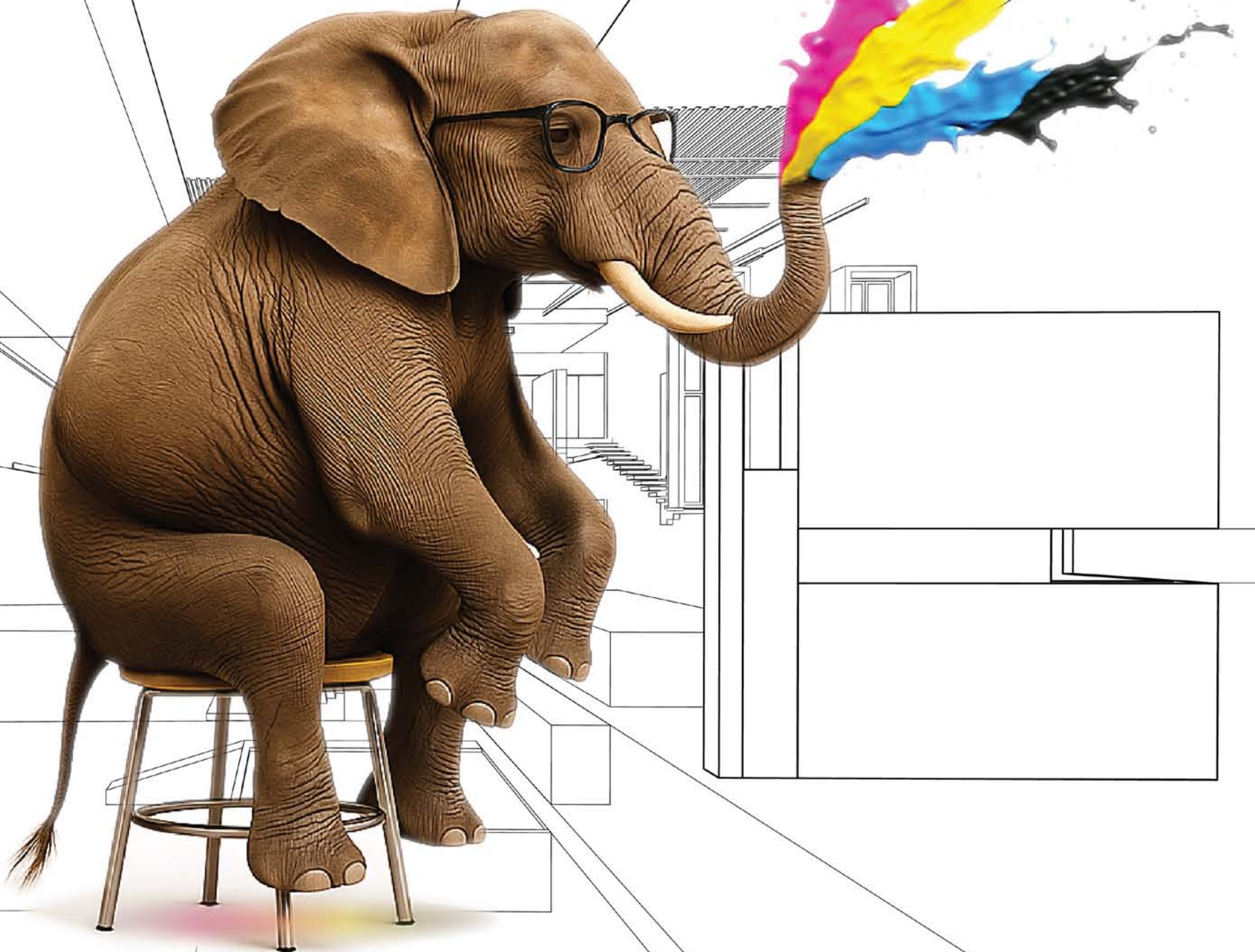




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Stress on optimal use of digital spaces by youth

Social media platforms have become influential spaces shaping daily life patterns and redefining the concept of quality of life



IZKI: A “dialogue session” titled “Digital Spaces and Their Relationship to Quality of Life” was held, on Sunday, in the Wilayat of Izki to raise awareness among youth about the optimal use of digital spaces while fostering constructive communication between children and their caretakers.

The session, organised by the Directorate of Social Development in Izki, discussed social me-

dia platforms, which have become influential spaces shaping daily life patterns and redefining the concept of quality of life across its economic, social, cultural, and psychological dimensions.

The Director of Social Development, Sheikhha Said Al Tiwani, said that digital spaces have become an integral part of daily life. She added that these spaces offer new opportunities for remote learning and work, as well as support government and scientific services efficiently.



Awareness

However, they also carry challenges and risks that require responsible awareness and balanced policies that consider human and social values. The session was held under the auspices of Ashraf Ahmed Al Busaidi, Wali of Izki, in the presence of Dr. Abdulrahman Suleiman Al Shahi, Director General of Social Development in the A'Dakhiliyah Governorate, along with a number of officials. -GNA

Forum on digital transformation held



IBRI: The “Risk Management and Business Continuity in Digital Transformation” forum commenced on Sunday in the Governorate of Al Dhahirah under the auspices of Najib Ali Al Rowas, Governor of Al Dhahirah, with the participation of specialists, academics, and experts in the field.

The five-day forum aims to enhance institutional awareness of the importance of technological risk management and business continuity, develop human resource capabilities to address challenges, promote the exchange of expertise among professionals, and present



practical and strategic solutions to ensure business sustainability amid digital transformation. -DNA

Six Arab nationals arrested

MUSCAT: The Al Dakhiliyah Governorate Police Command arrested six Arab nationals for committing fraud and extorting over OMR200,000 via social media.

platforms. They impersonated a girl and deceived a man into believing they were into a romantic relationship, and then blackmailed him.

Meeting with approved Hajj and Umrah companies held in Salalah



SALALAH: The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs on Sunday held an extensive meeting with owners of approved Hajj and Umrah companies in the Dhofar Governorate.

During the meeting, the ministry reviewed key developments and initiatives for this year's Hajj season (1447 AH).

They also discussed major observations and indicators from the previous season and other important topics related to organis-

ing this year's Hajj, including new updates and procedural mechanisms to ensure its success.

Ahmed Saleh Al Rashdi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, affirmed that Hajj and Umrah companies are a fundamental pillar and key partner in the success of the Hajj season, through their collaboration and cooperation with the ministry and other relevant authorities in Oman and Saudi Arabia.



Ahmed Saleh Al Rashdi also reviewed key improvements in the service facilities at the camps and the indicators from the previous Hajj season (1446 AH), which showed a high satisfaction rate of 96.9%, a notable increase from the 1445 AH season.

He praised the efforts that led to this achievement and highlighted that Oman, represented by the Omani Hajj Mission, received the International Award for Commitment to Health Capacity.

He also presented the timeline and general plan for the 1447 AH Hajj season, emphasising that the meeting's early timing underscores the importance of early preparation to provide the best services for pilgrims from Oman.

It is worth noting that registration for the 1447 AH Hajj season will open on 23 September through the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs' electronic system. **-DNA**

Dhofar Scientific Forum begins

SALALAH: The second edition of the Dhofar Scientific Forum began on Sunday at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Salalah.

Organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation in collaboration with the university, the five-day event targets students, academics, researchers, innovators, and job seekers between the ages of 18 and 35. The forum features seven workshops aimed at developing

research and innovation capabilities and strengthening partnerships between researchers and supporting organisations.

The workshops will cover various topics, including: Research methodology and integrity; use of AI in scientific research and intellectual property. There will also be a visual presentation introducing the projects of the Research and Innovation Sector at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation. -ONA



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COMMENTARY

When a mountain is standing in our path



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

How many times have we sat somewhere quietly and thought how unfair the people around us have been? Perhaps we need to look closely deep inside ourselves to get the answers. We also need to renew our faith within ourselves and what we have taken for granted. Usually the hostility usually melts away once we have done just that. You need to think of all the

useful things you could do instead of wasting your time thinking. You also need to know that, once you are in that situation, you already locked up in a mental dead zone. All you have to do is look deep inside yourself and you may see something new that takes you away from the trap. Many people know what they are supposed to do when confronted with a problem but few have the courage of rigorously following through their plans. It will not take much to work out a determination as long you allow yourself a variety of choices. Lying on a sofa and watching television is relaxing but it won't abate the fear in you. You won't feel good if you are unfit and certainly you may feel stressed out if something bothers you. Sometimes you know that making the right decision may involve a heartbreaking possibility of losing what you have worked for all your life. Some people accept that possibility because it is the only way they

could come to terms and have peace of mind. Take an example when you lose your job and the turmoil that is in your head. The first impulse is to look for another job but sometimes that may not be the solution. The problem may be deeper than that. It would mean that you are running away from a problem. Sometimes to confront the source that threatens your employment situation may lead to a solution to straighten up your office problems. We usually sweat out on something that needs only a simple remedy to clear out. All we have to do is to look at the problem in a different light. I remember, when I was student, a classmate thought the teachers were unfair with the examinations. He complained and fumed and he did not realise that he was wasting precious time. Until one day, a teacher drummed two fingers on his head and said, "we have done our job. It's time you do

yours. Your anger won't change our minds." My classmate knew he had everything to lose if he stormed out of the classroom. He calmed down and started the examination without making another fuss. He passed and I am sure he learned his lesson because he never complained again. Nothing will seem unfair if you look at the other person's point of view. Everybody can come up with a justification to defend their decisions. When two opinions clash, it helps if both of you come out in the open to level things out. Sometimes, it pays to give each other some credit to remove hostility. But above all, never underestimate your values into thinking that you are wasting time when you are actually doing something. My old teacher was right when he said that "anger will not change" anyone's mind. Let's keep a cool head next time we are confronted by what appears to be a mountain of a problem standing in our path.

EXPO 2025 - OSAKA

Sayyid Bilarab returns home



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said returned home on Sunday after leading the Sultanate of Oman's delegation in the celebration of the National Day of the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at Expo 2025 – Osaka Kansai, Japan. During the visit, His Highness

Sayyid Bilarab was accompanied by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (Deputy Chairman of the Main Committee for Oman's participation in the exposition), among other officials.

-ONA

Professional registry to help students in jobs

'Itqan' offers an opportunity for self-assessment and helps students link professional practices to academic learning objectives



MUSCAT: The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) on Sunday launched a professional student registry codenamed "Itqan" (perfection), which seeks to provide a unified mechanism for documenting all professional practices of students and boost their readiness to join the labour market. The ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation. 'Itqan' offers an opportunity for self-assessment and helps stu-

dents link professional practices to academic learning objectives. It also ensures credibility in documenting the students' acquired experiences and skills. The registry covers various types of activities and practices. It includes on-the-job training programmes, field visits, workshops, competitions, hackathons, training camps, exhibitions, part-time work, membership to professional associations, volunteering activities, entrepreneurship projects, the publication of scholarly papers and guidelines about intellectual property.

