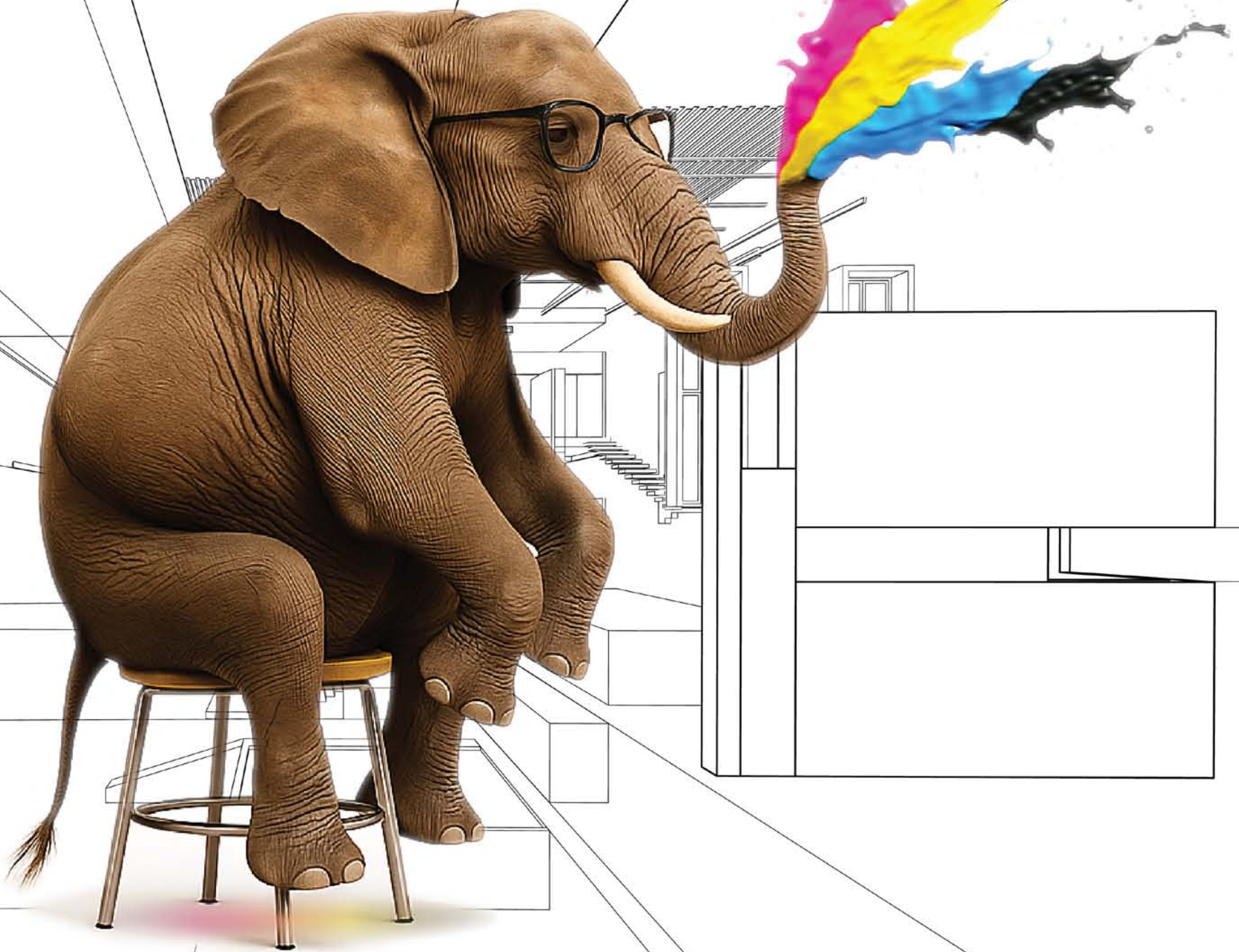


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Dhuhr.....	11:57pm
Asr.....	3:15pm
Maghrib.....	5:42pm
Isha.....	6:53pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:51am

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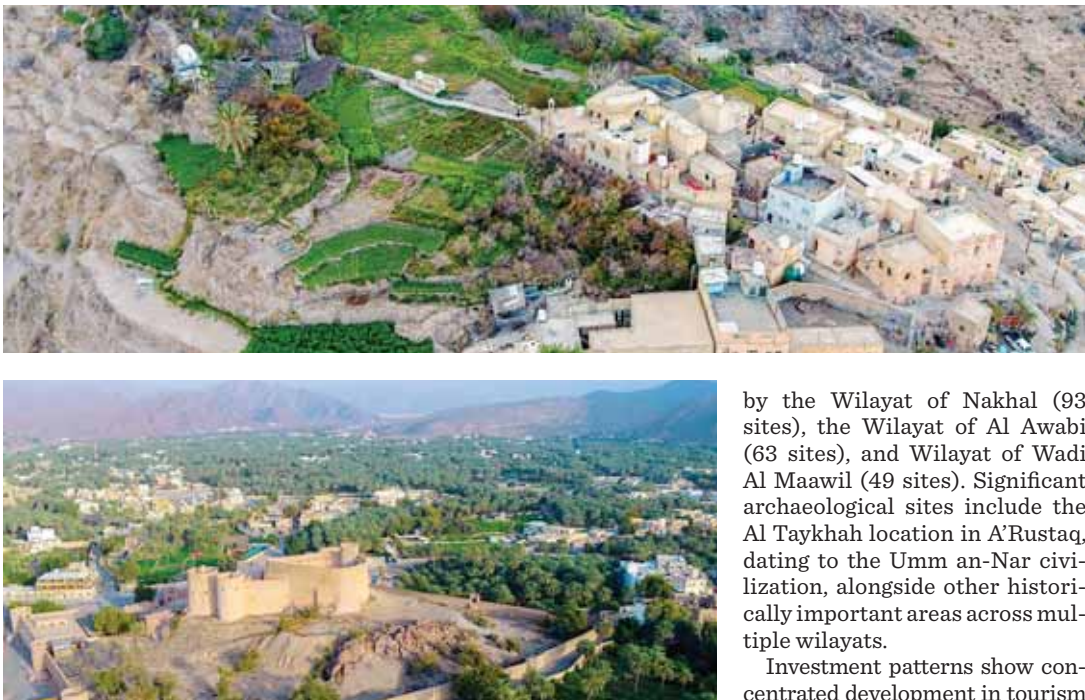
Hongqi Oman

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South Al Batinah sees significant growth in tourism infrastructure

The Directorate of Heritage and Tourism has been instrumental in developing the governorate’s tourism potential through strategic preservation and promotion initiatives

BARKA: South Al Batinah Governorate has demonstrated significant growth in its tourism infrastructure, with licensed tourism establishments reaching 274 by September 2025, comprising hotels, heritage lodges, and eco-friendly accommodations. The region has also seen expansion in its travel sector, with 148 registered travel agencies and tour operators currently active. The Directorate of Heritage and Tourism has been instrumental in



developing the governorate’s tourism potential through strategic preservation and promotion initiatives. Comprehensive restoration efforts have focused on maintaining historical structures, with 495 heritage sites now documented across the governorate. Current restoration projects include the prominent A’Rustaq Fort and Al Kasfah Tower, while promotional campaigns have en-

hanced the governorate’s visibility alongside cultural forums and heritage events. Visitor statistics reflect growing interest in the governorate’s historical attractions, with forts and castles attracting 48,575 visitors by June 2025. The Wilayat of A’Rustaq leads in heritage assets with 250 documented sites (50.5% of the governorate’s total), followed

by the Wilayat of Nakhal (93 sites), the Wilayat of Al Awabi (63 sites), and Wilayat of Wadi Al Maawil (49 sites). Significant archaeological sites include the Al Taykhah location in A’Rustaq, dating to the Umm an-Nar civilization, alongside other historically important areas across multiple wilayats. Investment patterns show concentrated development in tourism infrastructure, particularly in the Wilayat of Barka, which hosts 197 establishments (72% of the governorate’s total). The Wilayat of Al Mussanah follows with 41 establishments, while the Wilayat of A’Rustaq maintains 30 tourism facilities. The remaining wilayats collectively account for 2% of tourism establishments, indicating potential areas for future development in the growing tourism sector.— ONA

ALAL-BAYT UNIVERSITY



Omani Cultural Days commences in Jordan

AMMAN: The Omani Cultural Days kicked off on Sunday in Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The event is organised by the Omani Studies Unit at Alal-Bayt University, Jordan, in cooperation with the Ifta Office at the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Sultanate of Oman. The programme focuses on the Omani role in architecture and its jurisprudence. It is carried out in a number of Jordanian universities, with the participation of academics and researchers from Oman and Jordan.

An exhibition titled “Oman: The Identity and the Civilization” will be held on the sidelines of the Cultural Days programme. The exhibition comprises four galleries focusing on “Rights in Omani society”, “Omani values in urban jurisprudence”, “Ethics advocated by Omani merchants who spread Islam” and “Talents and innovations of Omanis in the field of human sciences”. The exhibition seeks to open up vistas for showcasing Oman’s timeless civilization and preserving its legacies that stem from the Islamic faith.

— ONA

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OMAN CINEMA SOCIETY

Al Batinah International Film Festival announces 62 finalists for third edition

SOHAR: The third Al Batinah International Film Festival unveiled its competition lineup during a press conference in Sohar on Sunday, revealing that 62 films have been selected from 319 submissions across 33 countries to compete in six award categories. Organised by Oman Cinema Society in collaboration with the North Al Batinah Governor’s Office, the festival will run from 27 to 30 October under the theme “Cinema and the Sea.” Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Ajmi, Chairman of the Oman Cinema Society and Festival President, emphasized the event’s role in continuing the Society’s strategic vision initiated during Expo Dubai 2020. “This festival represents our ongoing commitment to revitalizing cinematic activity across Oman’s governorates while



promoting North Al Batinah’s cultural heritage and creating opportunities for youth innovation in the film industry,” Al Ajmi stated. The selected films will compete in categories including Best Omani Narrative Film, Best International Narrative Film, Best Omani Documentary, Best International Documentary, Best Artificial Intelligence Film, and Best Omani

Institution Film. The submission breakdown included 198 narrative films, 88 documentaries, 18 AI-generated films, and 15 productions from Omani institutions. The festival programme will commence at Liwa Fort with the screening of “Al Batinah: Your Destination for Film Production,” directed by Ahmed Al Kharousi. Subsequent days will feature in-

dustry workshops, tourist tours organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and screenings at Fox Cinema Sohar. Specialized sessions will address artificial intelligence in filmmaking, talent development, and investment strategies for film projects, led by international experts including Egyptian actor Ahmed Magdy and trainer Amal Askar. The closing ceremony on 30 October will announce award winners across all categories and honour Egyptian actor Ahmed Magdy and Algerian actor Iman Nawal for their significant contributions to the film industry. The festival aims to position North Al Batinah as an emerging hub for film production while fostering international cultural exchange and supporting Oman’s growing creative economy.— ONA

BILATERAL MEETINGS

Supreme Judiciary Council receives Swiss official

MUSCAT: Sayyid Mohammed Sultan Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council, on Sunday received Stefan Blättler, Attorney General of the Swiss Confederation, who is currently on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The meeting, which took place

at the premises of the Judiciary Council in Muscat, dealt with various matters of mutual interest in judicial and legal fields, as well as ways to enhance cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Confederation. The meeting was attended by Attorney General Nasr Khamis

Al Sawa’ee.

