global uncertainties and robust investment demand.

After the latest monetary policy review meeting, RBI Gover-

nor Sanjay Malhotra had said the foreign exchange reserves were sufficient to cover more than 11 months of merchandise imports.

Overall, India's external sector continues to be resilient, and the RBI remains confident of meeting its external obligations comfortably.

In 2023, India added around \$58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of \$71 billion in 2022. In 2024, the reserves rose by a little over \$20 billion.

So far in 2025, the forex kitty has cumulatively increased by about \$40 billion, data showed.

Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority, primarily in reserve currencies such as the US dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.

The RBI often intervenes by managing liquidity, including selling dollars, to prevent steep depreciation of the rupee. The RBI strategically buys dollars when the Rupee is strong and sells when it weakens. -ANI

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Role of standards and accreditation to empower Oman's industrial competitiveness highlighted

Times News Service

Muscat: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), represented by the Directorate General for Standards and Metrology (DGSM), hosted on Sunday at W Muscat Hotel, a symposium titled 'Standards and Accreditation for Sustainable Industry.'

The event was held under the patronage of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, with the attendance of several of Their Excellencies, senior officials and the participation of representatives from government and private entities, SMEs, experts, and stakeholders in the fields of quality, accreditation, and standards.

The symposium comes within the MoCIIP's efforts to support Oman's quality infrastructure and to enhance the role of standards and accreditation in empowering the national industrial sector and strengthening industrial competitiveness in line with regional and international market requirements. It also aligns with Oman Vision 2040, which aspires to build a knowledge-based economy driven by excellence and innovation.

Delivering the keynote address, Imad bin Khamis Al Shukaili, Director General of the Directorate General for Standards and Metrology at MoCIIP, highlighted the importance of standardisation and accreditation as key enablers of industrial development and essential tools for ensuring product quality in both local and international markets. He noted the Mo-



CIIP's ongoing efforts to build a comprehensive national quality system.

Al Shukaili explained that the Ministry has focused on enhancing national capabilities, training over 250 participants during 2024 and 2025 to serve as assessors in the registration and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

He added that 31 inspection and evaluation visits were conducted for testing and calibration laboratories with the participation of 105 assessors, alongside 15 technical training programmes involving public and private entities and SMEs.

On SME empowerment, Al Shukaili pointed to MoCIIP's plans to establish partnerships with small and medium enterprises to operate precious-metals laboratories and manage jewellery hallmarking activities, in collaboration with the Authority for SME Development, thereby strengthening entrepreneurs' participation in manufacturing, importation, conformity assessment, and certification activities.

He also revealed that the DGSM

had issued 203 Omani standards this year and participated in reviewing 983 Gulf standards under the 2025 plan, engaging 72 members from public and private institutions. In addition, it has published a Standardisation Procedures Manual for the Standards Department.

Al Shukaili emphasised that the symposium serves as a platform to strengthen partnerships between public and private stakeholders and to reinforce the national drive towards embedding quality and sustainability practices.

Meanwhile, Eng. Moslem Barak, ARAC Secretary, said that the Sultanate of Oman is among the leading countries in developing quality infrastructure. The establishment of the Oman Accreditation Centre (OMAC) represents a major strategic step towards building an integrated national accreditation system that complies with international requirements and supports the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

He added that the Centre's accession to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) is

a remarkable achievement, placing OMAC among internationally recognised Arab accreditation bodies. This recognition enhances the Centre's position as an active regional partner and reflects the complementary relationship between standards and accreditation, which underpins a knowledge-based economy, empowers national industries to grow and innovate, and fosters an investment environment based on trust and fair competition.

Barrak stressed that adopting national and international technical standards and relying on recognised conformity assessment bodies are key pillars for supporting industrial policies and boosting product competitiveness in regional and global markets.

He also noted that the gathering reflects the spirit of partnership and integration among national quality institutions, helping to align visions and unify efforts between the public and private sectors to advance sustainable development across the Arab region.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Salalah Port Services, up 8.20%, was the top gainer while Global Financial Investments, down 5.13%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,573.28 points, up by 0.52% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.30% at 473.86 points. Salalah Port Services, up 8.20%, was the top gainer while Global Financial Investments, down 5.13%, 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 6486 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 32.77 million, with more than 139.29 million shares changing hands. Out of 67 traded securities, 19 advanced, 26 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 1311K, followed by foreign investors for RO 10K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 9,011.43 points, down -0.70%. Prices of Liva Group, Taageer Finance, Sohar International Bank, Oman United Insurance

were up by 7.14%, 3.15%, 1.96%, 0.39% respectively. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Bank Dhofar, Al Anwar Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Madina Takaful were down by 5.13%, 2.52%, 1.91%, 1.21%, 1.15% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,219.35 points, up 0.13%. Prices of Salalah Mills, Voltamp Energy, Gulf International Chemicals, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 7.69%, 2.72%, 1.47%, 0.35% respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Muscat Thread Mill, Oman Flour Mills, Gulf Mushroom Products, A'Saffa Foods were down by 4.14%, 2.50%, 1.05%, 0.69%, 0.21% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.12% before closing at 2,257.71 points. Prices of Salalah Port Services, Musandam Power, Muscat Desalination, Barka Desalination, Al Maha Marketing were up by 8.20%, 3.39%, 2.41%, 2.11%, 1.71% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Oman Oil Marketing, Renaissance Services, Oman National Engineering, Al Jazeera Services were down by 2.27%, 2.13%, 1.36%, 0.75%, 0.56% respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	5,573.28	5,514.98	5,573.28	5,544.30	28.98	0.52	
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,072.73	8,981.80	9,011.43	9,075.32	-63.89	-0.70	
Industry Index	7,219.35	7,156.20	7,219.35	7,209.85	9.50	0.13	
Services Index	2,257.97	2,242.15	2,257.71	2,255.01	2.70	0.12	
MSX Shariah Index	475.41	472.13	473.86	475.31	-1.45	-0.30	
MSX TR INDEX	8,364.83	8,277.32	8,364.83	8,321.33	43.50	0.52	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	10,778.72	10,670.70	10,705.90	10,781.80	-75.90	-0.70	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,900.83	8,822.97	8,900.83	8,889.12	11.71	0.13	
SERVICES TR IDX	2,931.84	2,911.29	2,931.50	2,928.00	3.51	0.12	
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
139,295,588	32,773,540	6,486	31,416,744,205	19	26	22	67