The certificates issued by the registry to students after their graduation provides with added value that enhances their competitiveness in the job market. "Itqan" is a step forward in UTAS plan to enhance the quality of teaching and learning and establish an integrated academic and professional environment that enables students to excel in Oman and abroad. The registry helps groom future leaders and enable UTAS graduates to professionally integrate into public life and different work environments. -ONA



QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE

Health Ministry wins Gold Award at Arab Hospitals Federation

ABU DHABI: The Ministry of Health, represented by the Quality Assurance Center, has achieved a new regional milestone by winning the Gold Award at the Golden Initiative Certificate Awards Ceremony "Star of Excellence in Patient Experience," organised by the Arab Hospitals Federation (AHF) for patient-centered care. This award recognises the centre's efforts in enhancing the quality of health services, patient safety, and improving the patient experience in the Sultanate of Oman. The center's recognition comes in appreciation of its continuous

role in consolidating the principles of quality and patient safety, and implementing best international practices that place the patient at the heart of the healthcare process, aligning with the Ministry of Health's directions to achieve safe, comprehensive, and sustainable healthcare. This achievement reflects the fruitful cooperation and integration between various healthcare institutions, and strengthens Oman's position as a pioneering country in quality fields on the Arab level. The sixth edition of the Golden Initiative Certificate

Awards "Star of Excellence in Patient Experience," organised by AHF, was held in the United Arab Emirate's capital Abu Dhabi. The ceremony honored healthcare institutions that prioritise the human experience as a strategic focus and present innovative and sustainable models that enhance patient satisfaction and improve health outcomes. It witnessed the participation of 267 healthcare institutions from 12 Arab countries, presenting their innovative initiatives to redefine offering healthcare services and the patient experience. -ONA



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Omani artists display their creativity, skills at Ishraqat Ahd Fine Arts Forum



Omani artists displayed their creativity and skills at the competition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani artists displayed their creativity and skills at the Ishraqat Ahd Fine Arts Forum recently. Some of them drew the portrait of Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah

Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman at the contest. The function was held under the patronage of Dr. Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts, in cooperation with the Omani Women's Associations of the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. A total of 113 portraits reflecting a spectrum of the fine art schools to which Omani artists belonged, blended the national spirit with creativity. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth announced the winners of the competition. Artist Nada bint Abdullah Al Roshdi grabbed the first place followed by artist Fahad Abdullah

Al Zadjali; Jumah bin Salim Al Battashi; Eiman bint Ali Al Khatiri and Ibrahim bin Mohammed Al Yahmadi, respectively. Artist Dr. Fakhriyah bint Khalfan Al Yahyaei, member of the committee supervising the contest, said that the contest is an initiative to discover the talents of artists in drawing the portraits. Nada Al Roshdi, who secured first place, said that she had carefully chosen her portrait for the contest. Fahad Al Zadjali, who grabbed the second place, said that he participated in this event due to its importance. Jumah Al Battashi, who secured the third place, said that his participation in the event represents a unique artistic experience. — OMA





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Joint research studies presence of aerosols over Birkat Al Mouz

The study by Nizwa University, Oman’s Environment Authority, the US space agency NASA and other international research centres, provide crucial scientific data to support climate change assessments

NIZWA: Nizwa University, in collaboration with Oman’s Environment Authority and in partnership with the US space agency NASA and other international research centres, has launched a study titled “Initial Study of Column-Integrated Aerosol Optical Properties over Birkat Al Mouz, Sultanate of



Oman.” The study used precise optical measurements to analyse aerosols over Birkat Al Mouz, yielding important results in understanding the dynamics of dust and its regional sources. Professor Ahmed Suleiman Al Harrasi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Nizwa University for Graduate Studies, Research, and External Relations, and the study’s supervisor, said the research was conducted in collaboration with NASA’s

Goddard Space Flight Centre, the U.S. National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the Indian Institute of Technology in Bhubaneswar (IIT Bhubaneswar), and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

He explained that the study focuses on analysing seasonal dust patterns, measuring the radiative effect of aerosols, and monitoring long-distance dust transport.

Crucial scientific data This provides crucial scientific data to support climate change assessments, public health planning, and environmental management.

Dr. Biju Daniel, an atmospheric science researcher and project supervisor, noted that the team relied on data collected by a global AERONET network sun photometer located on the Nizwa University campus from December 2022 to November 2024.

The analyses included aerosol optical depth (AOD), Angstrom exponent, single-scattering albedo (SSA), and radiative effects.

They also used Concentration-Weighted Trajectory (CWT) analysis to identify dust sources.

Dr. Mohammed bin Saif Al Kalbani, Director General of Environmental Compliance at the Environment Authority and a participant in the study, said the results showed the highest dust concentrations occur during the summer, while the lowest levels are in winter. The study identified the Horn of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and parts of the Indian subcontinent as key sources of dust during

the summer. It also revealed that dust cools the Earth’s surface by blocking sunlight while simultaneously warming the upper layers of the atmosphere by trapping energy, which impacts local and regional weather.

Al Kalbani explained that the study’s findings have direct practical implications for Oman, including air quality management, environmental and public health protection, agricultural production, and the efficiency of renewable energy sources. This reinforces the commitment to Omani policies, laws, and regulations related to environmental protection in general and air quality in particular.

He also highlighted the integrated role of the Environment Authority and Nizwa University, in collaboration with NASA and other global partners.

This cooperation not only enriches scientific knowledge but also supports the implementation of Oman Vision 2040 and the strategic objectives of its Environment and Natural Resources priority, especially those related to achieving high-quality, pollution-free environments and the sustainable use of natural resources to harmonise economic, social, and environmental development. — ONA

ANNUAL TRAINING PLANS



Naval exercise Sea Lion 2 kicks off in the Sea of Oman

MUSCAT: The annual naval exercise Sea Lion 2/2025 began on Sunday in the Sea of Oman.

The exercise is being conducted by the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) with several crews from its fleet and with support from the Royal Army of Oman and the Royal Air Force of Oman. The drills will continue until 25 September.

The exercise started with a briefing on its training objectives. This was followed by a speech from Brigadier Ali Mohammed Al Hosni, Commander of Said bin Sultan Naval Base, who emphasized the importance of the exercise in enhancing the combat



readiness of participants through various training programmes and diverse scenarios.

This exercise is part of the RNO’s annual training plans to

maintain the readiness of its fleet and personnel across various naval specializations, in line with the national duties entrusted to them. —ONA

WORLD CLEANUP DAY

ESO organises charity run

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In celebration of World Cleanup Day on 20th September 2025, the Environmental Society of Oman (ESO) organised a charity run that drew a diverse crowd of participants united in their shared passion for protecting the Sultanate’s stunning natu-

ral environment.

The charity run, ‘Strides for Nature’, took place in partnership with Guinness World Record holder, Fahad L Abri, on Shatti Al Qurum Beach, Muscat’s most popular seaside destination. The 4km route was designed not only for runners to sprint along the shoreline, but also as a child-

friendly hands-on cleanup drive for families to enjoy together. Around 40 volunteers were on hand to oversee safety and security, ensure smooth organization, and support participants throughout the run. The event was made possible through generous contributions from sponsors and in-kind supporters.



MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 36 /2025

Muscat Municipality invites Companies specialized in the field and registered with General Secretariat of Tender Board, to participate and obtain tender documents from the website via the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender re- turn date
PRE/24/261 Re-call	Correcting street levels with protection works of channel at Falaj Al Sham (Re-Call)	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/24/315 Re-call	Design, implementation and Operation of mobile toilets Wilayat of Quriyat (Re-Call 2)	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/101 Re-call	Road Leveling & Paving Works at Al Khoudh (Re-Call)	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/110 Re-call	Operation & Maintenance of Flag Pole at Al Khuwair Square (Re-Call)	30/09/2025	07/10/2025
PRE/25/128	Renewal of AMC for Computers & their Accessories	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/139	Design, Supply & Installation of Lighting at Different Areas at Muscat Governorate	30/09/2025	07/10/2025
PRE/25/140	Paving Works at Al Khoudh Area	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/143	Supply & Installation of Bridges & Gateways Lighting at Muscat Governorate	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/144	Renewal of Adobe Software Licenses	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/145	Construction of Bike Pathway & Site Preparation Works at Al Ansab	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/146	Development of Al Ghubrah Lake Park at Bosher	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/147	Paving Works at Hillat Al Fatah at Al Seeb	11/10/2025	02/11/2025
PRE/25/148	Supply & Installation of Interlock at The "Green Walkway"	11/10/2025	02/11/2025

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

ASU's Tender Committee is pleased to invite specialized companies to participate in the following tender:

TENDER DETAILS:

Tender No.	Targeted Companies	Description	Document Collection Deadline	Deadline for Tender clarifications	Bids Submission Deadline	Document fees
(ASU/02/25/26)	Consultants Specialized in the Design and Development of Landscape.	Tender for Consultancy Services for design and Supervision of the ASU Botanic Garden	25/09/2025	28/09/2025 At 10:00 AM	09/10/2025	OMR 100
(ASU/03/25/26)	Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of the Development of Student Centre Services Building	Consultants Specialized in Buildings and Infrastructures.	25/09/2025	28/09/2025 At 10:00 AM	09/10/2025	OMR 100
(ASU/04/25/26)	Consultancy Services for Solar Power Station	Consultants Specialized in the field of renewable Energy.	25/09/2025	29/09/2025 At 10:00 AM	09/10/2025	OMR 100

- Specialized companies interested in participating in the auctions should obtain the auction document during official working days from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.
- Auction collection process: The interested companies shall follow the following steps:
 - The payment should be made directly to ASU under the following bank account

Account Name: AL SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY | Account Number: 0423010693610011 | SWIFT CODE: BMUSOMRX

- After payment, send the receipt to zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om along with the reference number, title of the tender and CR of the company.
- Participating companies will receive the tender document via email.
- Companies that hold Riyadh certificate are exempted from tender document fees. Companies should send Riyadh certificate to zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om, along with the reference number, title of the tender and CR of the company

- ASU general terms and conditions of tenders shall apply on all submitted bids. http://www.asu.edu.om/downloads/purchase_terms_conditions.pdf
- ASU is not bound to accept the lowest bid.
- For further details, please don't hesitate to contact us at: zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om or Tel 25401116.

Trump warns Taliban over refusal to hand over Bagram Air Base

Bagram Air Base is currently under the control of the Taliban government after the US troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump demanded that Afghanistan return control of Bagram Air Base to Washington, warning the Taliban government that “bad things are going to happen” if they did not comply with his demand.

“If Afghanistan doesn’t give Bagram Airbase back to those that built it, the United States of America, BAD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN!!!” Trump warned in a post on Truth Social.

Bagram Air Base is currently under the control of the Taliban government after the US troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021.

Trump has repeatedly indicated that he would have kept control of the air base, given its strategic importance near the border between Afghanistan and China.

A few days ago, during his visit to



London, Trump stated that the US is trying to regain control of the air base.

“We were going to leave Afghanistan, but we were going to leave it with strength and dignity, and we were going to keep Bagram, the big air base - one of the biggest air bases in the world,” Trump said during a joint news conference with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

“We gave it to them for nothing. We’re trying to get it back, by the way,” he added.

According to Tolo News, several members of the US Congress have backed Trump’s position, calling his push to regain Bagram Air Base both strategic and correct.

Meanwhile, China has dismissed Trump’s remarks, with Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian stating: “China respects Afghanistan’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The future of Afghanistan should be in the hands of its people. We call on all parties to play a constructive role in regional peace and stability.” He added that fueling confrontation in the region lacked public support.

The Islamic Emirate has not officially responded. Earlier, however, Afghanistan’s Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said, “Not even an inch of Afghan soil is acceptable for foreign military pres-

ence. This message must reach President Trump and other countries. Engagement will only be political and economic.”

Zakir Jalaly, head of the second political department of the Foreign Ministry, echoed this view, saying: “Afghans have never accepted military presence throughout history. This was completely rejected in the Doha Agreement, but the door to other forms of engagement remains open.”

These statements come amid repeated warnings from Russia in recent months about Western efforts, particularly by the US, to re-establish a military presence in Afghanistan. — ANI



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Super Typhoon Ragasa forces evacuations in northern Philippines

MANILA: With Super Typhoon Ragasa intensifying ahead of its expected landfall in the northern Philippines on September 23, the country’s President Ferdinand Marcos Jr on Sunday directed national agencies to assist local governments preparing for torrential rains, landslides, and life-threatening storm surges, local media reported.

Ragasa, which is being called Super Typhoon Nando in the Philippines, is expected to make landfall in the Batanes or Babuyan Islands by the afternoon of September 23, the Philippine weather agency said.

Marcos instructed the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and its 44 member agencies to remain on full alert until Nando exits the Philippine Area of Responsibility, the Philippine news agency said.

The state media also reported that 70 tourists remain stranded after Philippine Airlines suspended all flights to and from the island until September 23.

Local officials are coordinating with the Philippine Air Force for possible C-130 flights if commercial operations remain grounded, it said.