Two lectures
In addition to bilateral meetings with Omani officials, the Swiss Attorney General will deliver two lectures on cybercrime and economic crime. The visit of the Swiss Attorney

General seeks to consolidate judicial and legal cooperation between the two countries. It will discuss means of exchanging expertise, success experiences and best practices that would contribute to the realisation of prompt justice and the rule of law.

— ONA

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PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA ARRIVES IN OMAN

President Duma Gideon Boko of the Republic of Botswana arrived on Sunday evening on a three-day private visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The President of Botswana will meet some officials to discuss a set of aspects of joint interest.

Hadatha Centre for Cybersecurity to drive innovation

Hadatha Centre seeks to make Oman a regional leader in innovation and cybersecurity fields by supporting a specialised national industry based on developing human capital and encouraging creativity and excellence

ate an incubating environment for research and development in the field of cybersecurity, and provide income-generating opportunities through an integrated framework that brings together the public and private sectors, innovators, investors, and academic institutions. Aziza Sultan Al Rashdi, Assistant Director General for Cybersecurity Programmes at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, stated that the ministry believes in the importance of supporting the innovation ecosystem in cybersecurity in the Sultanate of Oman, "as innovation has become an urgent necessity in contemporary societies for the continuous improvement of their vital projects and keeping pace with global changes in all areas of life." She emphasised that the Hadatha Centre seeks to make Oman a regional leader in innovation and cybersecurity fields by supporting a specialised national industry based on developing human capital and encouraging creativity and excellence. She added that Hadatha centre's aim to cooperate and partner with government institutions, the private sector, the industrial sector, and academic institutions in Oman, providing a platform for researchers and innovators to design and implement innovative technologies and solutions in cybersecurity. During the ceremony, the "Cybersecurity Challenges Platform" was launched to enhance the database of the cybersecurity challenges bank and study them according to technical and administrative standards supervised by the National Cybersecurity Centre. The Cybersecurity Challenges Platform will focus on enhancing cooperation between the academic sector, the industrial and government sectors in the fields of innovation, cybersecurity, and advanced technologies, in addition to finding effective innovative scientific solutions to the challenges faced by both government institutions and private companies. The platform will contribute to promoting research and development, employing knowledge, and transforming it into added local value through knowledge, ideas, and research management, and designing local products and innovative services in the field of cybersecurity using modeling and testing simulations. — ONA

COMMENTARY

Do insurance companies prioritise shareholders not customers?

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Many customers know that insurance companies have a conflict of interest between paying out claims to policy holders and satisfy the shareholders. It is a battle the insured customers can never win. The insurance companies always find loopholes not to pay half of the time insurers make a claim. While at the same time, while you are insuring yourself, they invest your money to increase their business portfolios. Most of the time, they lead customers into buying policies they do not need. Take a look at your own insurance policy. It is so complex and very hard to read. There are also fine prints which are hard to understand, too. This makes it even harder to understand what you are covered for. It is a ploy to deny some

claims or pay out as little as possible. Normally, this leads for insured people with a significant financial burden instead of having a peace of mind that they are covered in time of need. The total deposits of insurance companies in Oman reached OMR670 million in 2024. With that money stashed away in banks on annual basis for the owners, customers still find themselves struggling to make most of their coverage. It got worse when insurance companies started trading in the Muscat Securities Market. Shareholders, demanding bigger dividends every year, are 'tricking out' the community and companies to insure more but paying them less and less for their claims. It is common for companies to insure their properties against fire but when it comes to a claim, they get much less than what they signed for. Five years ago, a logistics company that was insured for three million rials, got back less than half of that after a fire destroyed everything. This happens when insurance companies use clever claim clauses which do not cover the loss of income and wages of staff even though the policy holders were convinced everything was covered. This example raises the question whether insur-

ance companies really are a financial protector or just a headache when things go wrong. However, insurance companies will continue to thrive no matter how many complaints are raised. These companies are backed by the legislation. We cannot drive a car, hire anyone or start a business without being covered by an insurance policy. However, we also know that insurance companies stay clear from coverage that may "drain" money from them and legislators are not willing to intervene. I used the word "drain" for a reason. These insurance companies are not willing to insure private properties or businesses that are close to the wadi channels. These low lying areas are vulnerable to flooding after heavy rains and they have no adequate drain systems for water to flow out naturally. That is the reason insurance companies stay clear from those areas. In a recent financial media conference, one of the speakers said in his speech that "insurance companies have the license to mint money." He also claimed that, their shareholders get the "biggest dividends" from all corporate companies registered in the country. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of his claims but I am convinced that he is not far away from the truth.

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, represented by the National Cybersecurity Centre, in collaboration with Middle East College, has launched the Hadatha Centre for Cybersecurity at the college's headquarters. The launch was held under the patronage of Dr. Saif Abdullah Al Haddabi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Research and Innovation. The launch of the centre falls within the executive programme for the cybersecurity industry Hadatha and aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship culture, cre-

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Final phase of marine mammal survey project begins in Musandam

KHASAB: The Environment Authority has commenced the final phase of its marine mammal species survey project in Musandam Governorate, which will continue until 31 October. This effort is part of the Authority's ongoing work to conduct environmental surveys and monitoring within the boundaries of the National Nature Park in Musandam. The survey aims to establish a scientific database that contributes to enhancing marine environmental conservation and management efforts, identifying the types of marine mammals, their distribution areas, and their seasonal presence in the governorate. It will also help cre-

ate a precise scientific map of marine biodiversity in the Sultanate of Oman. The Authority pointed out that the results of surveys conducted during 2023, 2024, and the first phase of 2025 recorded five species of marine mammals. These included four species of dolphins: the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin, the spinner dolphin, the common long-beaked dolphin with yellow spots, and the bottlenose dolphin, in addition to one species of whale, which is Bryde's whale. — ONA



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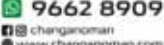
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IN PICTURES

Her Highness the Honourable Lady felicitates Omani women figures



5-DAY EVENT



Forum focuses on visually-impaired talents

MUSCAT: A 5-day cultural forum organised by Al Noor Association for the Blind kicked off on Sunday at Azzan Bin Qais International School in Muscat, with participants from 14 Arab countries.

The opening ceremony of the forum was held under the auspices of Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, and attended by representatives of government departments and private establishments that lend support to the visually impaired segment of society.

Panel discussion held

The first day of the forum included a panel discussion about the culture of Omani visually-impaired persons throughout history.

Two working papers were presented during the discussion panel. The first dealt with models in history of Omanis who were visually-impaired but intellectually-gifted. The second working paper explored the experiences of blind poets over the Omani literary history.

The cultural forum includes Arabic musical evenings that will see performances by bands from Egypt and Morocco, including musical performances by blind musicians from the participating countries.

The cultural forum provides an opportunity to learn about the cultural and artistic experiences of visually-impaired Arabs and highlight examples of their excellence.

— ONA

120 SAILORS PARTICIPATING

Oman sailors shine on opening day of 14th Mussanah Race Week

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's young sailors made an impressive start to the 14th edition of Mussanah Race Week, as they led races across classes in perfect sailing conditions. Over 120 sailors from seven nations — including Oman, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Singapore, and the UAE — competed in Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, and Para Inclusive RS Venture Connect and Hansa 303 classes.

Hussain Al Jabri led an Omani sweep in the ILCA 7, recording four wins from four races. Al Salim Al Hamdani and Ali Al Saadi followed closely, level on points after trading second and third places across the races.

In ILCA 6, Al Moatsem Al Farsi dominated with three wins and a second place, holding off UAE's Mohammad Al Hammadi. Amina Shah of Kuwait remains the top-ranked girl and third overall.

Oman also made a strong showing in the ILCA 4 class. Tamim Al Balushi, winner of race four, and Aws Al Bosaidi, winner of race two, both secured top-10 positions behind early leader Abdulla Al Zoubaidi of the UAE. Overall, six Omani sailors finished the day in the top-10.

The Para Inclusive RS Venture Connect saw Zahir Al Atabi and Abdulrahman Al Hamdani maintain their lead, winning all three races in Hansa 303 while Malik Al Qartubi and Ahmed Zaal Nabout were second, with Hassan Al Lawati and Adil Al Siyabi just one point behind in third.

Optimist racing remains tightly contested. While UAE's Jean-Luc Soaren leads, Omani sailors are steadily climbing the ranks. Singapore's Anya Zahedi leads the girls and is second overall and Shreya Krishna Lakshminarayanan from India is second in the



girls and third overall with Yuxuan Li and Yi Jia Ni — both from China — third and fourth.

Conditions so far have been ideal, with bright skies and consistent 7-knot winds. The event features 12 races per class, with prizes for overall winners, the top three girls, top three sailors under 12, and the overall Team Racing competition.

Mussanah Race Week continues Oman Sail's focus on sustainability. Sailors toured the resort's biodigester system, converting food waste into fertiliser, and 52 participants joined an Environmental Awareness Workshop highlighting Oman's marine biodiversity. A community beach cleanup at Mussanah Public Beach is scheduled later in the week, reinforcing the commitment to leave only footprints in the sand.



BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

Oman boosts food security agenda at World Food Day 2025 celebration

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman marked World Food Day 2025 with a high-level ceremony underscoring its commitment to global food security initiatives and sustainable agricultural development. The event, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources under the theme “Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future,” emphasised collaborative approaches to building resilient food systems.

Dr. Said bin Harib Al Lamki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Health Affairs, presided over the ceremony, highlighting Oman’s strategic alignment with international efforts to enhance food security and promote sustainability throughout food production and distribution networks.

Eng. Khalisa Talib Al Hadhrami, Director General of Planning at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources,



presented Oman’s comprehensive agricultural assets, detailing a strategic framework that includes 5.5 million acres of agricultural land representing 7.5% of the nation’s territory. “Our agricultural sector has achieved significant milestones, with 312,000 acres under cultivation and employment for over 256,000 Omani workers,” Eng. Khalisa stated, noting the country’s extensive resources including 9 million date palms and 26 specialized re-

search facilities.

The livestock sector demonstrates substantial capacity with 3.2 million acres of grazing land supporting approximately 5 million head of livestock, complemented by an extensive network of 69 veterinary clinics and advanced dairy and poultry production facilities. Oman’s fisheries sector employs more than 63,000 fishermen operating 27,000 licensed vessels, with infrastructure including 62 fish markets, 24

ports, and 114 processing plants ensuring robust marine resource management.

Dr. Thaer Yaseen, Acting FAO Representative to Oman, emphasized the organisation’s long-term partnership approach, noting that “despite eight decades of progress, 673 million people still face chronic hunger while 2.8 billion cannot access affordable nutritious meals.” He reaffirmed FAO’s commitment to working with Oman and other member states to address increasingly complex global food security challenges through improved agricultural policies and practices.

The occasion showcased Oman’s integrated approach to food system development, combining government leadership, private sector engagement, and international cooperation to advance sustainable food production and distribution networks aligned with global food security objectives. — ONA

CABLE

HM condoles with Emperor of Japan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Emperor Naruhito of Japan on the demise of former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the Emperor and the people of Japan.

— ONA



FOREIGN MINISTRY

Oman welcomes Pakistan-Afghanistan ceasefire agreement

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the announcement of the ceasefire signed in Doha between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, the Sultanate of Oman expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the role undertaken by the State of Qatar and the Republic of Türkiye in reaching this agreement, voicing



its hope for its sustainability towards achieving a permanent and comprehensive peace between the two countries. — ONA

KHOULA HOSPITAL

Advanced medical services launched

MUSCAT: Khoula Hospital has introduced a range of advanced medical services and therapeutic procedures being implemented for the first time at the hospital, with several among them being applied for the first time in the Sultanate of Oman. This step reflects progress in the quality of specialised healthcare provided.