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	4,134	3,903	5	0.920	0.945	0.920	0.945	0.920	0.025	2.717	0.945	0.945	0.945	0.100	88,464,438
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	34,676,947	5,325,383	961	0.152	0.157	0.151	0.156	0.153	0.003	1.961	0.156	0.156	0.165	0.100	1,032,290,418
OM0000003072	OQAS NETWORKS	9,261,925	1,692,479	709	0.181	0.184	0.180	0.183	0.182	0.001	0.549	0.183	0.183	0.182	0.100	792,504,177
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	100	98	1	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.260	0.001	0.385	0.261	0.258	0.268	0.100	26,100,000	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	2,522	1,432	2	0.568	0.568	0.568	0.566	0.002	0.353	0.568	0.568	0.570	0.100	70,942,041	
OM0000001077	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	100	215	1	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150	0.000	0.000	2.150	2.150	2.150	0.100	192,855,000
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	10,000	1,620	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.160	0.000	0.162	0.160	0.164	0.100	35,640,000	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	56,479	3,570	5	0.063	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.100	22,792,147	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	30,052,620	10,002,573	1,115	0.332	0.335	0.331	0.333	0.333	0.000	0.000	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.100	2,496,630,222
OM0000003968	GOREDOO	119,108	28,009	8	0.235	0.236	0.235	0.236	0.236	0.000	0.236	0.235	0.236	0.100	153,622,838	
OM0000004420	BANK NUZWA	423,975	45,133	10	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.104	0.103	0.105	0.100	232,643,115	
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	37,367	6,359	9	0.169	0.171	0.169	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.171	0.171	0.173	0.100	115,405,751	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	181,006	30,970	12	0.171	0.172	0.171	0.172	0.172	0.000	0.172	0.171	0.173	0.100	122,153,484	
OM0000008854	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,784,221	785,538	1,092	0.281	0.284	0.280	0.282	0.282	0.000	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.100	217,136,400	
OM0000002804	A'SAFFA FOODS	132,735	59,923	19	0.470	0.479	0.450	0.479	0.480	-0.001	-0.208	0.479	0.450	0.479	0.100	57,480,000
OM0000003036	OMAN TELECOM	1,521,986	1,562,496	140	1.029	1.029	1.023	1.029	1.029	-0.006	-0.582	1.029	1.029	1.030	0.100	769,300,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	506,000	184,674	4	0.364	0.365	0.362	0.364	0.364	-0.002	-0.549	0.362	0.362	0.365	0.100	588,592,581
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	253,963	45,179	20	0.178	0.179	0.177	0.179	0.180	-0.001	-0.556	0.179	0.177	0.179	0.100	769,895
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	14,198	4,428	7	0.313	0.313	0.311	0.311	0.314	-0.003	-0.955	0.311	0.311	0.345	0.100	291,006,306
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	634,117	54,569	44	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.100	15,050,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	43,548	3,572	6	0.085	0.085	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.295	0.082	0.082	0.085	0.100	7,580,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	316,483	91,938	20	0.294	0.294	0.290	0.294	0.294	-0.004	-1.361	0.290	0.285	0.290	0.100	68,558,800
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	2,222	329	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.156	-0.008	-6.128	0.148	0.148	0.158	0.100	29,900,000
Total	23	81,025,801	19,934,319	4,102												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	1,766	560	2	0.305	0.330	0.305	0.330	0.305	0.025	8.197	0.330	0.000	0.325	0.100	59,346,342
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	3,000	1,270	3	0.420	0.425	0.420	0.420	0.390	0.030	7.692	0.425	0.425	0.429	0.100	26,234,487
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	12,000	3,480	5	0.280	0.300	0.280	0.300	0.280	0.020	7.143	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	119,512,303
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	15,920	4,246	2	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.000	0.000	0.305	0.300	0.305	0.100	21,488,650
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	2,750	360	1	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.127	0.004	3.150	0.131	0.000	0.132	0.100	36,578,241
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	1,235	105	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.082	0.003	2.410	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	11,070,000
OM0000008908	OQBASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	26,373,533	4,573,278	964	0.170	0.175	0.170	0.175	0.171	0.004	2.339	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.040	605,410,899
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	61,600	8,912	3	0.143	0.145	0.143	0.145	0.142	0.003	2.113	0.145	0.143	0.145	0.100	10,590,000
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	1,949	1,950	6	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.993	0.017	1.712	1.010	1.000	1.035	0.100	69,890,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	54,318	3,742	6	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	1,440,000
OM0000009759	OCEAN EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	14,670,335	5,223,312	415	0.358	0.394	0.357	0.384	0.358	0.005	1.363	0.384	0.365	0.363	0.010	2,912,000,000
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	10,624,502	2,736,482	806	0.169	0.173	0.167	0.172	0.170	0.002	1.176	0.172	0.169	0.172	0.000	895,004,016
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	22,500	2,745	4	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.100	11,070,000
OM0000001176	MUSCAT GASES	6,000	708	2	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.111	0.118	0.100	3,540,000
OM0000001425	OMAN REFINEMENT	180	224	4	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	0.000	0.000	1.482	1.482	1.482	0.100	74,690,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	169,157	13,533	8	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.078	0.085	0.100	29,440,370
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	14,200	6,745	4	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.000	0.000	0.475	0.475	0.485	0.100	157,164,537
OM0000003260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,816	258	1	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.147	0.161	0.100	29,440,370
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	15,315	2,276	10	0.150	0.150	0.148	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.149	0.155	0.100	217,927,618
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	18,163	1,650	6	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.088	0.091	0.100	58,373,129
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	5,150	747	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.100	85,758,348
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	800	175	1	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.220	-0.001	-0.455	0.219	0.219	0.220	0.100	437,201,196
OM0000004735	SEMPOUR SALALAH	124,507	23,163	16	0.185	0.187	0.184	0.187	0.188	-0.001	-0.532	0.187	0.185	0.187	0.100	178,504,955
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	19,701	2,896	6	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.147	0.146	0.152	0.100	397,899,647
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHRUM PRODUCTS	1,235	105	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	11,070,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	30,000	3,990	7	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.134	-0.001	-0.746	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.100	19,890,000
OM0000000596	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL PET & INV	26,678	626	10	0.020	0.020	0.024	0.028	0.029	-0.002	-0.692	0.028	0.027	0.029	0.100	13,134,784
OM0000000440	AL FLOUJ MILLS	10,000	1,620	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.162	0.164	0.100	35,640,000
OM0000000910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	21,783	3,216	6	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.080	0.083	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	4,134	1,271	5	0.105	0.105	0.102	0.103	0.105	-0.002	-1.966	0.103	0.103	0.106	0.100	30,705,652
OM0000000749	OMAN OIL MARKETING	17,652	1,796	7	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.079	-0.001	-2.133	0.078	0.078	0.081	0.100	17,784,550
OM0000000407	DHOFAR GENERATING	63,626	5,490	9	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.086	-0.002	-2.276	0.085	0.086	0.090	0.100	19,112,640
OM0000000388	ALMAJAN TRADING & MILLS	1,816	6,222	10	0.102	0.105	0.102	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	17,784,550
OM0000000249	BANK DHOFAR	389,386	80,816	16	0.157	0.157	0.153	0.155	0.159	-0.004	-2.516	0.155	0.155	0.157	0.100	147,168,772
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	178,271	14,270	18	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.083	-0.003	-3.614	0.080	0.080	0.089	0.100	1,800,000
OM0000001604	ALMAHA CHEMICALS	21,500	5,042	12	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.000	0.000	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.100	19,890,000
Total	36	58,222,437	12,794,264	2,367												
Parallel Market																