At least eight evacuation cen-

tres have been opened, currently hosting 165 families or 497 persons.

Taiwan’s Central Weather Administration (CWA) also issued a sea warning for the storm at 11 am (local time), with a specialist of the agency stating that Ragasa’s winds could intensify to 208.8 kph and its storm radius may expand, as per a report in Focus Taiwan.

The Taiwanese news outlet said that at present, the storm is projected to travel west through the Bashi Channel and hit the southern Chinese coast south-west of Macau.

It will likely have the greatest impact on Taiwan on Monday and Tuesday, with the storm circle forecast to reach the Hengchun Peninsula on Monday afternoon, Focus Taiwan reported.

Meanwhile, strong typhoon Neoguri in the northwest Pacific reached the waters near Tokyo’s Minamitorishima Island, Japan’s easternmost island, at noon on Sunday, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Also known as Typhoon No 19, ‘Neoguri’ was moving west-northwest at 20 kph at noon. Neoguri is expected to remain largely stationary over the waters east of Japan after Tuesday. — ANI

THE NETHERLANDS

Violence erupts at anti-immigration protest

AMSTERDAM: An anti-immigration protest in The Hague spiralled into violence on Saturday, with demonstrators clashing with police and authorities resorting to tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowds, according to media report.

Thousands of people had gathered in the Malieveld district of the Dutch city to demand stricter immigration policies, but the situation escalated when groups of protesters began throwing bottles and stones, setting police vehicles ablaze, and confronting officers, according to local media reports.

The unrest spread beyond the Malieveld as protesters moved to-



ward the centre of The Hague. Politico reported, citing Dutch broadcaster NOS, that rioters smashed the windows of the headquarters of the liberal D66 party. Police responded forcefully, deploying riot

control units, tear gas, and water cannons to bring the situation under control.

The violent turn of events drew condemnation from across the Dutch political spectrum. Justice

Minister Foort van Oosten labelled the attacks on law enforcement “absolutely unacceptable.” He wrote on social media: “Demonstrating is a great thing in the Netherlands, but hands off our officers!”

Far-right politician Geert Wilders described the protestors as “idiots.” Former European Commissioner Frans Timmermans, now leader of the Labour-Green alliance, went further, calling the scenes “Trumpian conditions, fueled by politicians who sow fear and division.” He urged Dutch citizens not to remain passive, writing: “Remaining silent is not an option. You must make your voice heard.” — ANI

LETTER FROM MIDEAST

Surviving and growing amid Yemen’s endless conflicts

Mohamed al-Azaki

SANAA: I often think back to 2011, when the fever of the so-called Arab Spring reached the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. With a camera in one hand and a notebook in the other, I ran into the city’s squares where protesters chanted in unison against then-President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Naively, I wrote at the time, “Yemen is stepping toward the door of the future.”

What I did not know was that the door would soon slam shut. As protests swept across the country, Yemen showed no sign of the prosperous, stable, democratic future Western governments had promised. Instead, the country was trapped in conflicts that have endured to this day.

Soon after the protests, the chants of the streets gave way to gunfire. Electricity failed, supermarket shelves emptied, and salaries vanished. Cholera swept through communities, adding to the fear.

To keep my family safe from the clashes between Saleh’s supporters and the opposition, I sent them to a village for five months in late 2011. I even had to sell my car just to provide them with food and medicine.

The crisis soon reached a point of no return. On Sept. 21, 2014, the Houthis seized Sanaa, placed then-President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi under house arrest, and captured much of northwestern Yemen. Hadi later escaped to Ri-



yadh. Within weeks, a Saudi-led coalition launched an air campaign to restore him. Thousands were killed, millions displaced, and Yemen’s soil became the stage for a new war.

I can still recall the cries of mothers in hospital corridors and the eerie silence of children buried beneath collapsed roofs after airstrikes -- tragedies destined to repeat in every war.

In Yemen, one turbulence has only ever led to another since 2011. Saleh, who ruled Yemen for more than three decades, once likened governing the country to “dancing on the heads of snakes.” Before

his death in 2017, he offered only a grim addendum: “The snakes have grown.”

A brief truce arrived in April 2022, but it brought no respite. In less than two years, the Gaza conflict erupted in October 2023. The Houthis declared support for the Palestinians by launching missiles and drones at Israel and Israel-linked vessels in the Red Sea. Israel responded with intermittent airstrikes, and exchanges of fire between the two sides soon became routine.

Sometimes, the strikes were so fierce that Sanaa felt less like a city than a wound. At night, explo-

sions split the sky, and my 10-year-old daughter would wake up and scream.

Earlier this month, Israeli airstrikes in downtown Sanaa erased a four-story building that housed two Houthi-run newspapers. In an instant, it was reduced to dust. The Houthis said 32 of their journalists were killed, along with 13 civilians.

It was one of the heaviest bombardments I had ever endured. Windows shattered. Doors tore from their hinges. The ground heaved beneath me.

My daughter leapt into my lap, sobbing: “They will kill us, just like



the children in Gaza.” Since that day, she has refused to return to school.

As I wrote the story, a fighter jet was circling above Sanaa, its payload yet to fall. Earlier, Israel launched new strikes on the Yemeni port of Hodeidah, to which the Houthis responded with a ballistic missile.

The daily turmoil is a reminder that Yemen has become a fragment of a widening war map, a testing ground for rivalries.

The lingering war has stripped away the naivety I carried in 2011. War is no video game. It is not an action film where a hero shrugs off

shrapnel and walks into the sunset. It is the moment you picture your obituary in small type, buried unnoticed. For Yemenis, peace is so desperately yearned for.

I still keep my notebook from 2011. It tells the story of a nation’s unraveling: from the chants of the “Arab Spring” to the latest Israeli air raid of today. The pages are stained with dust, sweat, and sometimes tears.

My daughter often sits across from me, her eyes wide, her fear unspoken. I do not know what to tell her, except that once, not long ago, we believed in doors that opened to the future. — *Xinhua*

Palestinian State issue takes centre stage at 80th UN General Assembly

The session’s agenda, running from 23-29 September 2025, includes critical discussions on implementing the two-state solution for Palestine, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Iran’s nuclear programme, the Sudan crisis, the situation in Syria, and US-Venezuela relations

NEW YORK: The United Nations (UN) General Assembly convenes its 80th session general debate on Tuesday, with international attention firmly focused on the Palestinian cause as numerous countries move toward recognising Palestinian statehood. The session will also address other pressing global concerns.

World leaders gathering for this session will seek solutions to worldwide challenges under the theme “ Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights,” with aims to advance peace, security, and sustainable development.

The session’s agenda, running from 23-29 September 2025, includes critical discussions on implementing the two-state solution for Palestine, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Iran’s nuclear programme, the Sudan crisis, the situation in Syria, and US-Venezuela relations within an increasingly unstable global landscape. Addi-

tional priority topics encompass artificial intelligence (AI) governance, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health initiatives, and gender equality advancement.

Eight decades after its establishment, the UN continues to serve as the principal forum where nations address differences and establish common ground to shape their collective future.

The “Implementing the Two-State Solution” conference held in July produced the New York Declaration, calling for practical measures to support Palestinian statehood. This declaration has paved the way for several nations to declare their intention to recognise Palestine during the current session.

France has confirmed its unconditional recognition of a Palestinian state, while multiple other countries—including Belgium, Luxembourg, Andorra, San Marino, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Malta—have indicated similar in-



tentions. Some have attached conditions related to political reforms and Palestinian elections, while others have not set preconditions.

Diplomatic tensions arose earlier this month when the United States delayed visa issuance for Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, resulting in the General Assembly approving arrangements for virtual Palestinian participation in session proceedings.

These developments, combined with the escalating situation in Gaza, Israel’s continued challenges to international norms and human rights protocols, and the expanding regional impact of the conflict, have stimulated fresh international and regional initiatives to translate diplomatic statements into concrete action through in-

terim measures and standardised reporting mechanisms to assess implementation progress.

The general debate is expected to produce additional supportive positions, with more countries likely to announce formal recognition of Palestinian statehood based on previously stated commitments. The United Nations continues its drive to promote peace efforts grounded in the two-state solution.

As of early September 2025, 147 of the 193 UN member states have recognised Palestine as a sovereign state. International attention now turns to this significant UN session and its potential outcomes—particularly regarding peace prospects, human rights protection, settlement activities, war violations, and the recognition of Palestinian statehood.

75 Palestinians killed in Gaza

GAZA: At least 75 Palestinians were killed and 304 others injured in the Gaza Strip over the last 24 hours as the ongoing Israeli genocide in the region continues to claim innocent lives around the clock for the 24th month, according to medical sources.

Local health authorities confirmed that the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli onslaught since October 2023 has risen to 65,283 fatalities, with an additional 166,575

people sustaining injuries. The majority of the victims are women and children.

Emergency services

Emergency services are still unable to reach many casualties and dead bodies trapped under the rubble or scattered on roads across the war-torn enclave, as Israeli occupation forces continue to target ambulance and civil defence crews, according to the health authorities. — **Wafa**

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Japan’s farm minister Koizumi declares candidacy for LDP leadership race

TOKYO: Japan’s Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi announced on Saturday that he will run in next month’s leadership election for Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), promising to strengthen the national economy and revitalise the party following its disappointing showing in recent polls, Kyodo News reported.



The forty-four-year-old son of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he aims to broaden the current ruling coalition and address concerns surrounding foreign tourists and foreign residents. Shinjiro Koizumi is the fifth, and likely the last, LDP lawmaker to formally declare their candidacy for the October 4 leadership contest, which will select the successor to outgoing Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, as reported by Kyodo News. Campaigning begins Monday, September 22.

Recent polls by Kyodo News also suggest that Shinjiro Koizumi and former Internal Affairs Minister Sanae Takaichi are frontrunners, ahead of other contenders including Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi, ex-Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, and former Economic Security Minister Takayuki Kobayashi.

Speaking at a press conference, Koizumi said the LDP is facing a crisis and vowed that boosting the economy would be his top priority. He set a goal of increasing the average annual wage by one million yen (approximately USD 6,800) by fiscal 2030, to outpace the rising cost of living.

He also pledged to draft an “action plan” by year-end to address the challenges of over-tourism, unauthorised foreign workers, land purchases by non-residents, and ensuring that foreign residents properly participate in Japan’s public health insurance system, Kyodo News reported.

The issues of foreign residents and tourists have become central in recent political debates, particularly since the July 20 House of Councillors election, Upper House of Japan’s Parliament,

which saw gains for the Sanseito party with its “Japanese First” message.

Prime Minister Ishiba, who also heads the LDP, said earlier in the month that he would resign in the wake of electoral setbacks. Media reports suggest Koizumi played a role in convincing Ishiba to step down, as reported by Kyodo News.

Since becoming agriculture minister in May, Koizumi has gained attention for his measures to curb rising rice prices.

Koizumi has secured support from senior lawmakers, including former Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Finance Minister Katsumasa Kato. Kato will lead Koizumi’s campaign operations.

While the LDP’s new leader will likely become prime minister, that is not guaranteed. The LDP-Komeito coalition does not have a majority in the House of Representatives, the Lower House in the Parliament. The candidate must win in a House vote, possibly facing opposition contenders. The coalition also depends on opposition support to pass budgets and legislation, pushing the LDP to seek cooperation beyond its current allies, Kyodo News reported.

Koizumi says he will pursue policy discussions with opposition parties broadly and explore ways to strengthen the ruling coalition’s framework. To tackle inflation and rising living costs, he intends to propose a supplementary budget for the current fiscal year and explore options such as abolishing the provisional gasoline tax rate and raising the tax-free income threshold. — **ANI**

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX REFORMS

PM Modi appeals to buy ‘swadeshi’ Made in India products as GST reforms take effect

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to adopt Swadeshi and prioritise Made in India products, as the newly approved Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms come into effect from September 22, the first day of ‘Shardiya Navaratri’.