These advanced procedures include medical techniques being performed for the first time, such as peripheral angioplasty using carbon dioxide gas instead of iodine contrast to reduce risks to kidney function in patients with renal diseases. This technique is the second of its kind in Oman.

Additionally, peripheral angioplasty was performed using the orbital atherectomy technique, an



innovative method used to treat ulcers resulting from peripheral arterial insufficiency, which contributes to improving recovery chances and avoiding amputation. The first hybrid procedure to

repair the femoral artery and install an aortic stent was also performed to treat arterial dissection caused by a traffic accident, using a combination of traditional surgery and modern techniques.

For the first time, the hospital witnessed the use of limited-chamber hyperbaric oxygen therapy to treat some cases of diabetic foot ulcers, an advanced technique that helps accelerate wound healing and significantly improve treatment outcomes.

Dr. Ahmed Salim Al Oufi, Consultant in Vascular and Trauma Surgery at Khoula Hospital, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that these technologies have tangibly contributed to improving the quality of healthcare by reducing the need for traditional surgical interventions and relying on simpler, less risky interventional procedures, which has positively impacted patient recovery speed and treatment outcomes.

— ONA

THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Rajasthani Group Muscat marks Diwali Milan with zeal and fervour

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Rajasthani Group Muscat, also known as RAM Group, a vibrant community representing over 400 members from Rajasthan, India, came together to celebrate Diwali Milan 2025 — a grand prelude to the Festival of Lights — on Friday.

The evening radiated joy, culture, and unity as more than 200 members and families gathered to share in the festivities.

For years, the Rajasthani Group Muscat has been a cornerstone of cultural pride, hosting and celebrating traditional festivals in Muscat such as Diwali, Holi, Gangaur, Teej, and other occasions. Each celebration reflects the group’s mission to preserve and promote Rajasthani heritage

and values, creating a sense of home away from home.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Dilip Singhvi, alongside founding members Nirmal Agarwal and Manish Jangid, whose vision laid the foundation for this thriving community.

The event was inaugurated with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by eminent doctors R.R. Sharma and Lokesh Gupta. Joining them on the dais were organising committee members Gautam Parakh, Praveen Gang, Vikas Pitti, Nitesh Agarwal, Alka Kothari, and Vaishali Bafna.

“The Diwali Milan is not just a celebration — it’s a reminder of our shared roots, friendships, and the vibrant spirit that defines Rajasthan,” said Dr. Singhvi.

The event featured lively dance

performances, soulful musical acts, and engaging competitions such as Rangoli and traditional sweet-making, all of which brought colour and creativity to the evening.

The dedicated organising committee ensured that every detail reflected the warmth and energy of the festival.

The celebration concluded with heartfelt thanks to the members for their enthusiastic participation and continued support.

Rajasthani Group Muscat remains a beacon of culture, connection, and community — spreading light, love, and togetherness across Oman, true to the timeless spirit of Diwali, which symbolises the triumph of light over darkness and the enduring power of unity.

STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

Report demonstrates systematic approach to financial governance

FROM A1 He explained that the institution addressed 25 cases involving public funds under judicial consideration, including matters related to position exploitation, bribery, document forgery, embezzlement, and functional duty violations. Additionally, audit professionals reviewed 63 legislative documents concerning financial, accounting, and taxation matters, providing substantive

technical feedback to enhance regulatory frameworks.

He added that the institution maintained robust public engagement channels, processing 1,378 complaints and reports concerning financial and administrative irregularities with a 90 percent resolution rate. These efforts were complemented by extensive awareness programs including media campaigns, publications, and educational seminars de-

signed to strengthen institutional integrity and public financial protection.

Al Rujaibi concluded that the annual summary demonstrates the State Audit Institution’s systematic approach to financial governance, combining rigorous examination standards with proactive public engagement to safeguard national resources and support Oman’s long-term development objectives.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025.

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of A'Saffa Foods SAOG, I have pleasure in presenting the financial results for nine months ended 30th September 2025.

Performance Review

Sales for nine months ended 30th September 2025 was RO. 43,523,511/- as compared to RO. 50,140,349/- during the same period of 2024. Sales for nine months of 2025 was less than same period of last year because sales included the sale of carry forward stocks. The Net Profit (consolidated) for the period ended 30th September 2025 was RO. 5,225,720/- as compared to net profit (consolidated) RO. 4,546,758/- for the same period of 2024.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said for the encouragement and support given by his Government and pray to Almighty ALLAH (swt) to provide Oman and its people peace and prosperity under His Majesty's wise leadership.

We also take this opportunity to thank all customers, shareholders and staff for their continued support and confidence in the Company.

Chairman of the Board

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests that, in either Arabic or English, within 07 days of receipt of the request on the address mentioned above

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

	Parent Company		Group	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	53,965,930	55,788,199	57,629,311	59,656,874
Right Of Use Assets	3,887,251	3,692,877	4,189,948	4,008,046
Capital Advances / CWIP	882,969	60,000	882,969	84,000
Intangible assets	1	1	1	1
Investments in subsidiaries	1,350,000	1,350,000	-	-
Investments accounted for using the equity method	6,825,047	5,902,735	6,825,047	5,902,735
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	45,795	46,225	45,795	46,225
	66,956,994	66,840,037	69,573,071	69,697,881
Current assets				
Inventories	12,982,499	10,409,909	13,948,872	11,518,224
Biological assets	3,124,112	3,274,377	3,124,112	3,274,377
Trade and other receivables	14,493,861	13,410,756	14,103,376	13,651,146
Term deposits	3,300,000	3,300,000	3,300,000	3,300,000
Cash and bank balances	1,341,548	2,501,449	1,812,545	2,624,130
	35,242,019	32,896,491	36,285,905	34,367,877
	102,199,013	99,736,528	105,861,976	104,065,757
TOTAL ASSETS				
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
Legal reserves	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,566,804	4,610,873
Retained earnings	29,832,161	25,860,934	33,752,135	29,527,366
Other Reserve	(2,431,642)	(2,431,642)	(2,431,642)	(2,431,642)
TOTAL EQUITY	43,400,519	39,429,292	47,887,297	43,706,597
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	28,865,243	32,086,743	28,865,243	32,086,743
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)	4,003,619	3,612,893	4,304,867	3,951,086
End of service benefits	1,650,990	1,474,376	1,775,533	1,580,661
Deferred tax liabilities	1,234,116	825,051	1,410,907	1,002,503
	35,753,968	37,999,063	36,356,549	38,620,993
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	10,920,955	10,792,115	10,920,955	10,951,571
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)	206,448	293,191	251,982	301,498
Trade and other payables	11,917,123	11,222,866	10,445,194	10,485,098
	23,044,525	22,308,172	21,618,130	21,738,167
	58,798,494	60,307,236	57,974,680	60,359,160
TOTAL LIABILITIES	102,199,013	99,736,528	105,861,976	104,065,757
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Net assets per share (RO)	0.362	0.329	0.399	0.364

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

	Parent Company		Group	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
Revenue From Contracts with Customers	44,319,529	50,140,349	43,523,511	50,140,349
Cost of sales	(31,279,384)	(37,531,947)	(29,570,846)	(36,700,018)
Gross profit	13,040,146	12,608,402	13,952,665	13,440,331
Selling and distribution expenses	(4,467,410)	(4,530,370)	(4,467,410)	(4,530,370)
General and administrative expenses	(2,182,616)	(2,085,952)	(2,385,915)	(2,277,653)
Other income	32,131	4,899	32,771	11,911
Profit before interest & tax	6,422,252	5,996,979	7,132,111	6,644,219
Finance income	139,201	145,347	139,201	145,347
Finance cost	(1,906,926)	(2,011,656)	(1,938,429)	(2,043,305)
Finance cost (net)	(1,767,725)	(1,866,309)	(1,799,228)	(1,897,958)
Profit before tax and associate gain	4,654,526	4,130,670	5,332,884	4,746,260
Share of net Gain from associate	716,049	512,437	716,049	512,437
Profit before tax	5,370,575	4,643,107	6,048,932	5,258,697
Taxation	(698,179)	(619,600)	(823,213)	(711,939)
Income tax expense	4,672,396	4,023,506	5,225,720	4,546,758
Profit and total comprehensive income				
Basic earnings per share (RO)	0.039	0.034	0.044	0.038

MINISTRY OF ENDOWMENTS AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Omani Hajj Mission for 1447 AH formed

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs has issued a ministerial decision to form the Omani Hajj Mission for the year 1447 AH, chaired by Ahmed Saleh Al Rashdi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The decision stipulated that Dr. Ahmed Ali Al Kaabi will serve as Deputy Head of the Mission for

Administrative and Financial Affairs, and Dr. Zahir Abdullah Al Hosni as Deputy Head of the Mission for Pilgrim Affairs and Hajj Campaigns. It is worth noting that the Omani Hajj Mission carries out a number of tasks and services, including providing assistance to pilgrims and guiding them through the procedures for performing the rituals. — **ONA**



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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3-DAY EVENT

Hackathon kicks off

MUSCAT: A 3-day Gameathon Hackathon kicked off on Sunday with the participation of 105 talents, divided into 21 teams representing various academic and research establishments in the Sultanate of Oman.

The participants will develop innovative solutions that address national challenges in the fields of education, research, sustainability and entrepreneurship.

The Gemathon Hackathon is an interactive national platform that brings together students, innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs from different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. It furnishes a motivating, competitive environment aimed at contributing to the acceleration of digital transition programmes and the promotion of sustainable development in the Sultanate of Oman.

Digital analysis

Participants focus on developing technology projects featuring smart education and learning technologies, research, digital analysis, educational sustainability and inclusiveness, as well as entrepreneurship and institutional innovation.

These challenges were identified in terms of actual needs identified by relevant government departments, giving participants the opportunity to present applicable solutions.

The first day of the hackathon



included a session that reviewed details of the event, followed by workshops on developing innovative models. This is in addition to tours of an exhibition showcasing national innovations and emerging technologies.

The second and third days of the event include training sessions and specialised reviews supervised by experts in the fields of technology and entrepreneurship. The projects will then be presented before a jury. The winners will be announced at the closing ceremony.

The outcomes of the Gameathon Hackathon are expected to contribute to the promotion of digital transition and enhance cooperation among higher education institutions and the public and private sectors, in line with the objectives of the National Strategy for Research and Innovation.

It is worth noting that the Gameathon Hackathon coincides with the research and technology summit (OTS25), scheduled to begin on Monday 20 October 2025. — **ONA**

Oman's pavilion a big hit at Frankfurt book fair

This year's participation by Oman included an introduction to the "Ayn" platform for digital content, audiobooks, and visual books, reaffirming the diversity and richness characteristic of Omani life



Oman's pavilion attracted a diverse stream of visitors, serving to introduce the components of Omani culture and showcasing a wide range of publications and materials focusing on Omani cultural, literary, and social affairs, particularly those highlighting Oman's heritage and its intellectual and literary contributions.

Dr. Iyas Nasser, a Palestinian poet and researcher of classical Arabic poetry, praised the diversity of publications included in Oman's pavilion, describing them as "extremely precious literary and intellectual publications and productions that enrich Arab libraries and culture."