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LIFESTYLE



TINY CHIP RESTORES VISION, HOPE FOR THOSE WITH SIGHT LOSS

Restoring vision — or at least improving it — for those with macular degeneration may soon be possible with a tiny chip and special glasses.

Together, the chip and eyeglasses have been shown to restore central vision for a type of eye disease, known as Age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

More than 80% of patients at trial sites across the United States, Germany, UK, Netherlands and Italy showed significant improvement in central vision following a year of monitoring.

With the implant, the patients were able to read numbers and words at home and could improve their reading ability by 25 letters — or five lines — on a standard eye exam chart.

The majority of participants, who were aged over 50 years, had their vision improved to about half as good as the standard 20/20 vision.

“It’s the first time ever where it has been shown that vision can be restored in a blind retinal area that is important for daily life,” Frank Holz, the study’s lead and the chair of ophthalmology at the University of Bonn, told DW.

As some people age, the macula, which is the part of the retina responsible for central vision, can deteriorate, leading first to vision blurring and then ongoing degeneration. Atrophic AMD is a leading cause of sight loss in older people, affecting at least five million people globally.

Implant helps to restore reading for people with atrophic AMD

A healthy eye can ‘see’ by receiving light from the outside world and converting it into electrical signals that are sent via the optic nerve into the brain for interpretation. Macular degeneration reduces the eye’s ability to do this.

The solution of implanting a pinhead-sized chip into the retina that can compensate for this deterioration inspired Daniel Palanker, an ophthalmologist at Stanford University, US. He collaborated with French eye expert Jose-Alain Sahel, based at the Pittsburgh School of Medicine, on developing the technology. They wanted to develop an implant that would do away with under-skin wires and appointed Holz to lead the latest trial.

But the chip is only one half of what they call the “PRIMA” system.

The other half is the specialised set of eyeglasses. They use a mounted camera to transmit visual data to the implant, which beams the data to a handheld processor for enhancement, and then receives higher-quality imagery back.

The images are converted to electrical impulses and utilise the remaining retinal cells to send the information to the brain.

“It requires, importantly in this disease, that the biocomputer, if you will — the [biological] wiring anterior to the chip — is still present,” said Holz, referring to still-functioning cells in the eye.

“If all cells from the retina were dead, the chip wouldn’t work at all. It [the im-

An implant attached to damaged retinas has helped people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) improve visual ability. AMD affects millions of people. This chip has been tested internationally



plant] just replaces the photoreceptors and basically translates light into electric stimuli, which is what nature does in the eye with the retina.”

Collaboration and persistence reap reward

Sahel and Stanford-based Palanker had been working on separate technologies to try addressing the same problem when they met at a conference in 2012.

They decided to pool their resources to develop the implant, first with small studies with several patients and then this larger trial with more than 30.

But the current study nearly collapsed when the company developing PRIMA went out of business in 2024.

“I remember vividly the days not so long ago, when everything was just about to die at the time when the study was almost complete,” Sahel told DW. “There might have been a situation where you have a product that is working and there is no way to get it to the people.”

The developer has since been acquired by US company Science Corporation, which has taken over production and is seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use as a medical therapy in the US, and CE certification for use in Europe.

By conducting the trial across multiple countries and sites, the trial team is hopeful approval will be achieved in both regions.

“You want to demonstrate that the technology is not just limited to one or

two very skilled surgeons,” Sahel told DW. “And that also patients from multiple backgrounds can benefit from it.”

It is an essential criterion for regulators that researchers show that difficult operations such as this implantation can be successfully performed by eye surgeons. While some adverse effects were reported in some patients, these cleared up by the end of the 12-month study period.

“Demonstrating that across 13 different sites and different surgeons there was some consistency in the results gives the ability to apply to get that distributed to more centers and more patients,” Sahel said.

Sahel and Holz both highlighted that there are limitations to the new technology. While the operation to implant the chip had now been successfully performed by multiple surgeons around the world, they told DW it was not an easy operation.