“We need to make every home a symbol of Swadeshi... every shop should be adorned with Swadeshi products,” the Prime Minister said in his address to the nation.

Calling the GST reforms a “Bachat Utsav”, Modi appealed to people to buy products made in India, saying they carry the hard work and “sweat” of the country’s youth. “We should buy products that are Made-In-India... in which the hard work of our country’s youth is involved... the sweat of our country’s sons and daughters,” he said.



The Prime Minister said the GST reforms reflect the Union Government’s “Nagrik Devo Bhava” mantra and will result in substantial savings for the public.

“We are moving forward by following the mantra of ‘Nagrik Devo Bhava’, and we can see its reflection in the next generation’s GST reforms. If we combine the income tax exemption and the GST exemption, the decisions made in one year will save the people of the country

more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore, and that’s why I say, ‘This is a savings festival,’” he said.

Emphasising self-reliance as the path to a developed India, Modi said the reduction in GST rates will directly benefit small businesses and MSMEs. “To reach the goal of a developed India, we must walk on the path of self-reliance, and a very big responsibility to make India self-reliant also lies on our MSMEs. What is needed

by the people of the country, what we can make in our own country, we should make right here in the country... The reduction in GST rates and the simplification of rules and procedures will greatly benefit our MSMEs, small industries, and cottage industries,” he added.

He also drew a parallel between Swadeshi during the independence movement and the drive for economic strength.

“Their sales will increase, and they will have to pay less tax, meaning they will also receive a double benefit... Just as the country’s independence gained strength from the mantra of Swadeshi... similarly, the country’s prosperity will also gain strength from the mantra of Swadeshi alone,” he said.

The reform in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure approved during the 56th meeting of the GST Council earlier this month is set to come into effect from September 22.

The current four-rate system will now be replaced with a streamlined two-slab regime of 5 per cent and 18 per cent. A separate 40 per cent slab has been retained for luxury and sin goods.

This new framework is expected to ease compliance, reduce consumer prices, boost manufacturing, and support a wide range of industries, from agriculture to automobiles and from FMCG to renewable energy, and is intended to lower the cost of living, strengthen MSMEs, widen the tax base, and drive inclusive growth.

The textile and handicrafts industries are also major beneficiaries. The inverted duty structure on man-made fibres has been corrected, and GST on yarn and fibres has been reduced to 5 per cent. — **ANI**

US DEPARTMENT OF WAR

Pentagon restricts press access and asks reporters to sign pledge on publishing rules

WASHINGTON, DC: Reporters covering the US Department of War (earlier called Department of Defence) will soon be required to sign a pledge agreeing not to publish certain information if they wish to enter the Pentagon, an unprecedented move that gives the agency wide control over media coverage, Politico reported.

According to Politico, the email to journalists from Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell stated that they could continue to enter the Department of War only if they sign a note saying they will not publish classified information or any less sensitive documents that are not explicitly labelled as government secrets. The rule will take effect over the next two to three

weeks.

The new rules, announced on Friday, state that even some unclassified documents cannot be made public unless cleared by an “authorising official.”

“Failure to abide by these rules may result in suspension or revocation of your building pass and loss of access,” the note said. The change will take effect within the next two to three weeks.

Officials defended the decision, saying unauthorised disclosures “pose a security risk that could damage the national security of the United States and place [Defence Department] personnel in jeopardy.” Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell confirmed the new requirement in an email to report-

ers, as per Politico.

Reacting to the criticism, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth wrote on X, “The ‘press’ does not run the Pentagon, the people do. The press is no longer allowed to roam the halls of a secure facility. Wear a badge and follow the rules -- or go home.”

The restrictions follow earlier measures imposed in May after Hegseth faced backlash for sharing sensitive details about US strikes in Yemen on a Signal chat group that included a journalist by mistake. Since then, reporters have been confined to the press bullpens, cafeteria and courtyard, and need an escort to move elsewhere inside the building, according to Politico. — **ANI**



SPORTS

FOUR-WICKET VICTORY

Saif, Hridoy fifties hand Sri Lanka first Asia Cup defeat



DUBAI: Bangladesh produced a composed chase built on measured partnerships to hand Sri Lanka their first defeat of the Asia Cup, clinching a four-wicket win in Dubai with just one ball to spare.

The foundation was laid by Saif Hassan, whose fluent 61 anchored Bangladesh's reply to Sri Lanka's 168. After Tanzid Hasan fell early to Nuwan Thushara, Saif launched a counterattack, taking the seamer for boundaries down the ground and over the ropes. His 59-run stand with Litton Das (23) off only 34 balls gave Bangladesh early momentum. Saif then combined with Towhid Hridoy (58) for a steady 54 off 45 deliveries, ensuring the chase stayed firmly under control.

Hridoy took charge in the latter stages, unfurling crisp strokes in a 45-run partnership with Shamim Hossain that all but sealed the result. A key moment came in the 15th over, when Hridoy plundered 16 runs off Kamindu Mendis, slashing a four through cover, launching a six over square leg, and piercing the off-side once more. From needing 55 off 36, Bangladesh reduced the target to manageable proportions.

Though a couple of late wickets created brief tension, Bangladesh required only five runs from the final over. Despite losing two wickets, they crossed the line with a ball to spare, finishing on 169 for 6.

Sri Lanka had earlier relied on captain Dasun Shanaka's sparkling 64 not out off 37 balls to



reach a competitive total. Promoted to No. 5, Shanaka struck six sixes and three fours, rescuing the innings after regular strikes from Bangladesh's bowlers. Mustafizur Rahman led the charge with 3 for 20, including a superb 19th over where he dismissed both Kamindu and Charith Asalanka. Mahedi Hasan provided vital control through the middle overs, returning 2 for 25.

Sri Lanka's seamers, however, failed to sustain pressure. Thushara's early breakthrough was blunted by Saif's counterattack, while Shanaka's decision to use Kamindu instead of Asalanka's off-spin backfired badly. By the 15th over of the chase, Bangladesh needed just 39 with seven wickets in hand, and the result looked inevitable.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 168/7 (Shanaka 64*, Mustafizur 3-20, Mahedi 2-25) lost to Bangladesh 169/6 (Saif 61, Hridoy 58, Shanaka 2-21) by 4 wickets. - Agencies

Abhishek dazzles as India rout Pakistan

Abhishek and Gill added 105 in just 59 balls as India chased down 172 with seven balls to spare

DUBAI: India powered to a commanding six-wicket victory over Pakistan in their Asia Cup Super Four clash on Sunday, chasing down a target of 172 with seven balls to spare after a blazing opening partnership between Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill.

India stormed to 174 for four in 18.5 overs, with the chase all but sealed inside the first ten overs. Abhishek lit up the Dubai International Stadium with a scintillating 74 off 39 balls, hammering six fours and five sixes.

Gill complimented him with a fluent 47 off 28 deliveries, the pair putting on 105 for the opening wicket in just 59 balls.

Abhishek launched the chase with a six off Shaheen Shah Afridi's very first ball and never looked back. Gill, equally aggressive, drove and cut with authority, striking eight boundaries in his knock. Their stand effectively ended Pakistan's hopes as India raced to 69 without loss in the six-over powerplay and crossed 100 in under nine overs.

Pakistan finally broke through when Faheem Ashraf bowled Gill for 47, and Haris Rauf followed up with the wicket of Suryakumar Yadav for a duck. Abhishek, however, pressed on, reaching his half-century in just 24 balls before falling to Abrar Ahmed with India requiring fewer than 50 to win.

Sanju Samson (13) and Tilak Varma then steadied the chase alongside Hardik Pandya. Rauf dismissed Samson to finish with figures of 2 for 26, but it only delayed the inevitable. Varma sealed the win with an unbeaten 30 from 19 balls, including two sixes, while Hardik remained not out on 7.

Earlier, Pakistan posted 171 for five, their highest first-innings to-



tal against India in Asia Cup history, but it proved inadequate against India's batting firepower.

Sahibzada Farhan anchored the innings with 58 off 45 balls, hitting five fours and three sixes, after being relieved twice by dropped catches.

Pakistan made a brisk start, reaching 55 for one in the powerplay, but India's bowlers struck regularly thereafter. Fakhar Zaman fell for 15 to Hardik Pandya, while Saim Ayub made 21 before holing out. Hussain Talat (10) and captain Agha Salman (17*) failed to convert starts, and Farhan was eventually caught at long-off in the 15th over.

A late flourish from Mohammad Nawaz (21 off 19) and Faheem Ashraf (20 off 8) added 42 runs in the last three overs, lifting Pakistan to a competitive 171.

Shivam Dube was India's most effective bowler with 2 for 33, while Kuldeep Yadav and Pandya applied pressure through the middle overs. Jasprit Bumrah had a spell to forget as he ended with figures of 0/45.

Brief scores: Pakistan 171/5 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 58, Saim Ayub 21; Shivam Dube 2/33) lost to India 174/4 in 18.5 overs (Abhishek Sharma 74, Shubman Gill 47; Haris Rauf 2/26). - Agencies

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MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 5,110.26 points, down by -0.26% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.36% at 469.42 points. Takaful Oman, up 4.00%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 2.86%, was the top loser.

OCCI engages CBO to enhance financing for mining sector

The meeting comes within OCCI's efforts to strengthen cooperation with relevant entities and to align efforts towards improving the business environment in support of productive sectors and enhancing their contribution to the national economy



MUSCAT: The Energy and Mining Committee of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held discussions with officials from the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) on a number of issues related to facilitating financing operations for the mining and

manufacturing sectors. The meeting was chaired by Dr Abdullah bin Masoud Al Harthi, OCCI Board Member and Chairman of the Energy and Mining Committee, and from the CBO side by Rashid bin Zayed Al Ghasani, Acting Head of the Financial

Stability and Banking Supervision Department, with the participation of several committee members. The meeting comes within OCCI's efforts to strengthen cooperation with relevant entities and to align efforts towards improving

the business environment in support of productive sectors and enhancing their contribution to the national economy. The Committee continues to review the challenges facing the sector, presenting the views and proposals of investors, and discussing

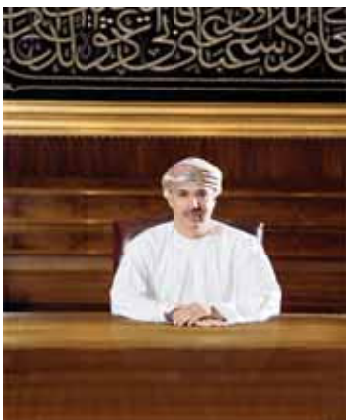
them with the concerned authorities with the aim of developing the investment environment in energy- and mining-based industries. The discussions also highlighted the importance of strengthening the role of banks in supporting manufacturing projects, benefiting from international experiences in this field, and applying best practices to expand and diversify financing tools. Participants further reviewed the risk ratios in the mining sector and the extent to which they hinder project financing. The meeting underlined that facilitating financing operations is essential to boost investment in the sector, by designing flexible financing products that suit the nature of mining projects, as well as encouraging investment partnerships. Addressing these challenges, it was noted, would pave the way for the growth of manufacturing industries linked to mining, contributing to higher added value and increasing the sector's contribution to the national economy. -ONA

MIDDLE EAST INVESTOR RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

MSX to host MEIRA Annual Conference

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) will host the 2025 Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) Annual Conference, taking place on 24-25 September at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre under the auspices of Ahmed bin Jaafar Al Musalmi, Governor of the Central Bank of Oman. Organised with the prominent support of OQ and Sohar International as mega sponsors, and Ominvest and Omantel as strategic sponsors, this year's conference brings together leading regional and international experts. It will serve as the premier platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration on the future of investor relations in the Middle East. Commenting on the significance of hosting the conference, Mohammed bin Mahfoodh Al Ardhi, Chairman of MSX, said, "We are honoured that Oman will serve as the host nation for this year's MEIRA Annual Conference. The event reflects our ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's capital markets ecosystem and promote best practices in investor relations. It also underlines MSX's commitment to aligning with Oman Vision 2040, advancing transparency, governance, and sustainable investment."