Meanwhile, Emmanuel Bouvard, a French book editor and publisher, pointed out that Oman possesses a unique characteristic that distinguishes it from other countries, due to its preservation of its ancient roots and authentic heritage. He noted that the Omani people are always welcoming to others, making a visit to Oman a unique and different experience.

Lisa Marshall, an employee at the International Court of Justice, mentioned that everyone she knows who has visited Oman praised its unique cultural diversity and the positive impression these visits left. She expressed her eagerness to learn about various

Omani publications, believing they would contribute to broadening her perspectives in reading.

Dr. Ulysses Lagrimas, an American writer and author, said that his experience visiting Oman's pavilion left a profound impact on him and a positive impression of Omani culture and the warm reception Omanis extend to others. He expressed his hope to visit Oman and learn about its culture by interacting with people and observing their social life.

This year's participation by Oman included an introduction to the "Ayn" platform for digital content, audiobooks, and visual books, reaffirming the diversity and richness characteristic of Omani life and the significant attention Oman pays to its cultural heritage and its preservation, driven by a belief in the importance of instilling the concept of culture and developing societal awareness and understanding.

The participation also highlighted a wide range of Omani publications in historical, literary, scientific, media, and tourism fields, alongside publications focusing on social aspects, wildlife, and the environment, as well as specialised books on historical sites and adventure tourism in Oman.

— **ONA**



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IFU MEETING

Oman leads Arab parliamentary conference on regional security

GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman chaired the 2025 Extraordinary Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, convened alongside the 151st General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The high-level gathering addressed critical regional developments with particular focus on the Palestinian situation and Gaza's humanitarian crisis following the recently announced ceasefire agreement.

Unified Arab responses

Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, led the Omani delegation and delivered the conference's opening address. "We meet at a pivotal moment for our region, where interconnected political, economic and security challenges demand unified Arab responses," Al Ma'awali stated. He emphasised that "regional security remains indivisible" while calling for enhanced parliamentary cooperation mechanisms to address ongoing crises. The conference concluded with participants adopting a final statement that welcomed the Gaza ceasefire agreement as representing "a victory for dialogue



and peace." The statement specifically acknowledged the mediation roles of Egypt and Qatar while endorsing Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's call for an international reconstruction conference in Cairo this November. Delegates expressed appreciation for Oman's leadership in steering the conference proceedings, noting the effective organi-

zation and substantive outcomes that demonstrated Arab parliamentary commitment to peace initiatives and inter-Arab cooperation. The final declaration affirmed that ongoing parliamentary coordination would continue supporting Arab causes in international forums while promoting regional security and sustainable development objectives. - ONA

VIOLATION OF THE TRUCE

Rare jewellery stolen from Louvre Museum in Paris



PARIS: A break-in at the Louvre in the French capital Paris on Sunday saw criminals make off with "priceless" jewellery, according to France's culture minister. Rachida Dati said the incident occurred as the museum, one of the world's most famous, opened its doors Sunday morning. "A robbery took place this morning at the opening of the Louvre Museum," she wrote on X. The museum confirmed it would be closed for the day "for

exceptional reasons." "One of the jewellery items was found near the Louvre," she told the TF1 television broadcaster. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez described the incident as a "major robbery." He said the burglars, armed with small chainsaws, used a basket lift to reach the targeted room. They fled on motorbikes with the stolen jewellery. "The investigation has begun, and a detailed list of the stolen

items is being compiled. Beyond their market value, these items have inestimable heritage and historical value," the French Interior Ministry said. The Louvre's most notorious theft occurred in 1911, when the Mona Lisa was stolen by a former employee. Recovered two years later in Florence, the heist helped turn Leonardo da Vinci's portrait into the world's best-known artwork. Last year, the Louvre welcomed 8.7 million visitors. - Agencies

Trump urges Ukraine and Russia to halt fighting along battle lines

Trump said that US First Lady Melania Trump felt strongly for the children there suffering due to the conflict



FLORIDA: US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he urged both Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin to stop the conflict in Ukraine immediately, calling for a ceasefire along current battle lines to save lives. Trump said he held a "very good" and "very cordial" meeting with Zelenskyy earlier in the day, during which he pressed for an end to the fighting. "They should stop the war immediately. You go by the battle line, wherever it is. Otherwise, it's too complicated - you'll never be able to figure it out," Trump told reporters. "Stop at the battle line and both sides should go home, go to their families, stop the killing, and that

should be it. Stop right now at the battle line. I told that to President Zelenskyy. I told it to President Putin." Trump said NATO was covering the cost of ammunition and other supplies, adding that the main goal of his efforts was to prevent further loss of life. "We're not losing people, we're not spending money. We're getting paid for the ammunition, the

missiles, and everything else," he said. "That's not what we're in this for. We're in it to save thousands of lives every week." He also said the First Lady Melania Trump had expressed deep concern for children affected by the war. "She felt very strongly about the children and she's done a really good job in bringing that issue

forward," Trump said. "She thinks about the children all the time." Trump added that another round of talks, possibly involving both Putin and Zelenskyy, could take place soon, and described Zelenskyy as "a strong leader" who had "been through a lot." "I think we're making great progress," he said.

Putin demands key Ukraine region in return for peace

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a phone call this past week with US President Donald Trump, demanded that Kyiv surrender full control of Donetsk, a strategically vital region in eastern Ukraine, as a condition for ending the war, said two senior officials familiar with the conversation, the *Washington Post* reported. Putin has tried and failed to conquer the territory for 11 years, repeatedly repulsed by Ukrainian forces who are deeply entrenched in an area they believe is a major bulwark against a speedy Russian advance westward toward their capital. Putin's focus on Donetsk suggests he is not backing away from past demands that have left the conflict in a stalemate, despite Trump's optimism about securing a deal, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe sensitive closed-door discussions.

Russia or Russian-backed separatists have claimed parts of the region since 2014, but they have never been able to conquer the entirety of the region by force. Trump has not publicly commented on Putin's demand for all of Donetsk, which has not previously been reported. Trump did not endorse the Russian request in his public statement Friday after a high-stakes West Wing meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He plans to meet Putin in Hungary in the coming weeks to continue discussions about how to end the war. In the call between Trump and Putin, the Russian leader suggested he would be willing to surrender parts of two other regions of Ukraine he has partly conquered, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, in exchange for full control of Donetsk, the officials told *Washington Post*. - ANI

STRONG OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT

'No Kings' protests target Trump's policies

WASHINGTON: A huge number of demonstrators gathered in cities and towns across the United States as part of the "No Kings" protests, a coordinated nationwide movement voicing strong opposition to President Donald Trump's administration and policies, CNN reported on Saturday. According to CNN, more than 2,500 events took place in all 50 states, drawing large crowds in major urban centres and centres of communities alike. The protests were organised as a national day of action aimed at rejecting authoritarianism and defending democratic principles. While demonstrators expressed frustration over a wide range of Trump-era policies, several recurring themes emerged. According to CNN, concerns are over the erosion of democratic norms, outrage over aggressive immigration enforcement and ICE raids, the deployment of federal troops in US cities, and cuts to essential government programmes, especially in healthcare. In Atlanta, protestors began the day at the city's Civic Centre be-



fore marching to the Georgia State Capitol, where they rallied under the "No Kings" banner, as reported by CNN. The event emphasised a peaceful yet urgent call to safeguard American democracy and resist authoritarian leadership. Los Angeles also saw a significant turnout, with a particular focus on immigrant rights. Many participants carried Mexican flags or hybrids of US and Mexican flags, signalling solidarity with

immigrant communities affected by recent federal crackdowns. The city was also a flashpoint for immigration protests in June, particularly following federal raids and President Trump's controversial decision to deploy the National Guard without the governor's approval, an unprecedented move not seen since 1965, CNN reported. The demonstrations come at a time of heightened political tension, amid a federal government

shutdown and partisan deadlock in Washington over a funding bill. Democratic leaders have largely voiced support for the protests, while many Republican lawmakers have criticised them as anti-American. California Governor Gavin Newsom, in a statement posted on X, encouraged demonstrators to remain calm and peaceful. "As Californians take to the streets today to stand up against the President's authoritarian playbook, I urge everyone to stay safe and demonstrate peacefully. Don't give in to his provocations. Our strength is in our unity and peace," Newsom wrote. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer also voiced strong support for the protests, saying he marched alongside labour unions and fellow New Yorkers. "Today as millions of Americans rally across this country for No Kings Day: I proudly marched side-by-side with labor unions and so many more of our fellow citizens in NYC. We have no dictators in America. And we won't allow Trump to keep eroding our

democracy," Schumer said in a post on X. Senator Bernie Sanders echoed the sentiments of the day, thanking those who participated in the protests from cities to small towns. "Thank you to the millions of Americans who turned out in small communities and big cities all over this country to say loudly and boldly: No more kings. In America, We the People will rule," Sanders wrote. Meanwhile, in New York City, authorities reported that the protests remained peaceful throughout the day, despite the massive turnout of 100,000 across all five boroughs. It further stated that no protest-related arrests were made. "The majority of the No Kings protests have dispersed at this time, and all traffic closures have been lifted. We had more than 100,000 people across all five boroughs peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights and the NYPD made zero protest-related arrests," the New York Police Department said in a statement on X. - ANI

PROJECTILE STRIKE

Ship catches fire after attack in Gulf of Aden

GULF OF ADEN: A ship caught fire in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Yemen after being struck by a projectile, the British military said on Saturday, Al Jazeera reported. The incident occurred as Yemen's Houthi rebels continue their campaign of targeting commercial vessels passing through the Red Sea corridor in what they describe as solidarity with Palestinians amid Israel's ongoing war in Gaza, as per Al Jazeera. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) centre issued an alert about the attack, saying the vessel was struck about 210 kilometres (130 miles) east of Aden. "A vessel has been hit by an unknown projectile, resulting in a fire," the UKMTO said in a statement. "Authorities are investigating." It added that while the source of the explosion has not yet been confirmed, "an onboard accident cannot be ruled out." - DW

SPORTS



Oman Football Academy League



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Marsh dominates as Rohit, Kohli falter on comeback

Australia cruise to seven-wicket win over India in rain-hit ODI opener in Perth

PERTH: Mitchell Marsh continued his rich vein of form on Sunday, guiding Australia to a seven-wicket victory over India in a rain-affected first one-day international (ODI) at Perth Stadium. The stand-in skipper's unbeaten 46 helped the hosts chase down a revised target of 131 in just 21.1 overs after India were restricted to 136-9 from 26 overs amid four rain interruptions.

The much-anticipated return of India's former captains, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, failed to ignite the innings. Both had retired from cricket's other formats to focus on the 2027 World Cup but made a comeback for the first time since India's Champions Trophy triumph in March.

Rohit struggled against Australia's pace, edging Josh Hazlewood to second slip for eight, while Kohli was dismissed for a duck, cutting Mitchell Starc to a diving Cooper Connolly at backward point. Newly appointed ODI skipper Shubman Gill also fell cheaply for 10, gloving a seamer Nathan Ellis delivery to Josh Philippe, leaving India reeling at 37-3 when rain halted play for nearly two hours.

Shreyas Iyer made a sedate 11, but Hazlewood struck back, and Mitchell Owen alongside Matthew Kuhnemann stifled the Indian middle order. Axar Patel (31) and KL Rahul (38) offered resistance, and Nitish Kumar Reddy's rapid 19 off 11 balls added late impetus, yet India never



threatened a competitive total.