“It’s a very complex surgery that needs good skills,” Sahel said.

The other challenge is the patient. There are logistical barriers that could affect patient suitability, such as their ability to repeatedly visit a clinic for post-surgery rehabilitation, and to have at-home support during this period.

Holz said an implant recipient must be willing to have ongoing post-surgery review, and be trained to use the camera and processor to be able to successfully use the implant.

That rehabilitation programme currently takes around 12 months. -DW

Norris takes Sao Paulo pole after winning sprint race

The McLaren driver extended his championship lead after victory in sprint on Saturday at Interlagos

SAO PAULO: McLaren's Lando Norris took pole position for the Sao Paulo Grand Prix hours after extending his championship lead with victory in the sprint on Saturday. The Briton shrugged off an error on his first lap that left him down in 10th place going into the final runs of qualifying to secure pole position by 0.174 seconds from Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli. Norris' team-mate and title rival Oscar Piastri, fastest on the first laps in the top 10 shootout, could manage only fourth behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc. Red Bull's Max Verstappen, the McLaren drivers' only realistic title rival, suffered a shock elimination in the first session and will start 16th. Norris had it all to do after locking his front brakes going into the first corner at Interlagos on his first run in the shootout. Piastri crashed out of third place



in the sprint earlier in the day to fall nine points behind Norris in the championship but he nailed his first lap to go fastest from Leclerc. But Norris has looked the man to beat all weekend and he delivered an impressive lap on his final run, under intense pressure, to beat his team-mate by 0.375secs. "I felt good. I was under a bit of pressure because I locked up on my first lap so it was a little bit more stressful than I would have liked but stayed cool and very happy," said Norris. "Locking up into Turn One puts unnecessary pressure on myself but when I'm in a good rhythm,

when I can out it all together, I'll be on top." Piastri said: "Obviously, a bit disappointed with the result but the car has looked quick this weekend, especially over a longer run, so hopefully I can take advantage of that tomorrow. "Ultimately, I'll try and take whatever opportunities arise and if I can make progress forward and put pressure on, I will. But yeah, I have to get there first."

Verstappen's first Q1 elimination since 2021
Verstappen was already struggling for pace in the sprint and Red Bull

made changes to his car for the grand prix qualifying in the hope of finding more grip. But they backfired and he was already fearing the worst after his first lap, when he said to his engineer: "The car and ride is a tiny bit better but now sliding even more." But he failed to improve on his final run and he suffered his first Q1 elimination since the 2021 Russian Grand Prix. "It's not what you want to see," Verstappen said. "The whole weekend has already been quite tough. "This was unexpected after changing a lot on the car. I had no

grip in the car. I had to massively under-drive it and it just didn't work. Just no feeling."

Bearman strong again, Hamilton 13th
Antonelli, who pushed Norris all the way in the sprint, has been the lead Mercedes driver all weekend. "I am a bit annoyed I am again behind him," the 19-year-old said. "We were so close again behind him, it was very tough to put the lap together with the wind. But managed to put a decent lap on the final run and was happy with that." Racing Bulls' Isack Hadjar and Liam Lawson took fifth and

seventh, split by the Mercedes of George Russell, while Oliver Bearman did not sound too disappointed to be eighth despite setting third-fastest time on the first runs, and being second in the second session. Alpine's Pierre Gasly and Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg completed the top 10, while Lewis Hamilton was eliminated in the second session and will start 13th. Brazilian Gabriel Bortoleto will start 20th after his Sauber could not be repaired in time for qualifying following a high-speed crash at the end of the pit straight on the final lap of the sprint race. - Agencies

PULLS OUT OF ATP FINALS



Djokovic clinches 101st title in Athens

ATHENS: Novak Djokovic secured the 101st title of his career with victory at the Hellenic Championships - but then had to withdraw from the ATP Finals because of injury. The Serb came through a gruelling encounter against Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in Saturday's final in Athens, fighting back from a set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. But the 24-time Grand Slam champion's win came at a price, with Djokovic exacerbating an "ongoing" shoulder injury that will keep him out of the ATP Finals in Turin, which began on Sunday. "I was really looking forward to competing in Turin and giving my best but after today's final in Athens, I'm sad to share that I need to withdraw due to an ongoing injury," Djokovic wrote on social media. "I'm truly sorry to the fans who were hoping to see me play - your support means so much. I wish all

the players an amazing tournament, and I can't wait to be back on the court with you all soon." Djokovic, 38, will be replaced in the finals by Musetti - who thought his chance of featuring in Turin had gone following his defeat. On a day of thrilling tennis on the ATP tour, Great Britain's Cameron Norrie missed out on a sixth career title as American teenager Learner Tien roared back to claim his first via a deciding set tie-break at the Moselle Open in France. Djokovic is one of just three men to have racked up a century of titles. The Serb still needs two to equal Roger Federer's 103, while Jimmy Connors heads the list with 109. "It was an incredible battle - I don't know [how I won it]," said the top seed who, at 38 years and five months, became the oldest tournament winner since Australia's Ken Rosewall won in Hong Kong in 1977 aged 43. - Agencies