The two-day conference will feature a dynamic programme of keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive workshops designed to address the most pressing issues in investor relations today. Delegates will gain insights into evolving global IR trends, practical tools to enhance market communication, and opportunities to engage directly with industry leaders. Highlighting the importance of the event for the broader financial community, Haitham Al Salmi, CEO of MSX, said, "This conference is a milestone for MSX and for the region. By welcoming global and regional leaders in investor relations, we are creating a forum that empowers dialogue and inspires innovation. Together, we aim to position Oman as a

hub for investment opportunities while reinforcing the professional standards that investors expect." Paolo Casamassima, CEO of MEIRA, added, "The MEIRA Annual Conference is the flagship event for the IR community in the region, and we are delighted to partner with MSX to bring it to Muscat this year. The conference will address critical topics including ESG, digital transformation, and market development, ensuring that investor relations professionals are well equipped to navigate a fast-evolving landscape." Visitors to the conference can also look forward to extensive networking sessions, allowing participants to build valuable connections with peers, investors, corporates, and regulators from across the region. The event will

also feature an exhibition area showcasing innovative solutions and services that are shaping the future of investor relations. A particular highlight of the 2025 MEIRA Annual Conference will be the Corporate Access programme, delivered in partnership with HSBC and Arqam Capital. Up to 60 MEIRA member companies will have the opportunity to engage in one-on-one and group meetings with regional and international investors, scheduled after the formal sessions on both days. With extensive sessions featuring distinguished speakers, interactive panels, workshops and networking opportunities, the 2025 MEIRA Annual Conference will provide valuable insights into regional and international capital markets.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY



FSA revokes CFI Financial's license to operate in Oman's capital market sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority has issued an administrative decision to withdraw the license of CFI Financial from operating in the capital market sector and to remove it from the register of companies authorised to operate in this field. The decision was issued as the company failed to comply with Article (34/A) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Law. In addition, the company exceeded the scope of its license by engaging in the marketing of non-Omani securities without obtaining the necessary au-

thorisation, which constitutes a violation of Article (139) of the Executive Regulations of the Capital Market Law read in conjunction with Article (3) of the Securities Law. The Authority affirmed that this decision reflects its commitment to protecting the integrity and fairness of the financial markets, ensuring that all licensed institutions operating in the capital market comply with the applicable legal and regulatory standards and safeguarding the public interest. It is noteworthy that the decision was effective on 25 Rabi' Al Awwal 1447 AH, corresponding to September 18, 2025.

TRUMP TARIFF THREAT

Canadian PM Mark Carney in Mexico for high-stakes USMCA trade talks

BRUSSELS: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney arrived in Mexico on Thursday for talks with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum as both seek common ground in approaching critical trade talks with the US on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) free trade pact. The pact is up for review in 2026, but it has already been shaken up by tariff threats from US President Donald Trump. In February, Trump bashed the USMCA deal he set up during his first administration, while threatening 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico, saying both countries were responsible for enabling fentanyl trafficking into the US. After several rounds of negotiations and exemptions, scattershot tariffs remain in place on some goods not covered under the deal. Trump has said he wants to renegotiate better terms for US manufacturers.

Canada, Mexico seek common front



As public consultations starting the USMCA review process kicked off this week, Carney and Sheinbaum indicated they would try to present a common front, rather than look for bilateral side deals with Trump. "We will move forwards together," Carney told a press conference

Thursday after being asked if Canada would consider going around Mexico to get a better deal. Carney said the two leaders were "committed" to the USMCA, crediting it with making North America "the economic envy of the world." "Part of the reason for that is the cooperation between Canada

and Mexico ... We complement the United States. We make them stronger. We are all stronger together," he added. **What is the effect of tariffs?** The US is by far the largest export market for Canadian and Mexican products, and years of open cross-border trade have heavily intertwined the three economies. Now, Canadian goods outside the USMCA are subject to a 35% tariff, and similar goods from Mexico are hit with 25% tariffs. This has affected Canada and Mexico's automotive, steel and aluminum sectors. Sheinbaum said Mexico and Canada were exploring potential bilateral trade deals to bypass US ports, in a plan that what would "bring a new era of further strengthening economic ties." She added maritime routes could enable bilateral trade in different sectors under the free trade agreement. Carney said he expected "much greater amounts of trade, much greater amounts of investment." -DW

INTELLIGENT FRACTURING SOLUTION

Chinese company launches tech solution for unconventional oil and gas extraction

CHENGDU: Chinese energy tech firm Honghua Group launched an intelligent fracturing solution aiming to boost the efficiency and automation of unconventional oil and gas extraction. The solution is being rolled out amid growing global dependence on this difficult-to-access yet highly promising energy source. Unlike conventional oil and gas reserves, which are easier to extract, unconventional reserves require advanced techniques such as fracturing to extract. Therefore, the relevant technology is critical to enhancing energy security worldwide, industry analysts say. The solution developed by Honghua incorporates intelligent control across six major systems, including intelligent power supply and distribution, intelligent

electric fracturing pump, intelligent safety and fracturing control systems, said Zhao Chongsheng, who manages the fracturing section of the company. The solution would streamline traditional operations by integrating 33 steps into a single automated process, cutting manual labor by 90 percent and improving worksite efficiency by 15 percent, Zhao said. Additionally, the system greatly reduces carbon emissions and supports sustainability targets while addressing industry safety and operational performance needs. As a subsidiary of Dongfang Electric Corporation and a major global manufacturer of land drilling rigs, Honghua supplies equipment to users across North America, the Middle East and Africa. -Xinhua

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Takaful Oman, up 4.00%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 2.86%, was the top loser.



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,110.26 points, down by -0.26% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.36% at 469.42 points. Takaful Oman, up 4.00%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 2.86%, 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 4279 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 22.22 million, with more than 114.27 million shares changing hands. Out of 67 traded securities, 14 advanced, 23 declined, and 30 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 682K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 628K, followed by foreign investors for RO 54K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 8,426.26 points, down -0.62%. Prices of Takaful Oman, Oman

United Insurance, United Finance, National Finance, Liva Group were up by 4.00%, 2.51%, 1.59%, 0.78%, 0.39% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Ominvest, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa, Bank Dhofar, were down by 2.86%, 2.34%, 1.12%, 0.95%, 0.79% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,944.61 points, down -0.21%. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Chlorine were up by 1.56%, 0.42% respectively. Prices of Oman Chromite, Gulf International Chemicals, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cables Industry, Al Anwar Ceramics were down by 1.60%, 1.43%, 1.28%, 1.05%, 0.58% respectively. Services Index was down by -0.07% before closing at 2,009.86 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Renaissance Services were up by 1.65%, 0.36% respectively. Prices of Barka Desalination, OQ Gas Networks, Barka Water & Power Company, SMN Power Holding were down by 1.50%, 0.62%, 0.58%, 0.43% respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	5,125.35	5,090.00	5,123.64	5,123.64	-13.38	-0.26
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,482.68	8,417.54	8,426.26	8,479.21	-52.95	-0.62
Industry Index	6,970.53	6,910.47	6,944.61	6,959.36	-14.74	-0.21
Services Index	2,016.41	2,005.99	2,009.86	2,011.20	-1.34	-0.07
MSX Shariah Index	471.38	468.03	469.42	471.10	-1.68	-0.36
MSX TR INDEX	7,637.48	7,584.81	7,615.00	7,634.94	-19.95	-0.26
FINANCIAL TR IDX	10,077.2	10,000.34	10,010.69	10,073.59	-62.90	-0.62
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,565.73	8,491.93	8,533.89	8,552.00	-18.12	-0.21
SERVICES TR IDX	2,599.63	2,586.19	2,591.19	2,592.91	-1.73	-0.07

Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal
114,277,420	22,216,913	4,279	30,118,142,688	14	23	30

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,729,903	415,171	22	0.239	0.245	0.239	0.245	0.239	0.006	2,510	0.245	0.237	0.255	0.100
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	800,000	51,200	6	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.001	1,587	0.064	0.063	0.066	0.100
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	102,535	28,311	11	0.277	0.277	0.275	0.277	0.276	0.001	362	0.277	0.274	0.276	0.100
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,397,000	471,908	340	0.338	0.339	0.337	0.339	0.338	0.001	2,966	0.339	0.337	0.338	0.100
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	1,731	822	1	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.472	0.472	0.000	0.000	0.475	0.472	0.480	0.100
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	13,514,932	4,301,381	524	0.320	0.320	0.317	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.317	0.318	0.100
OM0000003096	OMAN TELECOM	200,867	207,012	49	1.030	1.033	1.029	1.030	1.030	0.000	1,030	1.031	1.029	0.100	
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	21,785	18,337	19	0.840	0.850	0.830	0.840	0.840	0.000	0.840	0.830	0.840	0.100	
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	3,117	265	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.100
OM0000004855	AL KHATIM POWER	63,585	7,658	8	0.122	0.122	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.120	0.117	0.120	0.100	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	334,452	39,886	18	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.119	0.122	0.100
OM0000004894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	4,425,612	1,225,495	537	0.277	0.278	0.275	0.277	0.277	0.000	0.000	0.277	0.275	0.279	0.100
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	72,285	12,311	18	0.174	0.174	0.172	0.173	0.174	-0.001	-0.575	0.173	0.172	0.173	0.100
OM0000008072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	16,252,378	2,614,252	574	0.163	0.163	0.160	0.161	0.162	-0.001	-0.617	0.161	0.160	0.161	0.100
OM0000003288	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	29,090,681	4,207,237	475	0.147	0.147	0.144	0.146	0.147	-0.001	-0.680	0.146	0.144	0.145	0.100
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,860,484	295,490	36	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.099	0.104	0.100
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,000	2,172	1	2.172	2.172	2.172	2.172	2.195	-0.023	-1.048	2.172	2.155	2.195	0.100
OM0000003968	ORIEDOO	252,234	80,301	24	0.241	0.241	0.238	0.238	0.242	-0.004	-1.653	0.238	0.235	0.239	0.100
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	561,748	141,291	50	0.258	0.259	0.245	0.251	0.257	-0.006	-2.335	0.251	0.249	0.251	0.100
Total	19	71,686,517	14,100,697	2,696											