Marsh, continuing his impressive form from recent tours of South Africa and New Zealand, blasted three sixes to set the chase

in motion. Josh Philippe, making his first ODI since 2021, contributed an aggressive 37 before falling to Arshdeep Singh, while Matt Renshaw's unbeaten 21 saw

Australia home. Singh, Patel, and Washington Sundar each claimed a wicket.

Speaking after the win, Marsh, who was named the player of the

match, said: "It was [a strange game]. Weather played a part and big thanks to the fans for sticking around. Good to get a win. Always nice to win at home. I love play-

ing here." On the chase, Marsh said: "It was obviously swinging around a little bit, so at was a challenge to get through, but proud of the way our young guys took the game on."

India captain Gill said: "It is never easy when you lose three wickets in the powerplay. You're always trying to play catch up. There were a lot of learnings and positives as well. Defending 130 in 26 odd overs, we took the game pretty deep so we're satisfied with that. We're very fortunate that wherever we play, fans turn up in huge numbers."

The three-match series now moves to Adelaide for Thursday's second ODI before concluding in Sydney on Saturday.

Brief scores: Australia 131/3 in 21.1 overs (DLS target 131 in 26 overs (Marsh 46*, Philippe 37) beat India 136/9 (Rahul 38, Patel 31; Hazlewood 2-20, Starc 2-22).

NOVEMBER 17-29

Zimbabwe replace Afghanistan for T20I tri-series in Pakistan

LAHORE: Zimbabwe have replaced Afghanistan in Pakistan's upcoming triangular T20I series at home next month. The series, which will be played from November 17 to 29 in Lahore and Rawalpindi, will also feature Sri Lanka.

Earlier on Saturday, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced its withdrawal from the tri-series following the death of three local cricketers in what it alleged was a cross-border attack in the Urgan district of the country.

In a post on X, the ACB claimed that several lives had been lost in the attack, including three local cricketers who had been returning home after playing a "friendly" match in Sharana, the capital of Paktika province.

"The ACB considers this a great loss for Afghanistan's sports community, its athletes, and the cricketing family," it said in a statement.

Describing the incident as "tragic", the ACB said "as a gesture of respect to the victims" it had "decided to withdraw from participat-



ing in the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I Series." The ICC and the BCCI joined the ACB in mourning the loss of life of the cricketers.

The PCB has not made any official comment on the situation following Afghanistan's statement, but told *ESPNCricinfo* the tri-series would go ahead as scheduled, with Afghanistan replaced by another side.

In the statement announcing

Zimbabwe's participation, the PCB merely said it had been notified earlier of "Afghanistan's inability" to participate in the tri-series.

The series will begin with Zimbabwe taking on hosts Pakistan in Rawalpindi before playing against Sri Lanka at the same venue two days later. All remaining games will be played at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. - Agencies

DP WORLD INDIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Fleetwood clinches title in India

NEW DELHI: Tommy Fleetwood gave his son Frankie a moment to remember as he clinched his eighth European Tour crown with a two-shot victory at the DP World India Championship on Sunday.

The 34-year-old Englishman carded a brilliant final-round 65 at Delhi Golf Club to finish 22 under, holding off Japan's Keita Nakajima to capture his first DP World Tour title of the season — and his first with his eight-year-old son there to celebrate.

Fleetwood, who started the day two shots off the pace, found his rhythm early and surged ahead with four straight birdies from the seventh to the 10th, then added crucial gains at the 14th and 17th to pull clear of the field.

"I just wanted to put myself in a position where Frankie could run onto the green," said Fleetwood, whose son had missed his recent wins. "It's one of those little things that means so much. That was what I wanted all day."

Nakajima, chasing a maiden DP World Tour win after a stunning third-round 65, couldn't find



the same spark and settled for his third runner-up finish. New Zealand's Daniel Hillier, who briefly held the lead after moving to seven under for his round, saw his challenge fade with a double bogey on the 14th.

Fleetwood's win secures his place in the season-ending tournaments and caps another strong year that included a starring role in Europe's Ryder Cup victory in New York and eight top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour.

"There've been plenty of times when things haven't gone my way," he reflected. "But the last two times I've been in contention, I've won — maybe things are evening out."

Fellow Englishman Alex Fitzpatrick finished tied for third on 18 under after closing with a third straight 67, alongside Ireland's Shane Lowry. Viktor Hovland chipped in for eagle on the last to end at 17 under, while Rory McIlroy finished tied for 25th at 11 under. - Agencies

ACADEMIC PUBLISHING
The Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, in partnership with the Modern College of Business and Science, will host the First National Forum for Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journals on 29–30 October 2025 at the ministry's headquarters.



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 5,325.62 points, up by 0.68% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.58% at 463.66 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 6.51%, was the top gainer while, Al Anwar Investment, down 2.91%, was the top loser.

Summit to explore innovations and opportunities in LPG sector



WLGA Middle East LPG Summit & Expo 2025 will be the largest LPG-focused gathering in the Middle East, combining a high-level international conference with a world-class exhibition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The World Liquid Gas Association (WLGA) announced details of the WLGA Middle East LPG Summit & Expo 2025, to be held 10–11 November at the Oman



Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC) in Muscat. The event is expected to attract more than 2,000 participants from across the globe, alongside an international exhibition hosting over 80 leading companies. Held under the patronage of the Oman Ministry of Commerce, In-

dustry & Investment Promotion (MOCIIP), the summit is supported by the Oman Energy Association (OPAL) and sponsored by major industry stakeholders including National Gas Company (NGC), Bharat Tanks Vessels LLP, and Ragasco. The 2025 edition will be the

largest LPG-focused gathering in the Middle East, combining a high-level international conference with a world-class exhibition.

Key themes will include:

- Harmonising the LPG Market in the Middle East
- Technology-Driven Growth

for the LPG Industry

- Unlocking Investment Potential: Infrastructure, Innovation & Trade
 - The GCC as a Global Advocate: Advancing LPG for a Cleaner, More Accessible Energy Future
- The summit will provide a premier platform for collaboration,

showcasing the latest innovations, challenges, and opportunities in the LPG sector. Experts from the USA, Europe, and across the Middle East will share insights into the future of LPG.

A major highlight will be the official launch of the Women in LPG (WINLPG) Oman Chapter, the first in the Middle East. WINLPG is a global network of more than 4,000 members across 15 national chapters, dedicated to increasing women's participation across all areas of the LPG industry. This milestone underscores the importance of diversity, gender balance, and empowerment within Oman's energy sector.

"The Middle East has become a pivotal hub for the LPG sector, with rising demand, export capacity, and investment flows transforming the region into a driver of global LPG innovation and trade," said James Rockall, Managing Director & CEO of the WLGA. "By bringing together global leaders, innovators, and policymakers in Muscat, this Summit will showcase how technology, inclusivity, and collaboration can drive lasting growth for the industry — not just in the region, but worldwide."

LARGE-SCALE INITIATIVE



Alizz Islamic Bank partners with Injaz Oman to raise financial awareness among 1,000 school students

MUSCAT: Under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Ambusaidi, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Education, Alizz Islamic Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Injaz Oman to launch a large-scale financial awareness initiative aimed at educating 1,000 school students across Oman. The initiative seeks to equip young Omanis with essential financial knowledge and practical life skills, enabling them to make sound financial decisions and contribute positively to the nation's sustainable development. This collaboration forms a key pillar of the Bank's 'Alizz Cares' corporate social responsibility programme that is dedicated to empowering students & strengthening communities. It also aligns with the Ministry of Finance's National Programme for Financial Sustainability and Financial Sector Development 'Estidama' and the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which emphasise financial sustainability, social responsibility and youth empowerment as national priorities. Through a series of visits to schools across the Sultanate, 1,000 students will learn the fundamentals of budgeting, saving, investing and planning. The content will also highlight the values of financial discipline, integrity and Shari'a-compliant principles which are core foundations of Alizz Islamic Bank's philosophy. The program's goal is to improve individual financial behavior and build a solid generation of financially literate citizens. Financial awareness at

an early age contributes to long-term national resilience by fostering responsible saving habits, entrepreneurship and an understanding of how managing your personal finances links to broader economic wellbeing. Commenting on the partnership, Ali Al Mani, Chief Executive Officer at Alizz Islamic Bank, said: "At Alizz Islamic Bank, we believe that financial literacy is essential at a young age to empower the community to make decisions that lead to security, growth and prosperity. By collaborating with dedicated partners, we aspire to achieve shared objectives, particularly in the realms of financial empowerment and our commitment to supporting impactful initiatives remains steadfast." Also touching on the partnership Khaula Al Harthi, CEO of Injaz Oman said "At Injaz Oman, our mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Partnering with Alizz Islamic Bank allows us to deliver impactful financial education that helps students understand how to manage money wisely and ethically. Together, we are helping to build a more informed, empowered, and sustainable Oman." Alizz Islamic Bank continues its dedicated efforts into raising financial awareness through various initiatives, as it believes it is imperative for today's children and youth to have a solid understanding of basic financial concepts and skills to navigate their way to achieve a successful and sustainable future.

10-DAY TRAINING

BankDhofar signs deal with Al Noor Association for the Blind to support entrepreneurship training programme

MUSCAT: In line with its steadfast commitment to social responsibility and empowerment, BankDhofar has signed an agreement with the Al Noor Association for the Blind to sponsor a specialised 10-day entrepreneurship training course designed to professionally empower individuals with visual disabilities. The agreement was signed on behalf of Bank Dhofar by Dr. Khalid bin Salem Al Hamedani, Chief Human Resources Officer, and on behalf of Al Noor Association for the Blind by Dr. Raed bin Abdul Hafidh Al Farsi, Chairman of the Association's Board of Director. This initiative reflects BankDhofar's broader sustainability strategy, which focuses on supporting impactful community programmes that enhance quality of life. The Bank firmly believes in the importance of empowering people with special needs by offering training and rehabilitation opportunities that help them realise their ambitions and contribute to Oman's comprehensive development. The programme blends theoretical instruction with interactive workshops and field visits, equipping participants with essential skills in market analysis, competitor research, marketing, financial



management, and cost and risk assessment. The course aims to strengthen personal capabilities, foster self-reliance, and enable participants to successfully integrate into society and the labour market. The Al Noor Association for the Blind expressed appreciation for this initiative, noting that BankDhofar's support underscores its genuine community commitment and plays a key role in enhancing the capabilities of the blind and expanding opportunities for their inclusion and entrepreneurship. BankDhofar has long prioritized accessibility and inclusion.

Branches and ATMs across the Sultanate have been upgraded to better serve individuals with special needs through improved facilities, adaptive service platforms, and modern assistive technologies, including Braille keyboards. Recently, the Bank also introduced the Braille debit card, reaffirming its dedication to equal opportunity and independent banking access. The card's tactile features allow customers with visual disabilities to identify key details such as the card number, verification code, and expiry date — helping preserve privacy and independence.

As part of its wider community engagement, BankDhofar has also contributed to the "Al Atta" neighbourhood housing project in Al Khaboura, supporting families affected by adverse climatic conditions. During Ramadan, the Bank extended support to the annual "Atta" exhibition organised by Dar Al Atta'a Association, which provides a vital platform for SME owners, encourages entrepreneurship, and promotes economic sustainability and social solidarity. With 35 years of service as one of Oman's leading financial institutions, BankDhofar continues to champion strategic social responsibility initiatives built on sustainability, inclusion, and long-term community value. Social responsibility remains a cornerstone of BankDhofar's strategic vision, guiding its focus on responsible banking, ethical governance, and sustainable growth for all stakeholders. Today, BankDhofar stands as the second-largest bank in Oman in terms of branch network, offering a comprehensive suite of innovative banking solutions for individuals and businesses through over 140 branches nationwide, complemented by advanced digital banking services.