15TH PLACE FINISH

Al Harthy closes FIA WEC season with gritty Bahrain performance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Ahmad Al Harthy signed off his 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship campaign with determination and pride, overcoming a tough final race at Bahrain International Circuit to secure a top-eight finish in the overall LMGT3 standings on Saturday. Despite the setbacks in the Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain, where the Team WRT finished 15th, Al Harthy reflected positively on a season marked by progress, consistency, and two memorable podium finishes. The season finale under the Sakhir floodlights promised much for the No.46 Team WRT BMW M4 LMGT3, shared by Al Harthy, Valentino Rossi, and Kelvin van der Linde. Starting ninth on the LMGT3 grid, Al Harthy made a lightning start, storming through to sixth in the opening laps with a bold and confident drive. "I felt really strong in those first few laps - the car had great balance, and I was confident we could fight for solid points," Al Harthy said. As the race settled, however, a combination of balance issues, strategy timing, and traffic hindered progress. The BMW gradually lost ground as the eight-hour endurance unfolded, with Al Harthy's team-mates Rossi and van der Linde also



facing an uphill task to recover. After eight relentless hours, the trio crossed the line 15th. "It's unfortunate how the final round of the season turned out for us," Al Harthy admitted. "We all tried our absolute best but had some issues which meant we couldn't fight as we wanted or had planned. Qualifying was as good as we could have hoped, and I was pleased with my first stint - but after that, it became an uphill battle." Despite the Bahrain frustrations, Al Harthy leaves the 2025 season with his head held high. The Omani racer and his Team WRT crew delivered a string of competitive performances, including two podium finishes that

underscored their growing pace and cohesion in the LMGT3 field. "As a season, it's been better than last year and our overall competitiveness was higher - that's a positive we take away," he added. "It's been a real pleasure racing with Vale and Kelvin this year. A huge thank you to them, to everyone at WRT, and to our incredible partners in Oman for their amazing support."

Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain LMGT3 race results: 1. Jose Maria Lopez / Clemens Schmid / Petru Umbrarescu (Akkodis ASP Team / Lexus RC F), 2. Maxime Martin / Christian Ried / Lin Hohenius (Iron Lynx / Mercedes-AMG), 3. Mattia Drudi / Ian James / Zacharie Robichon (Heart of

Racing / Aston Martin Vantage), 15. Ahmad Al Harthy / Valentino Rossi / Kelvin van der Linde (Team WRT / BMW M4). **Final 2025 FIA WEC LMGT3 Driver Standings:** 1. Riccardo Pera / Richard Leitz / Ryan Hardwick, 123pts; 2. Alessio Rovera / Francois Heriau / Simon Mann, 109pts; 3. Jose Maria Lopez / Clemens Schmid / Petru Umbrarescu, 95pts; 8. Ahmad Al Harthy / Valentino Rossi / Kelvin van der Linde, 52pts. **Final 2025 FIA WEC LMGT3 Team Standings:** 1. Manthey 1ST Phorm (Porsche 911 GT3 R), 123pts; 2. Vista AF Corse (Ferrari 296), 109pts; 3. Akkodis ASP Team (Lexus RC F), 95pts; 8. Team WRT (BMW M4 LMGT3), 52pts

WTA FINALS

Rybakina upsets world No.1 Sabalenka to claim record £4m prize

RIYADH: Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan claimed the biggest payday in women's tennis history by beating world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in straight sets in the WTA Finals on Saturday. The 26-year-old produced a stunning display to overcome four-time Grand Slam winner Sabalenka 6-3, 7-6 (7-0) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Because both players came through the tournament undefeated, the prize money on offer was a record-breaking £3.98mn - the largest payout offering in women's tennis history. The prize money tops the £3.74mn Sabalenka, 27, earned for winning September's US Open, which was the highest-paying Grand Slam in 2025. "It's been an incredible week," said Rybakina.



"I honestly didn't expect any result so to go so far was just incredible. "I want to say congratulations to Aryna for being number one for a second year in a row, it's an incredible achievement." Rybakina, who was the world No.6, hit 16 winners during a dominant first-set display. The 2022 Wimbledon winner saved two break points before winning all four points in the sixth game to get a break up, and held her serve to seal the first set. With the second set on serve, Sabalenka saved two break points at 4-4 to swing the momentum in her favour. But, having worked so hard to upset Rybakina's rhythm, Sabalenka let her opponent off the hook by squandering two set points in the

next game to level the second set at 5-5. Sabalenka's failure to level the match affected her tie-break performance, with Rybakina winning all seven points to take home the title. The victory, Rybakina's sixth over Sabalenka, means she will move up one spot in the rankings to fifth in the world. A distraught Sabalenka appeared to be in tears as she sat with her coaching team shortly after the match. "It was not the best performance from me today, but Elena you were definitely the better player," the Belarusian told the crowd. "You literally smashed me out of the court. I'm happy to see you play your best tennis. Enjoy this beautiful trophy." - Agencies

SPORTS

ITALIAN SERIE A

Milan miss a chance to go top



MILAN: AC Milan missed the chance to go two points clear at the top of Serie A after throwing away a two-goal lead against strugglers Parma, while Juventus were frustrated in a goalless draw with Torino.

A 2-2 draw with Parma leaves Milan level with Napoli on 22 points having played one game more.

Alexis Saelemaekers put Milan ahead in the 12th minute with a well-placed strike from the edge of the penalty area before the Belgian midfielder won a penalty that Rafael Leao coolly converted.

Milan looked in complete control until Parma's Adrian Bernabe found the top corner with a curling strike to half the deficit in first-half stoppage time.

Parma started the second half strongly and seconds after Mateo Pellegrino hit the crossbar, Enrico Delprato beat Mike Maignan to a cross to head the hosts level in the 62nd minute.

Christian Pulisic should have put the rossoneri back in front but he fired wide with only Zion Suzuki to beat before Saelemaekers missed the target after rounding the Parma goalkeeper.

Meanwhile, Juventus' inconsistent start to the season continued as they were held to a goalless draw by Torino in Luciano Spalletti's third match in charge. - Agencies



Sunderland halt Arsenal's 10-match winning streak

Brobbey scored a late goal to help his side share the spoils with the Gunners

LONDON: Brian Brobbey scored a goal deep into injury time as Sunderland held Arsenal to a 2-2 draw in the Premier League on Saturday, ending the latter's 10-match winning run.

Daniel Ballard fired Sunderland ahead with a rising shot in the 36th minute after a well-worked free kick to end Arsenal's 812-minute run without conceding a goal.

Bukayo Saka made it 1-1 in the 54th minute after Declan Rice won the ball in midfield, and Leandro Trossard put the league leader in front in the 74th minute

when he cut inside to score with a powerful shot.