Parallel Market																
OM0000004778	TAKAFUL OMAN	889	46	2	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.002	4,000	0.052	0.050	0.052	0.100	13,900,000
OM0000008888	THE PEARL REIF	34,763	4,694	7	0.135	0.136	0.135	0.136	0.133	0.003	2,256	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.100	90,435,416
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALAH	874,228	161,703	43	0.183	0.187	0.183	0.185	0.182	0.003	1,648	0.184	0.180	0.185	0.100	175,956,511
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	60,000	7,800	10	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.129	0.001	0.775	0.130	0.131	0.132	0.100	101,766,785
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	26,643,117	3,857,538	662	0.145	0.146	0.144	0.146	0.145	0.001	0.690	0.146	0.144	0.145	0.040	50,058,664
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	1,537	376	4	0.249	0.249	0.242	0.241	0.001	0.415	0.242	0.242	0.000	0.100	0.000	1,537,729
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	20,000	5,190	3	0.259	0.260	0.259	0.260	0.259	0.001	0.386	0.260	0.251	0.259	0.100	105,577,329
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	300	60	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.100	23,270,198
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	18,915	2,368	5	0.123	0.126	0.123	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.126	0.100	0.100	12,430,416
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV.	25,000	6,375	5	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.246	0.255	0.100	126,404,316
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	65,000	3,510	4	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.053	0.054	0.100	16,955,402
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	875	411	2	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.000	0.470	0.469	0.470	0.100	0.100	18,585,902
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	40,000	1,680	3	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.040	0.042	0.100	3,577,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIA FINANCIAL SERVICES	50,113	6,284	3	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.100	0.100	3,577,000
OM0000000250	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV.	150	309	1	1.395	1.395	1.395	1.395	1.395	0.000	0.000	1.395	1.390	1.450	0.100	97,650,000
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	4,489	4,444	3	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.000	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.100	0.100	68,310,000
OM0000005005	ALBAHA CERAMICS	50,542	15,683	10	0.301	0.301	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.310	0.300	0.310	0.100	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	16,274	1,872	5	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.117	0.100	169,198,198
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	7,300	650	4	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.100	0.100	169,198,198
OM0000009739	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	9,583,778	3,388,918	255	0.354	0.355	0.352	0.355	0.355	0.000	0.355	0.352	0.353	0.010	0.100	2,840,000,000
OM0000003285	NATIONAL DETERGENT	625	449	1	0.719	0.719	0.719	0.720	0.720	-0.001	-0.139	0.719	0.000	0.719	0.100	14,380,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	10,562	4,858	3	0.460	0.460	0.459	0.459	0.460	-0.001	-0.217	0.459	0.459	0.460	0.100	10,562,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	2,480	570	1	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.231	-0.001	-0.433	0.230	0.227	0.230	0.100	45,916,188
OM0000003341	BARKA WATER AND POWER	57,400	9,930	13	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.174	-0.001	-0.575	0.173	0.172	0.173	0.100	7,698,000,000
OM0000003100	AHLI BANK	4,000	302	3	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.149	-0.001	-0.671	0.148	0.146	0.149	0.100	40,400,000
OM0000005290	OMAN ARAB BANK	49,747	6,956	5	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.139	0.140	-0.001	-0.774	0.139	0.139	0.140	0.100	27,381,523
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	3,955,445	521,140	422	0.132	0.133	0.131	0.132	0.133	-0.001	-0.752	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.000	8,800,445
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	280,996	36,161	18	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.127	-0.001	-1.127	0.128	0.123	0.128	0.100	38,501,615
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	195,435	17,234	15	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-0.784	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	25,272,658
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	2,173	505	2	0.233	0.233	0.232	0.232	0.236	-0.003	-1.277	0.232	0.232	0.236	0.100	101,766,785
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	43,300	2,965	10	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.072	0.100	14,450,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	18,611	2,438	2	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.133	-0.002	-1.504	0.131	0.132	0.000	0.100	9,889,000
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	30	131	1	4.379	4.379	4.379	4.379	4.450	-0.071	-1.596	4.379	0.000	4.379	1.000	1,145,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	10,488	1,352	4	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.084	-0.002	-2.381	0.082	0.081	0.085	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	131,103	8,997	15	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.070	-0.002	-2.857	0.068	0.069	0.070	0.100	5,287,740
Total	35	42,270,697	8,082,080	1,547												

RBI

India's forex reserves climb by \$4.7bn to hit \$702.97bn

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$4.698 billion in the week that ended September 12 to \$702.966 billion, marking the third consecutive weekly increase, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its latest 'Weekly Statistical Supplement.' The forex reserves touched the most-awaited \$700 billion mark

this week. For the reported week, India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at \$587.014 billion, increasing by \$2.537 billion. The RBI data showed that the gold reserves currently amount to \$92.419 billion, witnessing a jump of \$2.12 billion. After the latest monetary policy

review meeting, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the foreign exchange kitty was sufficient to meet 11 months of the country's imports. 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 \$53 billion, according to data. 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



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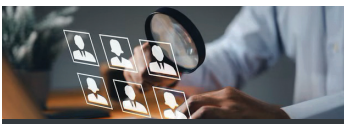
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Electrical/service engineer (Diploma/Degree holder) Indian male only with minimum 2 year experience,having valid Oman driving licence.Send your CV to salespower17@gmail.com. Contact +968 99434206.	Indian male, Sr.Accountant (Mcom & MBA Finance), having 10 yrs of Oman experience up to finalization with D/L. Contact: 97524285. Email: bobykkj@gmail.com MBA, 12 yrs experience upto audit finalisation & VAT filing, with SAP TALLY certification & D/L, immediate joining Contact +96871220318 Email Rizthaash8089@gmail.com Indian male, MBA finance, 7 yrs Gulf experience in accounting up to finalization, VAT filing & submission. Proficient in Tally ERP 9.0, IDS, and WINHMS ERP. Ready to join immediately. Contact: +968 93875431 Email: vijethkumar173@gmail.com Indian female Accountant, BBA (finance & accounting) 19 yrsoman experience, handling accounts upto finalizationseeking a job for full time, part time. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 92835697 ACCA qualified with MBA (Banking & finance), holding 16+ yrs experience in accounts and finance department. including 12 yrs in Oman. Now looking for finance and accounts manager role. Contact: 94297291 46 yrs male working as Manager in accounts(experience in handling operations as well) 22yrs of exp (20yrs in Oman) Currently working in a reputed company. Contact: 95701595 Indian male, Asst Finance manager (Mcom&MBA Finance), having 10 yrs of Oman experience, valid D/L.Contact 97524285. Email bobykkj@gmail.com Indian male accountant with 4+ yrs of experience, pursuing CMA US. Seeking new opportunities. Contact: +968 76226098 Indian male, 25, BCom Int'l finance & accounting, 4 yrs exp incl. Goldman Sachs (Ops, reconciliation, payments, client mgmt, accounting). Seeking accounting, audit, sales roles in Oman. Contact: 94996076. Indian male 28 yrs experienced FCMA (ICWAI) working with a leading finance company in Oman as senior accounts officer,looking for a managerial position in finance & accounts. Contact 99126545. Email madhuhemanth2005@gmail.com	Indian male, 9+yrs exp with valid Oman DL. Suitable for business develop, procurement, admin, proj coordination, executive support. Contact: 94661829, Email aryaprabhat1992@gmail.com Indian female (Admin executive) experienced professional seeking challenging executive,operations role in Oman. (Accounts, admin-istration, customer relation, basic IT) Contact: +968 75097299 (WA) Email : sowmimiya43@gmail.com	Experienced Biomedical Engineers seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvl@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225 Project Manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience ,valid D/L, and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786 Chemical engineering graduate (Sri Lankan national) looking for an entry level job in the field of process engineering, chemical engineering, lab or process analy-sists, environmental engineering, analyst. Contact: 76008441 Indian male B.tech in Civil Engineering with 12 yrs of experience in infrastructure and building projects. Holding a valid Oman D/L and an existing 1 yr professional work visa, seeking suitable placement. Contact: 79712636. Email: shibinraaj@gmail.com NEBOSH IGC certified, B.Tech Mechanical Engineer with 6 yrs of experience as HSE officer. Contact +968 96393926 Indian 34 yrs male with 10yrs experienced B.E Civil Engineer. PDO permit holder, holding defensive D/L and lifting appointed person. Looking for immediate joining Contact: 94461603 Indian 34 yrs male with 10yrs experienced B.E Civil Engineer. PDO permit holder, holding defensive D/L and lifting appointed person. Looking for immediate joining Contact: 94461603 Mechanical Engineer with master's in supply chain management having 6 yrs of experience in logistics & oil field sector seeking job opportunities. Available in Muscat for immediate join. Contact 91251757. Email: jighilthooprath@gmail.com Mechanical Engineer (BE),10 yrs exp (Qatar & India) in facility management, projects, retrofit jobs (HVAC). Presently in Oman,with valid Qatar D/L, looking for opportunities. Contact: 79892494 Indian M (35) MBA in Oman, 10 yrs exp in marketing Draftman with valid DL seeking suitable position. Contact : 76973307 Electrical engineer, with 17 yrs Oman experience seeks job. Contact 98148034 Dedicated female civil engineer seeking career opportunities in the fields of Quantity surveying and Accounting. Contact: 97247744, Email: kalakalesh159@gmail.com	Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/+968 94117967, Email: induchan-dran01@gmail.com Indian female, completed MCA and also having experi-ence in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/+968 94117967, Email:induchandran01@gmail.com	Experienced general practitioner with valid MOH license looking for a suitable position. Contact 91465358. 10 yrs professional experience in healthcare administration, medical insurance (direct billing & approvals) and customer care. Currently based in Oman and seeking opportunities in hospitals, clinics, or corporate offices. Contact: 91214930, 99871678
DOMESTIC HELP			HOSPITALITY		
Urgently required Indian house maid for Indian family. Preferably north & west Indian in Sohar, Oman. Visa available Interested candidates send your CV on WhatsApp +968 93314852	DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN Urgently required AutoCAD Draughtsman with knowledge of Interior Design with minimum 2-5 years' experience. Email : fareedadesign@gmail.co	ARCHITECT Female diploma Architect having 10yrs exp engineering consultancy in Oman. Contact96683293 Architect, Interior designer having more than 8+ yrs of experience with design and engineering consultants. Contact: 95759832, Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com	DRIVER Looking for driving job. Contact: 90221259 Looking for truck driver job, experience of 6 yrs with light & heavy licence, requires visa. Contact: 91281314 Driver with 07 yrs experience in Saudi Arabia & holding Oman D/L looking for job. Can speak Arabic, English & Hindi. Contact: 76270965 Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job . Contact 99116288 Driver with 03 yrs experience looking for job. Contact 97405894 Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801 Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920	Indian male 06 yrs experience as Bartender, waiter in hospital-ity industry. Currently available in Oman. Contact 77026806, 76253000. Email sukumaransandesh2@gmail.com	PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading whatsapp+96895839964 Indian male had 13+ yrs experience with Procurement in construction and primary subsection projects and worked for a well reputed company's in Oman. Currently seeking jobs in Oman. Contact: +968 97438087 Indian male 40 yrs Bcom MBA having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities. Contact +971529546753 Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading whatsapp+96895839964
MEDICAL			IT		
Looking for an experienced General practitioner with valid MOH licence to work as a Locum for one month during October 2025. Please Contact: 99313823/99255809				Indian male, 25, B.Tech (CS), Power BI analyst with 4 yrs at global financial firm. Expert in dashboards, DAX, SQL, python. Available in Oman for immediate joining. Contact 94230875. Email: axisharsh@gmail.com	
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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE			LOGISTICS		
Indian male Senior Accountant graduate 17 yrs of experience in Oman handling including finalisation with D/L looking for placement. Contact: 97060846. Email: christom2005@gmail.com Sudanese Accountant with 11 yrs experiences in Oman seeks job. Contact: 97849429 Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277 Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279 Indian male 7 yrs of experience working in reputed company in Oman as a Account officers seeking an Accountant position in finance & accounts.Contact 79187711. Emailskmuscat65@gmail.com Indian male, accountant, M.com (finance) 12 yrs experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently & business development. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 99859141,				Indian male graduate with 25 yrs of proven experience in Car rental, fleet Management & logistics. Currently seeking for Senior/ middle management position. Contact: 92152334.	
			MANAGER		
				Indian male, supply chain Manager,operations manager, 20+yrs of experience in automotive, construction, trading, FMCG, oil & gas, looking for a better opportunity. Contact:99014627 Indian male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch Manager & key accounts executive)looking for suitable position.Cont: 98132055 Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203	
			MISCELLNEOUS		
				Looking for merchandiser job or helper exp of 4 yrs in Oman. Contact 78651895,79510980	



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LIFESTYLE

EU to slash food and fast fashion waste

EU lawmakers have given a final green light to a law on slashing the mountains of food wasted in Europe each year, and curbing the environmental impact of fast fashion

Following negotiations between its 27 member states, the EU has introduced 30% reduction targets on food waste generated by households, retailers and restaurants. The goals are to be met by 2030. Waste generated by food processing and manufacturing will also be cut by 10% compared to 2021-2023 levels.

The bloc wastes almost 60 million tonnes of food annually, at an estimated loss of €132 billion (\$155 billion), according to the European Commission.

Food waste also has a significant climate impact, generating about 16% of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the EU food system. If trashed food were a member state, it would be the fifth largest GHG emitter. In addition, wasting food increases the de-

mand for scarce natural resources such as land and water. The new commitment will be enshrined in an EU directive, which was last updated in 2018 and spells out how to manage, recycle and recover waste. Countries will be given binding reduction targets, but will be able to choose the best way to meet them.