SPECIAL EVENT

Renaissance marks Omani Women's Day with team-building activities

MUSCAT: Renaissance Services marked Omani Women's Day by organising special celebrations at sites across Oman in recognition of the role that women play in the company's success. As a leading corporate in Oman, the company values the contributions of its female workforce and remains committed to their growth and development within the company. In Muscat, a special event at the Crowne Plaza Quurm brought together employees from the capital area for a morning of learning, fun and camaraderie. Professional facilitators from Oman Sail led an interactive workshop that was designed to enhance creative thinking, communication and leadership skills. Through engaging exercises and teamwork activities, participants explored new ap-



proaches to problem-solving and collaboration before concluding the session with a buffet lunch that offered them a chance to reconnect with each another. Additionally, Renaissance sites across other regions of Oman also organised their own events to hon-

our and celebrate women employees on their respective teams. Speaking on the occasion, Mohana Prabhakar, Chief Communications & Corporate Affairs Officer, Renaissance Services, said, "Women are playing a vital role in reshaping industries like

Facilities Management, bringing fresh perspectives and progress. At Renaissance, we're proud to support Omani women as they contribute meaningfully to national development and drive our continued success." Renaissance Services, Oman's leading provider of accommodation, services solutions and Integrated Facilities Management, has been listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange for over 29 years. The company continues to expand its presence across the GCC, demonstrating sustained growth and innovation. With more than 1,340 women employed across its operations, Renaissance is also among the largest private-sector employers of Omani nationals and plays a vital role in supporting the Sultanate's economic growth.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Barka Water & Power Company, up 6.51%, was the top gainer while, Al Anwar Investment, down 2.91%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,325.62 points, up by 0.68% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.58% at 463.66 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 6.51%, was the top gainer while, Al Anwar Investment, down 2.91%, was the top loser. Shares ofSohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 7967 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 61.25 million, with more than 342.37 million shares changing hands. Out of 62 traded securities, 30 advanced, 14 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 1889K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 1540K, followed by foreign investors for RO 349K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 8,948.42 points, up 0.28%. Prices of United Finance, Oman Arab Bank, Muscat Finance, Sohar International Bank, Al Sharqia

Investment were up by 3.13%, 2.11%, 1.96%, 1.32%, 1.18% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, National Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Ni-zwa, Bank Muscat were down by 2.91%, 2.86%, 1.16%, 0.96%, 0.30% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 7,158.47 points, up 0.52%. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry, Gulf International Chemicals, A'Saffa Foods were up by 2.44%, 2.06%, 1.81%, 1.43%, 0.20% respectively. Prices of Salalah Mills, Jazeera Steel Products, Voltamp Energy were down by 1.25%, 0.37%, 0.10% respectively. Services Index was up by 1.15% before closing at 2,122.12 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Al Suwadi Power, Oman National Engineering, Al Maha Marketing, Al Batinah Power were up by 6.51%, 4.93%, 4.72%, 4.03%, 3.47% respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, Renaissance Services were down by 0.85%, 0.36% respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES						
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	5,337.88	5,287.61	5,325.62	5,289.69	35.94	0.68
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,959.93	8,904.42	8,948.42	8,923.78	24.65	0.28
Industry Index	7,163.19	7,122.56	7,158.47	7,121.23	37.24	0.52
Services Index	2,126.92	2,095.93	2,122.12	2,098.02	24.10	1.15
MSX Shariah Index	464.07	459.75	463.66	461.00	2.67	0.58
MSX TR INDEX	7,981.76	7,906.59	7,963.43	7,909.70	53.73	0.68
FINANCIAL TR IDX	10,644.71	10,574.64	10,631.04	10,601.76	29.28	0.28
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,802.49	8,752.56	8,796.69	8,750.92	45.77	0.52
SERVICES TR IDX	2,751.68	2,711.58	2,745.46	2,714.28	31.18	1.15
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	0.00	0.00
Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal
342,376,674	61,249,451	7,967	30,677,315,480	30	14	18
Sec. Traded						
62						

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

	ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																	
	OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	543,314	80,453	54	0.144	0.150	0.144	0.149	0.142	0.007	4.930	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	106,446,545
	OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1,211,291	179,580	56	0.144	0.150	0.144	0.149	0.144	0.005	3.472	0.149	0.149	0.150	0.100	100,558,227
	OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	393,796	25,602	12	0.064	0.066	0.064	0.066	0.064	0.002	3.125	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.100	23,504,402
	OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	78,707	1,020	13	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.149	0.146	0.003	2.055	0.149	0.146	0.149	0.100	32,780,000
	OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	320	704	1	2.199	2.199	2.199	2.199	2.160	0.039	1.806	2.199	2.165	2.199	0.100	197,250,300
	OM0000003968	COREDOO	932,523	211,372	61	0.225	0.231	0.225	0.230	0.227	0.003	1.322	0.230	0.230	0.239	0.100	149,717,173
	OM0000003389	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	139,743,219	21,496,133	1,086	0.153	0.155	0.152	0.154	0.152	0.002	1.316	0.154	0.157	0.154	0.100	10,905,556
	OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	15,000	1,295	3	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	774,000
	OM0000003388	OMINVEST	148,243	37,777	23	0.255	0.263	0.253	0.263	0.260	0.003	1.154	0.263	0.254	0.262	0.100	246,092,150
	OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	4,775,182	1,317,654	686	0.278	0.278	0.273	0.278	0.278	0.002	0.725	0.278	0.279	0.278	0.100	214,115,600
	OM0000008072	OO GAS NETWORKS	45,927,880	7,708,983	923	0.168	0.170	0.165	0.169	0.168	0.001	0.585	0.169	0.170	0.169	0.100	731,875,442
	OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,004,401	1,000,825	57	0.994	1.000	0.993	0.997	0.994	0.003	0.302	0.997	0.997	1.000	0.100	74,775,000
	OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	35,000	13,715	6	0.489	0.490	0.489	0.490	0.489	0.001	0.204	0.490	0.470	0.490	0.100	58,800,000
	OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	812,000	291,584	233	0.382	0.382	0.357	0.380	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.360	0.387	0.100	585,340,688
	OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	67,200	11,626	5	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.169	0.004	2.317	0.173	0.173	0.178	0.100	34,600,000
	OM0000003861	VOLTAMP ENERGY	5,302	5,059	9	0.962	0.965	0.952	0.964	0.965	-0.001	-0.104	0.964	0.965	1.000	0.100	90,243,088
	OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	17,561,845	5,846,049	1,048	0.335	0.335	0.331	0.333	0.334	-0.001	-0.299	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.100	2,499,630,222
	OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	7,000	1,925	4	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.276	-0.001	-0.382	0.275	0.275	0.280	0.100	85,012,750
	OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	96,500	52,431	16	0.545	0.545	0.540	0.543	0.545	-0.002	-0.387	0.542	0.542	0.542	0.100	67,519,592
	OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	452,797	46,691	23	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.094	0.105	0.100	230,406,162
	OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	500,085	43,442	37	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.183	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	14,875,000
	OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	34,231	5,909	8	0.174	0.174	0.172	0.172	0.175	-0.003	-1.714	0.172	0.172	0.180	0.100	7,388,994
	Total	22	214,347,846	38,390,407	4,362												
Parallel Market																	
	OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	1,450	261	3	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.169	0.011	6.509	0.180	0.169	0.182	0.100	28,800,000
	OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	24,605	3,272	10	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.127	0.006	4.724	0.133	0.128	0.133	0.100	19,950,000
	OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	200	196	1	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.942	0.038	4.034	0.980	0.951	1.035	0.100	67,620,000
	OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	367,577	50,704	59	0.135	0.140	0.135	0.140	0.136	0.004	2.941	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	20,794,204
	OM0000002257	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	104,666	26,291	12	0.250	0.252	0.250	0.252	0.246	0.006	0.239	0.252	0.251	0.252	0.100	11,532,981
	OM0000007407	DHOHAR GENERATING	271,740	24,793	21	0.090	0.094	0.090	0.092	0.090	0.002	2.222	0.092	0.088	0.096	0.100	20,446,080
	OM0000003260	OMAN ARAB BANK	54,089	7,783	2	0.140	0.145	0.142	0.145	0.142	0.003	2.113	0.145	0.144	0.156	0.100	290,397,788
	OM0000001500	MUSCAT FINANCE	90,350	4,748	6	0.051	0.053	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.981	0.052	0.052	0.054	0.100	15,971,609
	OM0000007871	MUSANDAM POWER	15,000	4,575	1	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.300	0.005	1.667	0.305	0.295	0.305	0.100	21,469,590
	OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	5,228	735	2	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.138	0.002	1.449	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	82,801,163	
	OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	100	7	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.071	0.066	0.071	0.100	1,491,000
	OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	40,550	3,244	4	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	12,444,032
	OM0000009606	OO BASE INDUSTRIES (SFO)	59,629,356	9,923,900	1,257	0.165	0.170	0.165	0.167	0.165	0.002	1.212	0.167	0.167	0.175	0.040	17,773,457
	OM0000009759	OO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	14,088,091	4,584,313	373	0.324	0.327	0.324	0.327	0.324	0.003	0.926	0.327	0.327	0.327	0.010	2,616,000,000
	OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	3,800	336	1	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.140	0.001	0.714	0.141	0.140	0.142	0.100	10,648,602
	OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	49,243,771	7,748,127	883	0.155	0.159	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.001	0.645	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.100	81,254,184
	OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	34,070	2,672	5	0.078	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.088	0.100	6,800,000
	OM0000001509	DHOHAR INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV.	3,808	961	2	0.250	0.259	0.250	0.259	0.259	0.000	0.000	0.259	0.251	0.259	0.100	128,478,541
	OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,463,504	118,143	91	0.082	0.083	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100	10,648,602
	OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	21,353	10,172	8	0.475	0.479	0.475	0.479	0.479	0.000	0.000	0.479	0.479	0.485	0.100	158,488,028
	OM0000002549	BANK DHOHAR	1,120,380	184,855	763	0.165	0.166	0.164	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.166	0.165	0.100	501,597,758
	OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	4,200	2,328	9	0.771	0.771	0.771	0.771	0.771	0.000	0.000	0.771	0.796	0.771	0.100	47,243,025
	OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	36,627	7,912	8	0.215	0.217	0.215	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.218	0.224	0.100	43,920,925
	OM0000004735	SEMPOROH SALAH	75,000	13,905	10	0.185	0.187	0.185	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.000	0.186	0.187	0.192	0.100	17,750,383
	OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	265	124	3	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.100	13,250,000
	OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	13,724	1,621	3	0.128	0.128	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.120	0.100	3,510,000
	OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	500	45	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.090	-0.001	-1.111	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	5,7724,538
	OM0000001889	SALAH MILLS	796	796	1	0.395	0.396	0.395	0.395	0.400	-0.005	-1.250	0.395	0.370	0.400	0.100	24,672,810
	OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	300,000	40,800	5	0.138	0.138	0.136	0.136	0.140	-0.004	-2.857	0.13	0.13	0.140	0.100	17,750,383
	OM0000001270	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	222,032	22,248	18	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.103	-0.003	-2.913	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	29,855,293
	Total	30	127,042,962	22,792,905	3,565												



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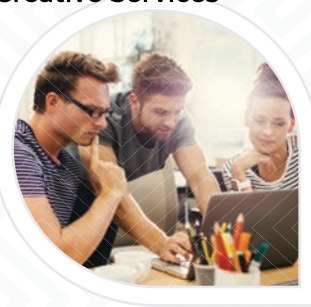


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RENT OR SALE?