Sunderland saved a point in the 94th minute when Brobbey got on the end of a knock-down after a long ball from defense, and it is the first time Arsenal has conceded twice in a game this season.

Elsewhere, second-half goals from Malo Gusto, Joao Pedro and Pedro Neto helped Chelsea to a 3-0 win at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers, who traveled to Stamford Bridge bottom of the table without a win all season and without a coach after Vitor Perei-



ra was sacked last weekend.

Tottenham and Manchester United took a point each after a 2-2 draw, which had a dramatic finish with two goals in injury time.

A dull first half was lit up when Bryan Mbeumo headed Manchester United in front after 32 minutes, and Tottenham equal-

Goals from Idrissa Gueye and Michael Keane gave Everton three vital points with a 2-0 home win over Fulham. Everton had the ball in the Fulham goal five times, but three were ruled out for different reasons.

Everton remain in the bottom half but are just a point behind Crystal Palace in ninth, while Fulham sit one point above the relegation zone.

West Ham won 3-2 at home to Burnley to claim back-to-back wins under coach Nuno Espirito Santo, with Callum Wilson canceling out Zian Flemming's 35th-minute opener for Burnley.

Tomas Soucek and Kyle Walker-Peters scored after 77 and 87 minutes to give West Ham a two-goal lead, and Josh Cullen's 97th-minute strike for Burnley was too late for his side to press for an equaliser. - Xinhua

SPANISH LA LIGA



Griezmann's double in Atletico victory

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann scored twice as Atletico Madrid was made to work hard for a 3-1 home win over Levante in La Liga on Saturday.

Atletico took the lead in the 12th minute when Levante goalkeeper Mathew Ryan saved from Marcos Llorente, only for the ball to cannon into the goal off defender Adrian de la Fuente.

Levante were level soon after with a powerful header from former Atletico defender Manu Sanchez, before Griezmann's second-half brace decided the game.

Villarreal recovered from its UEFA Champions League defeat to Pafos in midweek with a 2-0 win away to Espanyol.

Gerard Moreno opened the scoring against his former club in the 43rd minute with a turn and a precise shot into the corner of the net, and Alberto Moleiro doubled the lead 11 minutes into the second half after Espanyol goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic had made a fine save to deny Tajon Buchanan.

Ruben Vargas' 51st-minute penalty gave Sevilla a 1-0 win at home to Osasuna to end a three-match

losing streak while leaving Osasuna with six defeats and a draw away from home.

Girona coach Michel Sanchez will breathe easier after a first-half goal from Viktor Tsygankov gave his side a 1-0 win at home to Alaves to lift it out of the relegation zone.

The weekend kicked off on Friday night with Elche and Real Sociedad drawing 1-1, as Alvaro Rodriguez put Elche ahead just before the hour and Mikel Oyarzabal's penalty saved a point for the visitors in the last minute. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern held by Union Berlin

BERLIN: Bayern Munich's 16-match winning streak across all competitions came to an end as Union Berlin held the defending champions to a thrilling 2-2 draw at home in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Their 16 victories in 16 games in all competitions before Saturday's Bundesliga clash was the best ever start to a season by any men's team from the top five European leagues. But they missed the chance to equal a club record of victories at the start of a Bundesliga season thanks to this late draw. Bayern fell behind when Danilho Doekhi's effort following a corner slipped under keeper Manuel Neuer.

This was the first time they had trailed in a match or conceded a goal in the first half this season.

However, Union's lead was soon wiped out by Diaz's third goal in two games - and it was a stunning effort.

Josip Stanisic's slide rule pass looked to be going out but in three touches Diaz kept the ball in play on the byeline, nudged it past the defender on the spin and launched a stinging effort in at the near post from the tightest of angles.

Kane's unusually quiet afternoon was summed up when he inadvertently headed a Union free-kick straight into the path of Doekhi who finished past Neuer.

But the England captain made amends in the 93rd minute when he headed in from Tom Bischof's cross for his 13th Bundesliga goal of the season.

Bayern will return from the



international break with a home match against Freiburg on Saturday, 22 November.

"The first 30 minutes were not enough for us. Union did a lot of right things and showed their strength on set pieces. We must fight until the end in every game," Kompany said after the match.

Bayern stays top with 28 points from 10 matches, six ahead of second-placed RB Leipzig. Union

ranks 10th with 12 points.

Elsewhere, Leipzig suffered its first loss since the opening day, falling 3-1 at Hoffenheim, who celebrated a fourth straight league victory. Third-placed Dortmund was held to a 1-1 draw at Hamburg, conceding deep into stoppage time. Bayer Leverkusen recorded a 6-0 rout of Heidenheim, while Monchengladbach beat Cologne 3-1. - Agencies

MLS CUP

Messi steers Inter Miami into conference semis

MIAMI: Lionel Messi scored two and set up two more as Inter Miami thrashed Nashville SC 4-0 on Saturday to reach the MLS Cup semi-finals for the first time.

The Argentina forward, 38, scored twice in the first half to put Miami in control, before laying on two for Tadeo Allende after the break to seal a convincing win.

It means Javier Mascherano's side won the best-of-three series 2-1, after a 3-2 victory in the first game was followed by a 2-1 defeat

in the second. Messi ended the series with five goals and three assists, meaning he was involved in all eight goals scored by Miami across the three matches.

"I want to congratulate Leo for the game he played," said Miami boss Mascherano.

"He was the first one who guided us in high pressure. To see him press like that at 38 years old is crazy.

"We all know about Leo with the ball, but what happened with

Leo without the ball today was impressive."