Amendments to the waste directive were based partly on a 2024 report from EU parliament rapporteur, Anna Zalewska, who called for promoting consumption of fruit and vegetables that “don’t look so pretty” but are “just as edible,” and donating food that is unsold but not out-of-date.

Targeting food waste and fashion

While individuals in the EU waste

on average around 130 kilos (286 pounds) of food per year, they also contribute roughly 15 kilos of textile trash. The EU’s Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles aims to create “a whole new sustainable ecosystem for textiles by the end of this decade” by ensuring that producers create clothes that are more durable, repairable and recyclable. This demands a “whole-lifecycle” approach through better availability of re-use and repair services, for example. The goals is also to cut the 25-40% of unused fabric in clothes production that creates waste.

These goals will be added to the EU Waste Framework Directive through an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme that require textiles — and footwear — makers supplying an EU country

to cover the costs of their collection, sorting and recycling. The EPR schemes would cover textiles, textile-related and footwear products across all EU countries.

To combat ultra-fast fashion imported from abroad, and especially China, producers inside and outside the EU will be subject to the directive.

Less than 1% of textiles worldwide are recycled at present, while 12.6 million tonnes of fabric waste are generated in the bloc annually, according to the EU. Moreover, a single cotton T-shirt alone requires 2,700 litres of fresh water.

But most concerning perhaps, is the fact that around 4-9% of all textile products placed on the European market are destroyed without ever being used. This is according to the European Envi-

ronment Agency, which notes that this wastage is equivalent to 5.6 million tons of CO2-equivalent GHG emissions — just slightly lower than Sweden’s net emissions in 2021.

Compromise reached after calls for more ambition

Some EU lawmakers last year asked for ambitious cuts of 40% for households and restaurants, and 20% for manufacturers. The final compromise made between the European Commission and the EU’s 27 member states still falls short of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal, which is to halve per capita global food waste by 2030.

The final proposal also faced pushback from restaurant and hospitality sectors that oppose

binding targets and want to focus more on educating the public about the economic and environmental consequences of food waste. “The key is raising awareness — especially among consumers,” Marine Thizon, of the European hotel, restaurant and cafe industry group, Hotrec, told the AFP news agency.

“More than 50% of food waste in Europe happens at the level of households,” she said.

Meanwhile, farmers will not be subject to the new restrictions on food waste, which is a concern for environmental groups including the World Wildlife Fund.

“Losses that occur before, during and after harvesting or livestock rearing make up a considerable amount of food waste across the value chain,” the WWF told AFP. —nw

Verstappen claims dominant win after Piastri crashes out

The Red Bull driver was never challenged in Baku on Sunday, while Lando Norris brought the gap down to title rival Oscar Piastri after the Australian's dramatic opening lap crash

BAKU: Max Verstappen claimed a lights-to-flag victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday, while Lando Norris closed the gap to title rival Oscar Piastri to 25 points after the Drivers' Championship leader crashed out on the opening lap.

Red Bull's Verstappen was never headed on the streets of Baku, leading all 51 laps and winning by



over 14 seconds from Mercedes' George Russell and Carlos Sainz, who claimed his first podium for Williams having just lost out on pole position.

Kimi Antonelli narrowly missed out on the final step of the podium, having run well all day, but was well clear of a fierce battle for fifth, which was headed by Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson, who claimed a career-best result.

Yuki Tsunoda finished sixth after applying intense late pressure but in the process claimed his best result for Red Bull, while Norris finished seventh – the same position the McLaren driver started



having struggled to make any progress through the sole pit stop sequence.

The Briton, who slumped to as low a ninth at one stage, was unable to pass Tsunoda on the final lap and only reduced Piastri's lead in the title race by six points.

This was after the Australian suffered a disastrous opening lap, jumping the lights and then activating anti-stall from P9 before crashing out at Turn 5 having dropped to the back of the field.

Lewis Hamilton led teammate Charles Leclerc on a difficult day for Ferrari after both started down the order, as the second Racing Bulls of Isack Hadjar completed the top 10.

Gabriel Bortoleto's Kick Sauber was best of the rest, followed by Ollie Bearman and Alex Albon, the Williams driver slapped with a 10-second penalty for a collision with Franco Colapinto mid-race.

Esteban Ocon, who started last after the rear wing on his Haas was found to be illegal post-Qualifying, finished P14 from Fernando Alonso, the Aston Martin driver handed a penalty for jumping the start.

The order was completed by Nico Hulkenberg (Kick Sauber), Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) and the two Alpines of Pierre Gasly and Colapinto, with Piastri the only retirement. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Man United edge past Chelsea

LONDON: Manchester United capitalised on goalkeeper Robert Sanchez's fifth-minute red card to secure a crucial 2-1 victory over Chelsea in torrential rain at Old Trafford on Saturday.

The first match in Premier League history to see two or more goals, red cards and substitutions in the first half was settled by goals from United skipper Bruno Fernandes and Casemiro, who was the other player sent off before the break.

It was Sanchez's dismissal that set the course of the game though.

The Spain international raced from his goal to meet Bryan Mbeumo as the striker ran beyond the Chelsea defence.

Sanchez then depended the forward outside his area rather than allow him past to tap the ball into an empty net.

Enzo Maresca's response to the red card was to take off both Pedro Neto and Estevao Willian and, as Cole Palmer had to be replaced after suffering a recurrence of a groin injury, Chelsea had lost three attacking players in the space of 20 minutes.

Trevor Chalobah pulled one back for Chelsea with a header 10 minutes from time but United kept their nerves at bay to make it to the final whistle with their lead intact. The victory was United's second of the season and came in front of minority owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe, who gave head coach Ruben Amorim assurances over his future 48 hours earlier.

It also means Chelsea have still not won at Old Trafford since 2013, when Sir Alex Ferguson was United manager.

Spurs fight back to share the spoils against Brighton

Tottenham fought back from two-goals down to secure a deserved point (2-2) against Brighton on Saturday.

The Seagulls were second best for much of the match but found



themselves 2-0 up after 31 minutes thanks to Yankuba Minteh's early strike and Yasin Ayari's powerful drive.

However, Richarlison halved the deficit just before half-time when he stopped a shot by Mohammed Kudus before slotting in.

Spurs dominated the second half but their finishing let them down as Richarlison and substitute Xavi Simons were both unable to make the most of promising opportunities. But the equaliser came eight minutes from time when Jan Paul van Hecke turned Kudus' cross into his own net.

Dominant Fulham defeat Brentford

At Craven Cottage, Alex Iwobi capped a dynamic display with a goal and an assist as Fulham came

from behind to beat Brentford 3-1 and secure their second Premier League victory of the season.

The Bees took the lead when a careless pass from Josh King on the edge of the box was intercepted by Mikkel Damsgaard, who struck a composed low finish into the corner of the net.

Fulham equalised after Sasa Lukic's shot ballooned up into a congested box and the ball dropped for Iwobi to sweep through the legs of Brentford skipper Nathan Collins and into the net. The Cottagers then got themselves in front two minutes later when Iwobi scored. Fulham's increased their advantage when Ethan Pinnock misjudged a header from Ryan Sessegnon's cross and diverted the ball into his own net off his shoulder blades. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A



Juventus drop points at Verona

VERONA: Juventus dropped their first points of the Serie A season as their defensive frailties showed again in a 1-1 draw at Verona on Saturday.

Having drawn 4-4 with Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Tuesday - and beaten Inter Milan in a seven-goal thriller last weekend - Igor Tudor's side were sloppy at the back once more and perhaps fortunate not to be beaten by their winless hosts.

Portugal winger Francisco Conceicao put the visitors ahead, riding a challenge and beating a man before finding the bottom corner from just outside the box.

Verona levelled from the spot after Joao Mario was harshly penalised for handball when the ball struck his arm from a long throw.

Gift Orban's penalty went in off the underside of the bar - despite the best efforts of Juve goalkeeper Michele di Gregorio who got a hand to it - and minutes later the Verona striker was only yellow-carded for swinging an arm into the face of Federico Gatti.

The hosts looked most likely to grab a second-half winner, with a header from Suat Serdar correctly disallowed for offside, while Orban and Martin Frese forced smart saves from Di Gregorio. The point moves Juventus to the top of Serie A before the remainder of the weekend's games, with Napoli hosting Pisa on Monday as they look to preserve the league's only remaining 100% record. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Mbappe scores again in Real Madrid victory



MADRID: Real Madrid's perfect start to their La Liga campaign continued with a hard-fought victory against Espanyol 2-0 on Saturday to extend their lead at the top of La Liga.

Xabi Alonso's Madrid have won all five of their opening league fixtures and French superstar Mbappe has netted five goals in the top flight.

Eder Militao opened the scoring with a screamer from distance after 22 minutes and Mbappe buried the second from outside the box early in the second half.

England international Jude Bellingham made a late appearance as a substitute in the final stages, his first since undergoing shoulder surgery in the summer.

"We can't be doing any better," Madrid defender Dani Carvajal told Real Madrid TV.

"The good thing is we're getting better at playing in the way the coach wants, understanding the concepts and the results are coming with that."

Carvajal was happy with the team's display, with Madrid showing more defensive solidity than at many times last season.

"I think the performance was complete and we suffered very

little in a defensive sense," continued Carvajal.

"We're leaving as leaders, we're still at the top of the table and our objective was completed."

Mbappe, who netted twice from the penalty spot in midweek as Madrid started their Champions League campaign with a win over Marseille, helped Alonso's team maintain their 100 percent record across all competitions.

His goal effectively killed the game after Militao had sent Madrid ahead.

Alonso brought Vinicius Junior back into the side and gave young striker Gonzalo Garcia a rare start in an attacking line-up.

Earlier Levante romped to a 4-0 win at Girona, who finished with nine men.

The Catalan minnows, who finished third in the 2023/24 campaign to reach the Champions League, are bottom, without a win this season.

"After five weeks we are the worst team in the league and all we can do is work hard," said coach Michel Sanchez.

"I have to improve this team and I will do it. It will be tricky to get out of this situation, but we're not giving up." - Agencies

TENNIS

American Fritz stuns Alcaraz to turn tide for Team World in Laver Cup

SAN FRANCISCO: American Taylor Fritz stunned world No.1 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain as Team World turned things around to take a 9-3 lead on day two of the Laver Cup on Saturday.

Team Europe had led 3-1 after Friday but Team World won all four matches in San Francisco on Saturday to turn the tide before Sunday's final day.

Fritz, who had not beaten Spaniard Alcaraz in three previous meetings, sealed a comprehensive 6-3 6-2 victory in the final singles match of the day. The world No.5 said it was one of the best moments of his career so far.

"I think I take almost more pride in this one because I feel like, start to finish, I won it, I earned it," he said.

"A lot of the decisive points in the match weren't so much him giving them to me - I felt like I made it happen in those moments. Just start to finish, I played an amazing match. I'm hoping this can be a sign of things to come."

Alcaraz was on a 13-match winning run and was playing in his first singles match since winning the US Open, his sixth career Grand Slam, earlier this month.

Fritz overpowered Alcaraz from the baseline, hitting 17 winners



and five aces while also showing good hands at the net, winning 16 of his 20 net points.

Victory also marked a first over a world No.1 player for Fritz, 27, and avenged last year's Laver Cup defeat by Alcaraz, which sealed the title for Team Europe.

That came after Australian Alex de Minaur had won Team World's first points of the day, shocking German world No.3 Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-4.

Then Argentine world No.21 Francisco Cerundolo secured an upset of his own - a 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) victory over Danish world No.11 Holger Rune.

World No.8 De Minaur then teamed up with American Alex Michelsen in the doubles to beat Casper Ruud and Rune 6-3, 6-4 and complete a clean sweep of day two victories for Team World.

Match victories on the opening day of the Laver Cup were worth one point each, with two points awarded for wins on day two.