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EVERY ITEM OF FURNITURE in Daniel Santos’ Berlin apartment comes with a story. There’s the desk that took him deep into the city’s former Soviet suburbs, the bed frame he hauled with the help of five housemates, and the nearly century-old dresser he brought back to life with glue and nails.

Santos says it’s “crazy” to think the pale-yellow antique he bought from a grandson parting with his family’s heirlooms “has survived until now.”

“Actually a few days ago, I sent him pictures of it in my room, and he was happy to see that it was living on,” he said.

Santos is part of a younger generation of decor scavengers, increasingly aware of furniture’s massive carbon footprint and therefore happy to shop secondhand. They don’t want to buy things that will be dumped a little further down the line.

Globally, researchers estimate at least 51 million tonnes of furniture are consumed every year with more than 95% of it discarded. That high buy-to-landfill ratio is partially a consequence of “fast furniture,” a cousin of “fast fashion” — cheap, mass-produced home decor designed for convenience rather than durability.

On the rise in recent years, fast furniture’s ever-changing styles encourage people to toss furnishings before the end of their natural lifecycle. One study found that British consumers redecorate their homes every one to five years. In a push to “to stay in style, they turn to inexpensive and disposable furniture that can easily be replaced when their decor changes,” the authors wrote.

And items are often not made to be recyclable. A single sofa might contain textiles, plastic-based foams, plywood, cardboard and metal springs — all fused with laminates, resin and glues — which makes them very hard to separate and repurpose.

In the United States alone, 12.1 million tonnes of furniture waste was generated in 2018 with less than 0.5% of it recycled. That’s an almost sixfold increase over 1960 levels.

The rise of fast furniture

Chicago furniture designer CoCo Ree Lemery says the explosion in fast furniture is partially driven by cheap new materials.

IKEA’s ubiquitous Billy bookcase is a case in point. When it first appeared in the IKEA catalog in 1979, it was made with a wood veneer finish. Since then, it has been redesigned with contact paper, making it cheaper than the original but harder to repair. Today, the company claims to sell a new Billy bookcase every five seconds.

Lemery says the influence of fast-fashion brands on home decor design has been another key factor pushing the uptake of cheap furniture.

Spanish fast-fashion giant Zara launched its home division in 2003, followed by Swedish rival H&M in 2009. They both helped normalise quick-turn seasonal trends such as rustic wood tables for fall or velvet chairs for winter in home goods stores.

Buying trends shows a greater emphasis on cheap, trendy furniture, Lemery said. “So, a lot of designers and manufacturers and large companies are in fact following that data, despite it not being good for the long run.”

Forests under pressure

As demand for cheap furniture has increased, it’s placed pressure on the supply chain and resources.

IKEA is one of the world’s largest consumers of wood, using about 0.5% of the total amount harvested for industrial purposes each year, the company said.

Environmental group Greenpeace has accused the company of felling ancient forests in areas of Romania’s Carpathian Mountains that it says should be protected for their high biodiversity value.



As cheap and disposable furniture piles up in landfills, younger shoppers are bucking the trend. Gen Z is going secondhand

LIFESTYLE GEN



PUSHES BACK AGAINST FAST FURNITURE

Pinterest recently said searches for “secondhand kitchens” have skyrocketed by 1,012% and “secondhand decor” by 283%, with Gen Z users making up half of the site’s base.



The furniture giant told DW it had reviewed the Greenpeace report and could confirm that “the wood used in IKEA products from these forests fully complies with applicable laws.” And with standards set by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) — a global nonprofit that certifies timber production.

“Wood from protected old-growth forests is strictly prohibited in our supply chain,” a spokesperson for the company said. “Nevertheless, we have asked FSC Romania to consider the potential need for further protection following our review.”

Gen Z’s secondhand surge

Flat-pack giants and fast-fashion retailers may be losing sway with first-time furniture buyers.

According to research from e-commerce comparison website Capital One Shopping, over a billion people visit the Facebook Marketplace digital classified service every month. An estimated 491 million buy something there.

Meanwhile, a trend report from social media platform Pinterest recently said searches for “secondhand kitchens” have skyrocketed by 1,012% and “secondhand decor” by 283%, with Gen Z users making up half of the site’s base.

Deana McDonagh, professor of industrial design at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, says younger consumers are turning to secondhand shopping for a number of reasons: sustainability, frequent moves, tight budgets, limited transport, and also the emotional connection they form with an acquired piece.

“With this old furniture, these old chairs, you have to invest in refreshing it,” McDonagh said, which draws it into a person’s story.

Santos can relate to that, insisting he wouldn’t dream of dumping the dresser he fixed up.

Sustainability advocates say reuse is one of the clearest antidotes to fast furniture’s environmental toll.

“The more that you can source inside your bubble, the better off you’re making the world,” Lemery said. -dw



SPORTS

Verstappen claims sprint title as Piastri and Norris collide



The McLarens collided at the first corner of the United States Grand Prix sprint race

AUSTIN: Oracle Red Bull's Max Verstappen claimed victory in a dramatic Sprint at the United States Grand Prix that saw both McLaren drivers retire on the opening lap after being caught up in a Turn 1 melee.

While Verstappen led cleanly away from pole position, the McLaren of Oscar Piastri was tagged by Nico Hulkenberg's Kick Sauber into the first corner, which then sent the Australian into team-mate Lando Norris.

Verstappen's win narrows his deficit to the McLaren drivers in the championship and the Dutchman is now 55 points behind Piastri and 33 adrift of Norris.

This put both of the papaya squad's cars out of the running, while Hulkenberg dropped down the order after sustaining damage. But there was no such trouble for Verstappen, who handled a challenge from Mercedes' George Russell – and two Safety Car phases – to win the Sprint.

In an event that ended under one of those Safety Car appearances – following a late collision between Lance Stroll and Esteban Ocon – Russell had to settle for

Verstappen takes US pole with Norris second

AUSTIN: Red Bull's Max Verstappen beat McLaren's Lando Norris to pole position at the at the Circuit of The Americas for the United States Grand Prix with championship leader Oscar Piastri down in sixth.

After the McLaren drivers crashed out of the sprint earlier on Saturday, neither was able to challenge Verstappen even though the world champion failed to complete a final run in qualifying.

Verstappen was sent out too late to get around in time to start a last lap before the chequered flag but still beat Norris by 0.291 seconds.

It was an imperious performance that underlined why McLaren are concerned about his threat in the drivers' championship.

Verstappen made it two from two as he backed up his Sprint pole with pole for the Grand Prix. Verstappen's 47th pole



for Red Bull surpassed Ayrton Senna's 46 poles for McLaren, meaning the Dutchman is now just behind Michael Schumacher's Ferrari tally of 58 and Lewis Hamilton's 78 for Mercedes in the most poles for any driver-team combination.

The Red Bull man grabbed his seventh pole of the season, two more than any other driver. It was his second Grand Prix pole in Austin, and Red Bull's 50th pole since their association with Honda began back

in 2019. Norris saved his best for last in a difficult session to pip Ferrari's Charles Leclerc to second on the grid by just 0.006secs.

But Piastri, who has looked out of sorts all weekend, was not quick and he ended up 0.574secs off the pace, and behind Mercedes' George Russell and the second Ferrari of Lewis Hamilton.

Verstappen, who topped every session of qualifying, said: "It was good, every segment the

car was very strong, just trying to put the lap together around here is very tricky.

"The first run in Q3 was good. Just managed to improve a little bit on Q2. I didn't manage to do my final run, it was a bit messy with the out laps but fortunately we didn't need it."

Russell gained one place from his grid position for the sprint, which he finished second, and Hamilton was just 0.105secs off Leclerc in putting the Ferrari fifth.

Behind Piastri, Kimi Antonelli put the second Mercedes seventh, while Oliver Bearman secured the best of the rest position in eighth place for Haas, ahead of the Williams of Carlos Sainz and Aston Martin of Fernando Alonso.

Isack Hadjar will start on the back row after crashing heavily at the start of qualifying, losing control of his Racing Bulls going into Turn Six.

behind as the pack entered Turn 1, with Piastri getting tagged by Hulkenberg which launched the Australian into a spin – and sent him into Norris, immediately putting the Briton out of the running.

While Piastri initially continued, the championship leader was warned that he may have picked up suspension damage and was ultimately unable to make it back to the pits, meaning that both McLaren cars had retired from the Sprint on only the first lap.

Debris scattered

Fernando Alonso also found himself out of the event, the Aston Martin having been caught up in the melee amid contact with Hulkenberg, while the Safety Car was deployed due to the debris scattered across the track.

The Sprint ended under the Safety Car as Verstappen clinched a 13th Sprint victory, the Dutchman crossing the line ahead of Russell, Sainz, Hamilton, Leclerc, Albon and Tsunoda.

With Bearman – who had been running in eighth – dropping to the bottom of the order due to his penalty, Antonelli moved up into P8, while Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson and the Alpine of Gasly missed out on points in P9 and P10 respectively.

Kick Sauber's Gabriel Bortoleto was 11th, ahead of the Racing Bulls of Isack Hadjar (12th), Hulkenberg (13th), Colapinto (14th) and the aforementioned Bearman (15th).

A quarter of the field retired in a highly eventful Sprint, with Norris, Piastri and Alonso all out on Lap 1 while Ocon and Stroll added to the list of drivers who failed to see the finish. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Trossard nets winner for Gunners against Fulham

LONDON: Leandro Trossard's second-half goal was enough for Arsenal to overcome a stubborn Fulham 1-0 and move three points clear at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Mikel Arteta came into the match without captain Martin Odegaard and named Eberechi Eze in his place as the manager looked to make the most of the attacking talent at his disposal.

The Gunners started the second half with more intensity and pinned Fulham back for large parts after a goalless first half.

That pressure told in the 58th minute when centre-back Gabriel flicked on a Bukayo Saka corner and Trossard was well positioned to fire home from close range at the back post.

Saka thought he had won a penalty to give Arsenal the chance to double their lead, but the decision was overturned by the video assistant referee (VAR).

The victory means Arsenal move three points clear of second-placed Manchester City – who were top for a couple of hours on Saturday after beating Everton. Erling Haaland netted twice to continue his sensational goalscoring streak and help move Manchester City secure a 2-0 victory over Everton.

Haaland scored a hat-trick for Norway during the recent international break and his second-half double against the Toffees at Etihad Stadium took his tally to 23 goals in only 13 games for club and country this season.

The 25-year-old had been kept quiet in the first half but came



alive with his first opportunity of the contest, powerfully heading in from Nico O'Reilly's cross.

Five minutes later he converted again, sweeping home from Savinho's cutback, which took a slight deflection off Everton defender James Tarkowski.

In another game, Jean-Philippe Mateta scored a hat-trick, including a stoppage-time penalty, as Crystal Palace fought back from two goals down to draw with Bournemouth 3-3 in a six-goal thriller at Selhurst Park.

At Turf Moor, Loum Tchouauna's second-half goal helped Burnley beat Leeds United 2-0 to end their five-match winless run in the Premier League.

And Ange Postecoglou was sacked by Nottingham Forest 19 minutes after Chelsea's 3-0 victory at Forest's City Ground.