Miami, who suffered first-round defeats in two of the past three seasons, will play FC Cincinnati in a one-off semi-final on the weekend of 22 and 23 November. In Saturday's other game, Minnesota United beat Seattle Sounders 7-6 on penalties after a thrilling 3-3 draw. They will play the winner of Sunday's game between Portland Trailblazers and San Diego FC. - Agencies



IN PICTURES



STAR CAST OF DE DE PYAAR DE 2 DURING PROMOTIONS: Bollywood actors Ajay Devgan, Rakul Preet Singh, Meezaan Jafri, and R. Madhavan pose for a picture for their upcoming film 'De De Pyaar De 2' at Luma House, in Mumbai. — ANI Photo



GALA EXHIBITION AT ISU GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING 2025: Sara Conti (top)/Niccolo Macii of Italy perform during the gala exhibition at ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2025 in Osaka, Japan. — Xinhua



VIEW OF BUILDINGS SHROUDED IN FOG IN KUWAIT CITY: An aerial drone photo shows buildings shrouded in fog in Kuwait City, Kuwait. — Xinhua



HIGHLIGHT OF TABLE TENNIS MATCHES AT NATIONAL GAMES: Wong Chun Ting hits a return during the table tennis men's singles round of 32 match between Wong Chun Ting of Hong Kong and Zhao Zhaoyan of Shanghai at China's 15th National Games in Macao, south China. — Xinhua



PEOPLE ENTER GRAND PALACE TO MOURN FOR THAILAND'S QUEEN MOTHER SIRIKIT IN BANGKOK: People enter the Grand Palace to mourn for Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit, who passed away on Oct. 24 at the age of 93, in Bangkok, Thailand. — Xinhua



MISS EARTH 2025 CORONATION NIGHT HELD IN PHILIPPINES: Newly-crowned Miss Earth 2025 Natalie Puskinova (centre) of the Czech Republic is congratulated by other candidates during the Miss Earth 2025 coronation night in Paranaque City, the Philippines. — Xinhua

93RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY: A special flying display Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team during the 93rd Anniversary celebration of the Indian Air Force Day over the Brahmaputra River, in Guwahati, India. — ANI Photo

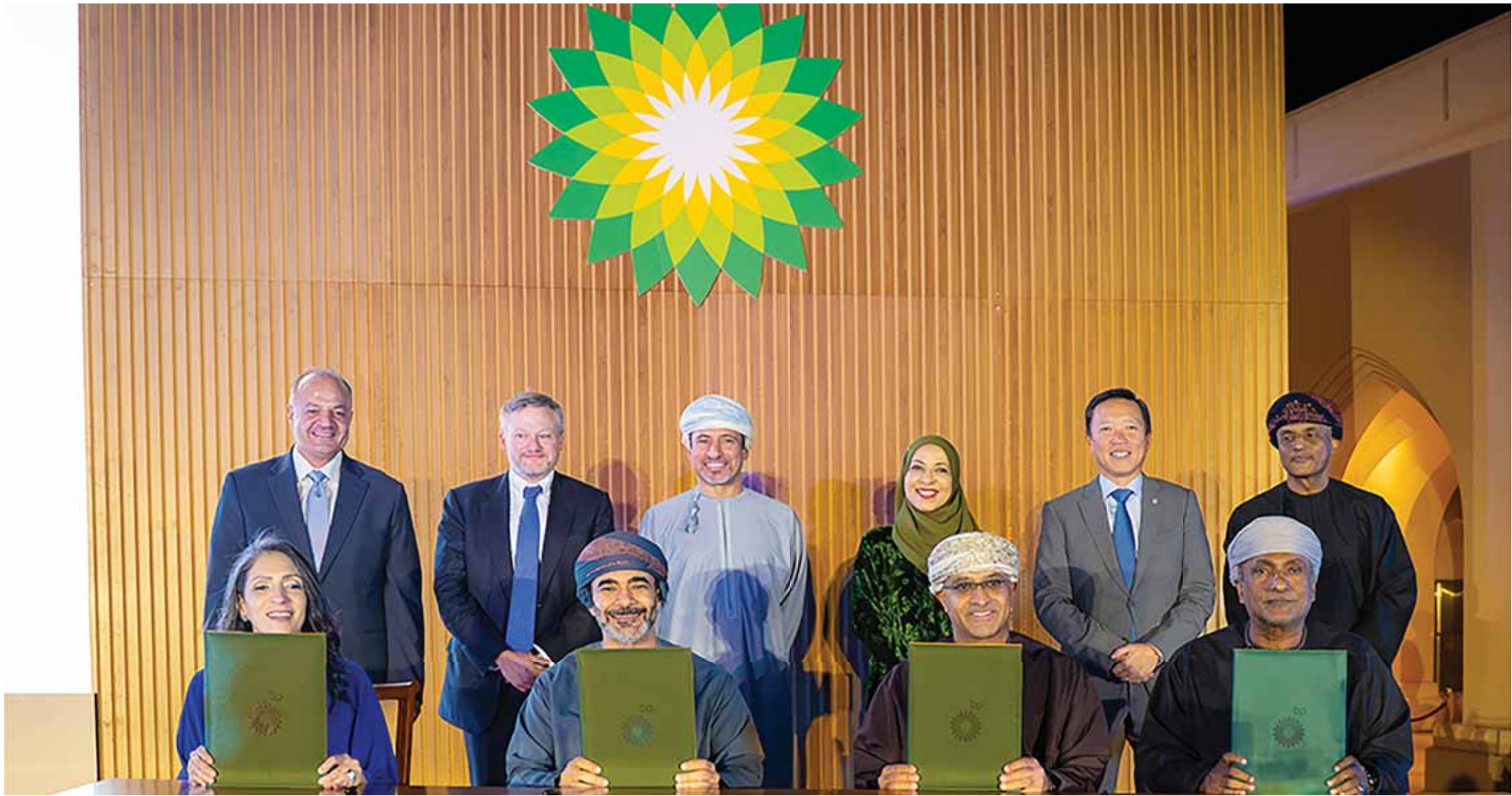


CITY VIEW OF DOHA, QATAR: This photo shows a city view in Doha, Qatar. — Xinhua



ROUND-UP

bp Oman launches ‘Gift to Nation’ to benefit people with disabilities across the Sultanate of Oman



The new bp Oman Gift to the Nation (GTN) initiative has two programmes – creating an accessible digital curriculum and training for both for government employees and job seekers with disabilities