Team World need two more wins to reach the 13 points required to lift the title but holders Team Europe could still come back into it with each win worth three points on Sunday. Europe have won five of the seven editions of the event. - Agencies

IN PICTURES



KANS GRASS FLOWERS IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH: People take selfies among Kans Grass flowers in Dhaka, Bangladesh— Xinhua



SHAHRUKH KHAN AND FAMILY AT THE PREMIERE OF NETFLIX SERIES 'BADS OF BOLLYWOOD' AT NMACC: Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan, with his wife Gauri Khan and children, poses for a photo during the premiere of Netflix series 'Bads of Bollywood' at NMACC, in Mumbai. — ANI Photo



KITE FESTIVAL IN TOWN OF ZRARIEH, LEBANON: People fly kites during a kite festival in the town of Zrariah, Lebanon. — Xinhua



AWARDING CEREMONY AT 2025 WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: Gold medalist Anna Hall (2nd left) of the Unites States, silver medalist Kate O'Connor (1st left) of Ireland, bronze medalists Taliyah Brooks (2nd right) of the United States and Katarina Johnson-Thompson of Britain pose during the women's heptathlon awarding ceremony at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan. — Xinhua



VIEW OF BURANA TOWER IN CHUI REGION, KYRGYZSTAN: An aerial drone photo shows the Burana Tower in Chui Region, Kyrgyzstan. The Burana Tower is the iconic structure of the Balasagun ruins in Kyrgyzstan. It is a site recognised as the UNESCO World Heritage as part of "the Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor." — Xinhua



2025 FISU UNIVERSITY WORLD CUP FOOTBALL: Alexia Saltirov (right) of the University of Sydney competes during the Women's Group B match between Beijing Normal University (CHN) and The University of Sydney (AUS) at 2025 FISU University World Cup Football in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province. — Xinhua



FASHION SHOW HELD AT INT'L HANDICRAFTS FESTIVAL IN UZBEKISTAN: Models present creations during a fashion show at the third International Handicrafts Festival in Kokand, Uzbekistan. The three-day festival is featuring handicrafts fairs, costume shows and industry dialogue sessions. — Xinhua



FIRE DRAGON FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN VANCOUVER, CANADA: People perform a fire dragon dance on a street to celebrate the Fire Dragon Festival in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

BankDhofar champions human capital growth with innovative development programmes

As a result of these efforts, BankDhofar has achieved one of the highest Omanisation rates in the sector, with more than 94% of senior and middle management roles now held by Omanis

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, the second-largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman by branch network size, continues to affirm its leading role in human resources development within the Omani banking sector. Through a series of pioneering initiatives, the bank is nurturing Omani talent, empowering women, and preparing future leaders across all administrative levels to keep pace with sectoral and national developments. As a result of these efforts, BankDhofar has achieved one of the highest Omanisation rates in the sector, with more than 94% of senior and middle management roles now held by Omanis. This milestone reflects the bank's alignment with Oman Vision 2040, which emphasizes cultivating capable



Omani leaders to drive the national economy. The bank remains committed to building a highly qualified national workforce ready to meet the demands of leadership succession and to adapt to a fast-changing, competitive environment.

Dr. Khalid bin Salem Al Hamdani, Chief Human Resources Officer at BankDhofar, highlighted the bank's focus on talent development: "At BankDhofar, we place our employees at the heart of our strategies. We continuously provide advanced training and qualification programs in line with international best practices, equipping our people with the skills and practical experience needed for long-term success." He noted that participation in the bank's development programs has grown significantly in recent years, positively impacting performance, productivity, and customer service. Earlier this year, BankDhofar launched a strategic leadership initiative delivered in partnership with a consortium of leading in-

ternational business schools, including Wharton, Kellogg, London Business School, and the Indian School of Business. The program features intensive learning sessions, interactive workshops, and practical training, helping participants address real-world challenges in a rapidly evolving global banking landscape. The curriculum also emphasizes digitalization and innovation as drivers of performance and productivity. One of the bank's flagship initiatives is the "Ruwad" program, introduced eight years ago to prepare fresh graduates from diverse fields with essential skills in leadership, finance, communication, and digital technologies. The program has become a vital platform for developing the next

generation of leaders. BankDhofar's achievements in human resources have been widely recognized. The bank has received the Digitalization Transformation Award in Human Resources Management in the Private Sector and the Excellence Award in Human Resources for Individual Development. The Oman Society for Human Resources Management (OSHRM) has also commended BankDhofar as a digital innovator in HR practices. By combining advanced digital transformation with forward-looking talent management, BankDhofar is fostering a dynamic, efficient, and future-ready work environment—cementing its role as a key contributor to Oman's social and economic progress.

PROMOTION

Arabian Car launches exclusive Ford campaign offering unmatched benefits

MUSCAT: Arabian Car Marketing Company is turning up the excitement for Ford enthusiasts across Oman with an exciting campaign designed to make owning a Ford more rewarding than ever. Customers who purchase their favourite Ford this season can enjoy a comprehensive package of exclusive benefits, including a 5-year/100,000 km service package (whichever is earlier), a 5-year/100,000 km manufacturer's warranty, complimentary registration and complimentary accessories, ensuring peace of mind and value on every journey. Adding even more excitement, anyone who takes a test-drive of their favourite Ford model during this period will automatically enter a draw for a chance to win one of four brand-new iPhone 17 Air devices. The offer that began on 4th September will end on 3rd November 2025, giving customers a perfect opportunity to experience the Ford difference first-hand while standing a chance to win. Sharing his thoughts on the new campaign, a representative from Arabian Car Marketing commented, "Ford vehicles are renowned worldwide for their quality, strength, power and safety. The joy of owning a Ford lies in the confidence and excitement you feel on every drive.



With this exclusive offer, customers can choose the Ford they love and enjoy benefits that make every journey truly rewarding." The Ford line-up available in Oman caters to a wide variety of driving preferences and lifestyles. Customers seeking seamless connectivity and top-notch performance will find the Ford Taurus an ideal choice. With its sleek, modern design and powerful 2.0-litre EcoBoost engine producing 232 horsepower and 388 Nm of torque, paired with an eight-speed automatic transmission and multiple driving modes, the Taurus balances per-

formance and efficiency, delivering an impressive 15.3 km/l fuel economy as a flagship sedan. For those looking for a stylish, versatile SUV, the Ford Territory combines striking design with modern technology and spacious interiors, making it a perfect fit for young professionals and busy families alike. Its 1.8L EcoBoost engine delivers 190 horsepower and 320 Nm of torque, ensuring confident performance while maintaining excellent fuel efficiency, complemented by a smooth seven-speed automatic transmission. Adventurers in need of space and strength can turn to the Ford

Expedition, a large family SUV that stands out with its 3.5-litre EcoBoost® engine featuring Auto Start-Stop technology and a class-exclusive 10-speed automatic transmission. With up to 400 horsepower and 637 Nm of torque, best-in-class fuel economy, rugged off-road capabilities and advanced driver-assist technologies, the Expedition is the ultimate companion for both urban drives and off-road escapes. Customers are encouraged to visit their nearest Ford showroom to explore the line-up, take a test-drive and drive into celebrations with Ford.

2ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MHD Automobiles unveils exclusive Jeep models

MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles, the authorized distributor of Jeep, Dodge, RAM, Alfa Romeo, and Mopar in Oman, marked a major milestone with a special event for media, valued customers, and 4x4 club enthusiasts as part of its ongoing 2nd anniversary celebrations. The highlight of the event was the reveal of two limited-edition Jeep models, designed exclusively for Oman — the Wrangler 2-Door Sport X and the Grand Cherokee Laredo X. The Jeep Wrangler 2-Door Sport X, starting from OMR 16,995, enhances the Wrangler Sport with a sporty decal, leather seats, and a body-colour roof. The Grand Cherokee Laredo X adds sophistication with leather seating, sleek black alloys, and a black grille finish. The 5-seater variant



starts at OMR 17,995, while the 7-seater Grand Cherokee L Laredo X is available from OMR 18,995. Reflecting on the occasion, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles, said: "Our anniversary is not just about looking back — it's about creating unique

experiences for our customers today. These limited-edition models reflect our passion for delivering more value and exclusivity to the Omani market." Customers continue to enjoy special anniversary prices across the Jeep, RAM, and Alfa Romeo

ranges, making this the perfect time to own one of these iconic vehicles. Two standout highlights include: The Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 392, starting from OMR 35,995 — the last and best chance to own the legendary V8 Wrangler. • The RAM 1500 RHO, starting from OMR 37,995 — bringing the High Output powerhouse within reach. Earlier this week, MHD Automobiles also hosted an exclusive 3-day aftersales promotion, which delighted customers with discounts on Mopar merchandise and accessories, along with free Alloy Wheel Polish and Vehicle Health Check services. The 2nd Anniversary Celebrations are ongoing for a limited time, with select models available while stocks last.

THE VALUE SHOP

LOT expands presence in Oman with 7th outlet in Sohar

MUSCAT: LOT, The Value Shop has officially opened its seventh outlet in Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar, marking yet another milestone in the group's expansion in Oman. The latest launch reaffirms the group's core focus to continuously enhance the accessibility of retail offerings at affordable prices to the local community. The store was inaugurated on 20 September, in the presence of several dignitaries, officials, distinguished guests and customers.



The latest launch takes the store count to seven, with the other six branches in Bidaya, Mall of Mus-

cat, Wadi Lawami, Amerat Nujum Mall, Buraimi and Salalah. LOT aims to serve the day-to-day

needs of customers by offering a diverse range of products at affordable prices. Shoppers can explore an impressive assortment of household essentials, kitchenware, toilet essentials, travel accessories, stationery and a vast collection of toys. Shoppers can find an exceptional collection of the latest seasonal fashion trend for men, women, and kids, footwear, elegant jewellery, and ladies' bags. There is also a separate area dedicated to household products prized at less than 0.350 baisas.

COMMUNITY EVENT



Renaissance Services supports ESO charity run

MUSCAT: Renaissance Services has announced the successful participation of its employees and volunteers in the Environment Society of Oman's (ESO) 4km charity run, held on September 20, at Qurum Beach in Muscat. The community event, organised in collaboration with Guinness World Record holder, Fahad Al Abri, and held under the theme 'Strides for Nature', helped raise funds to support ESO's conservation and awareness programmes across Oman. A number of Renaissance employees and their families took part in the event, which saw an excellent turnout. The company's involvement underscores its ongoing commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and environmental responsibility.

"ESO's Charity Run reflects the values of collaboration, wellbeing and environmental stewardship that Renaissance stands for. We are proud to support such work and it was inspiring to see our employees volunteer and give their energy to such an important cause," said Andrew Dawson, Chief Executive Officer, Renaissance Services. Listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, Renaissance Services is a leading provider of integrated facilities management and accommodation solutions across Oman and with a growing presence in the GCC. The company is committed to high standards of governance, HSE and social responsibility, and has closely aligned its activities with Oman Vision 2040 and international ESG best practices.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY/ELSEVIER LIST



Eight Al Sharqiyah University faculty named among world's top 2% scientists

MUSCAT: Eight faculty members from Al Sharqiyah University (ASU) were listed among the top 2% of the world's scientists in the 2025 Stanford University/Elsevier list, which was released on 19 September 2025. The list, based on Scopus-indexed publication metrics, recognizes faculty for their global research influence. The ASU faculty featured in the ranking includes Honorable Professor Yahya Al-Wahaibi, Vice Chancellor, who was recognized in the Career Journey category. In the Single-Year category, the College of Applied and Health Sciences was represented by Prof. Jamal Salah and Dr. Nisar Ali; the College of Engineering was represented by Dr. Ayman

El-Saleh and Dr. Mohamed Loey; and the College of Business Administration was represented by Dr. Alhamzah Alnoor, Dr. Hamood Al-Hattami, and Dr. Faozi Almagtari. This milestone achievement underscores ASU's commitment to advancing world-class research and scholarship. By securing a place among the top 2% of scientists worldwide, ASU faculty demonstrate the university's growing impact on the global research landscape. This recognition strengthens ASU's international standing, supports strategic partnerships, and positions the university as a key contributor to Oman's knowledge-based economy and Vision 2040 objectives.

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