MUSCAT: bp Oman has partnered with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development and Governor of Al Dhahira’s office to launch a national multi-year initiative focused on creating equal opportunities for Omanis with disabilities through training and accessible education. “We are proud of our partnership with The Sultanate of Oman to create inclusive opportunities. By empowering more than 44,000 people with disabilities through

education and training, we are honoured to support His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik’s directive for a more equitable and inclusive society; one where every individual can thrive and contribute to Oman.” Nader Zaki, bp’s regional president Middle East and North Africa. “bp is pleased to continue to invest in the people of Oman with another national initiative aimed at supporting Oman achieve Vision 2040 goals – this time focused

on Omanis with disabilities. This is a continuation of our social investment programmes which have benefited over 250,000 Omanis since launched in 2014. Najla Zuhair Al Jamali, bp Oman president. The new bp Oman Gift to the Nation (GTN) initiative has two programmes – creating an accessible digital curriculum and training for both for government employees and job seekers with disabilities.

Creating an accessible digital curriculum
In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the first programme will convert existing curricula into interactive, accessible digital formats for students with hearing and visual disabilities. The programme will: Provide learning resources tailored to different needs, enabling students to learn beyond the classroom through digital tools. Equip teachers and parents with new ways to support inclusive learning.

This builds on bp’s ongoing 2020 GTN which digitized the national education curriculum to the benefit over 800,000 students. This new intervention aims to make the digital curriculum more inclusive for grades 1-4, benefiting an additional 8,000 people. Majid Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs, added: “We’re pleased to expand on our existing partnership with bp Oman focusing on supporting people with disabilities. This initiative supports the Ministry’s vision of equitable, high-quality education for all, in line with Oman Vision 2040’s focus on digital learning and an inclusive future-ready public sector.” Training for government employees to provide more accessible service and for Omanis with disabilities preparing for the workplace. In collaboration with Governor of Al Dhahira’s office, the second

programme will provide training workshops for: Government employees in client-facing roles to communicate effectively with people with disabilities. People with disabilities to prepare them for employment. Community to increase awareness of how to deal with people with disabilities. The programme will first be piloted in Al Dhahirah Governorate and then will be implemented across all other governorates, benefiting over 44,000 people nationwide. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Al Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development, said: “The Ministry of Social Development values its constructive partnership with bp Oman, which reflects the shared commitment of both parties to support and empower people with disabilities and enhance their active inclusion in society. This collaboration represents a distinguished model of co-operation between the public and

private sectors in the field of social responsibility. It aims to develop educational and technological tools and resources that facilitate access for people with disabilities to knowledge and learning opportunities, in line with modern advancements and to strengthen their prospects for education, training, and employment.” Najib Ali Al Rawas, Governor of Al Dhahira, added: “We’re proud that this agreement will enable us to create inclusive workplaces and services for people with disabilities across the governorate. This will help us enhance the integration of people with disabilities into community and provide them with new opportunities.” Developed in partnership with national institutions, the bp Gift to the Nation programme will be delivered over five years and aims to support Oman by creating sustainable, long-term benefits that strengthen education, employment, and participation for people with disabilities.

WITH OVER 200 PARTICIPANTS

Empowering women financially: Bank Muscat expands Maliyat Academy initiative across Oman

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing commitment to social responsibility and its continuous efforts to serve the community across various sectors, Bank Muscat, the leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, recently organized a series of financial literacy workshops for women in several locations, including Nakhal, Muscat, Sur, Ibra, and Liwa. The workshops were attended by over 200 women and came as part of the “Maliyat Academy” initiative, which aims to instill and promote financial literacy principles while offering innovative banking solutions that support financial inclusion and contribute to building a more financially aware society. These workshops were held in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development. Bank Muscat places great emphasis on strengthening its partnerships with both public and private institutions to spread financial awareness, viewing this as a long-term investment for society as a whole and a necessary step in building a financially strong community. Additionally, familiarising individuals with modern methods of money management and financial growth in the correct way has a positive impact on individuals’ ability to manage their financial



allocations more effectively and adapt to the changing circumstances of life. Several participants took the opportunity to share their views and insights into the workshop. Kareema Thani Al Wahibi said: “Taking part in the workshop allowed me to become aware of the importance of educating oneself and those around us about financial literacy, including how to apply certain concepts related to

managing expenses, budgeting, and saving. We also learned about the significance of staying vigilant against new fraudulent schemes. Such workshops are extremely valuable for all members of society as they highlight one of the most important concepts in today’s world. I would like to thank Bank Muscat for organizing such as effective workshop.” Nada Ahmed Al Jardani stated: “The workshop was very insight-

ful, with clear objectives. It focused on income management, tracking expenses, and how individuals can explore additional income sources. The workshop also emphasized the importance of having an emergency fund to reduce financial strain in case of unexpected circumstances. We hope that similar workshops continue to be offered, allowing more people to participate and benefit, ensuring a positive impact across

all segments of society.” Similarly, Rahma Sabea Al Shibli explained: “Individuals must have sufficient awareness and a clear understanding of income management. The workshop addressed financial literacy in a straightforward and accessible way, providing an opportunity for participants to learn about the importance of controlling expenditures. It also created a space for them to share

their opinions and personal experiences.” The “Maliyat Academy” initiative is one of Bank Muscat’s sustainability and corporate social responsibility programmes, focusing on enhancing financial literacy within the community and providing individuals with essential skills to manage their financial affairs and make informed decisions, especially in light of the current economic changes that affect the financial stability of individuals and families. In addition to these workshops, the Bank also runs a dedicated programme for school students in partnership with the Ministry of Education, which has benefited more than 70,000 students from various governorates across Oman. Furthermore, Bank Muscat offers the “Maliyat” programme, a free online platform that provides financial literacy courses targeting individuals from various age groups, including those with hearing and visual impairments. The Bank also places special emphasis on continuing to implement community service initiatives and programmes, recognising them as one of the core pillars it aims to develop. To date, over 32,700 individuals from various social categories have benefited from the programme.



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