The Australian's dismissal - 39 days after his appointment on 9 September - means Postecoglou's stint at Forest is the shortest permanent managerial reign in Premier League history. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Late goal gives Barca victory to go top of league

BARCELONA: Defender Ronald Araujo scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner against Girona 2-1 to send Barcelona top of Spanish La Liga on Saturday.

Having been brought on with eight minutes remaining to play up front, centre-back Araujo steered in a Frenkie de Jong pass across goal in the 92nd minute to end Barcelona's two-match losing run and spark wild celebrations.

Pedri gave the hosts the lead at the Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys with a low shot from the edge of the area which clattered in off a post. But Girona were soon level against the run of play through Axel Witsel's fantastic overhead kick following a corner.

Barcelona had plenty of chances to regain their lead, mostly through Marcus Rashford, who saw a free-kick hit the bar in the first half.

The Manchester United loanee also had a glorious chance in the second half but could only turn a low cross wide of the target from a few yards out.



Barcelona manager Hansi Flick was sent off for his reaction after four minutes of stoppage time were indicated by the fourth official. He will miss Barcelona's next league match, against Real Madrid in El Clasico on 26 October.

More players stand still
Players refused to move for the



first 15 seconds of matches in La Liga on Saturday as protests at the Spanish league's decision to stage a game in Miami continued.

The high-profile fixtures involving Barcelona and Atletico Madrid, who had home games against Girona and Osasuna respectively, followed the precedent set by Oviedo

and Espanyol on Friday evening. There were identical protests at Sevilla vs Mallorca and Villarreal vs Real Betis.

As had happened in the match between Oviedo and Espanyol, television cameras for Barcelona's game cut away to show the exterior of the stadium, denying audiences a view of the protest. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Kane scores 400th club goal as Bayern defeat Dortmund



MUNICH: England captain Harry Kane scored his 400th club goal as his first-half header helped Bayern Munich beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Kane was first to Joshua Kimmich's 22nd-minute corner in Der Klassiker in Munich, nodding Bayern in front with his 21st goal from his 12th match for club and country this season. Bayern added a second in unusual fashion in the

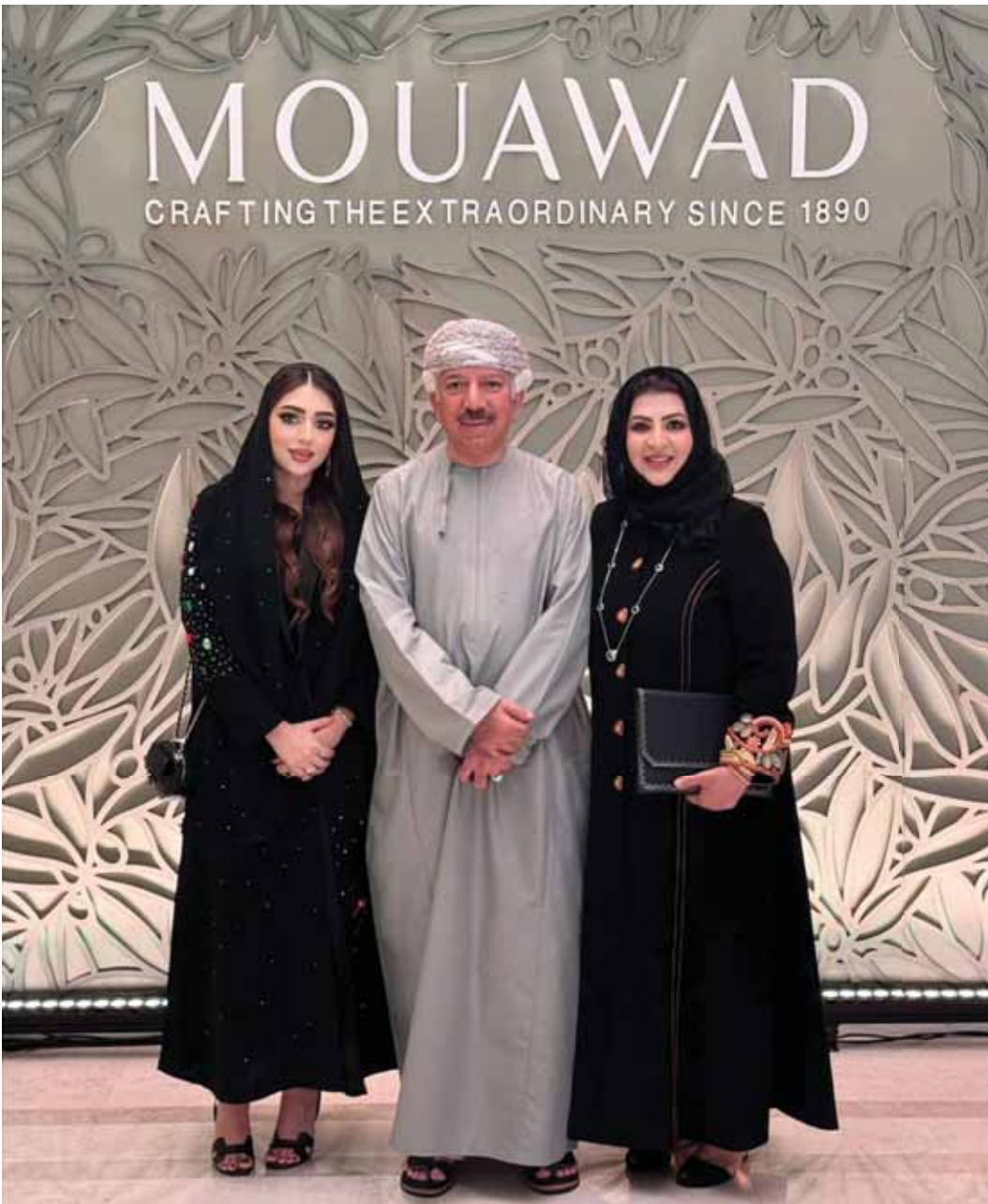
second half when Jobe Bellingham's clearance from inside his own six-yard box bounced in off a sliding Michael Olise.

Dortmund cut the deficit through Julian Brandt, who turned in Julian Ryerson's cross in the 84th minute, but Bundesliga leaders Bayern held on to maintain their 100% winning start to the season.

Kane's 400th goal in club football came 14 years and nine

months after his first, which he struck in a 4-0 win for Leyton Orient while on loan from Tottenham, against Sheffield Wednesday in League One in January 2011.

The 32-year-old is averaging a goal almost every 52 minutes this season, and has 104 goals in 107 appearances since he joined Bayern from Tottenham in 2023. He has also scored a record 76 goals for England. - Agencies



Mouawad celebrates the opening of its new boutique in Muscat with an elegant gala event

The gala featured a high jewellery fashion show presenting a selection of Mouawad’s exquisite sets - each a testament to the brand’s heritage of excellence, artistry, and its enduring commitment to crafting extraordinary jewelry pieces that transcend time



MUSCAT: Mouawad, the renowned luxury jewellery Maison with a legacy spanning over 135 years, proudly hosted an exclusive gala event in Muscat to commemorate the opening of its latest boutique at the Opera Mall.

The prestigious evening took place in the esteemed presence of Mr. Robert Mouawad, Third Generation Co-Guardian of the Maison, his wife Madame Leila alongside Mr. Pascal Mouawad and Mr. Alain Mouawad, Fourth Generation Co-Guardians, as well as Mr. Rasheed Al Hooti, representing the respected Al Hooti family.

The gala featured a high jewellery fashion show presenting a selection of Mouawad’s exquisite sets - each a testament to the brand’s heritage of excellence, artistry, and its enduring commitment to crafting extraordinary jewelry pieces that transcend time.

Marking a significant milestone in the Maison’s continued expansion across the Gulf region, the opening of the Muscat boutique reflects Mouawad’s dedication to offering its clientele exceptional experiences that embody luxury, heritage, and craftsmanship. Speaking on the occasion, Pascal Mouawad commented: “We are delighted to bring the Mouawad experience to Oman — a country whose rich culture, elegance, and deep appreciation for

artistry beautifully resonate with the values at the heart of our Maison. This opening marks not only an exciting new chapter for Mouawad, but also a celebration of shared traditions and timeless beauty.”

About Mouawad

Mouawad is a renowned luxury jewellery brand recognised for its timeless elegance, exceptional craftsmanship, and rich heritage. With a legacy spanning over a century, Mouawad has epitomised excellence in jewellery, crafting the extraordinary with artistic mastery and trusted expertise. From its exquisite diamond creations to its iconic world records, Mouawad continues to captivate discerning individuals worldwide, embodying the pinnacle of luxury and artistry. Guided by the endeavors and visions of five generations, Mouawad’s heritage spans more than a century of creations and traditions in masterful jewelry design and watchmaking. Since its inception in Lebanon in 1890, the revered values of the brand have been revived over the years to offer true luxury and refinement to a discerning clientele, penetrating continents across the world.

Get social with Mouawad @mouawad
For media inquiries, please contact:
Nihal Mazen – Nihal.mazen@mouawad.com



ROUND-UP

Avicen launches Oman’s first-ever wellness app

Avicen pharmacy has marked a historic step in redefining healthcare accessibility and convenience across Oman with the launch of this new wellness app

MUSCAT: Avicen, Oman’s most trusted and leading healthcare brand, has announced the grand launch of the country’s first-ever wellness e-commerce app. The launch was held on October 19 by Hilal Alsarmi, CEO, Athar Health Endowment Foundation, in the presence of Ibrahim Ahmed Mohammed Ali Al Ghafri, Chairman, Avicen Group and the senior management, staff and well-wishers. Recognized as the second-largest retail pharmacy chain in the country, Avicen has marked a



historic step in redefining healthcare accessibility and convenience across the Sultanate with the launch of this new wellness app. The Avicen app helps customers experience a fast and reliable way to shop for their wellness, right at their fingertips. Through this app, customers gain access to safe, verified, ethically operated services. The app offers customers easy access to skincare, baby care, personal care, women care, nutritional drink and supplements, OTC products, as well as vitamins and daily essentials, all delivered right at their doorstep. On this occasion, Hilal Alsarmi extended his congratulations to the team at Avicen for their proactive and customer focused approach in developing the app and

its remarkable user experience and hoped that this will mark the beginning of a new era in blending convenience with affordability. Speaking at the launch Nissar Edathumchalil, Managing Director, Avicen Group stated, “Our goal is to be our customers’ trusted partner at every stage of their healthcare journey. This is a proud moment for us as we have launched the first-ever Wellness e-commerce app in the Sultanate. Through this initiative, we hope to not only support consumers in their wellness needs but also promote a culture of preventive health and well-being. We have a team of experienced pharmacists who are always available to provide expert guidance on medication safety and health management.”

“We have a very strong quality assurance system in place to foster a culture of safety across all our pharmacies. The entire process of sourcing, importing, and distributing medicines is conducted under strict supervision of regulatory authorities, ensuring that only high-quality healthcare products reach the market safely, efficiently, and in full compliance with both international standards and Oman’s regulatory requirements. With more than 3500 products and 40+ product categories, we ensure timely and reliable delivery of high-quality medicines and healthcare products through our robust distribution network,” he added. The new easy-to-use app, which will be available for download from the Apple App and Google Play stores (iOS & Android) and website (shopify), possesses key features that include on-demand delivery of products, Live order update and secure payments (Online and COD), as well as fast delivery from selected Avicen pharmacies within 20 km radius of the location. Forging ahead with a focus on envisioning wellness through quality products, services, innovation and technology, Avicen is dedicated to empowering individuals to lead healthier lives by delivering accessible and personalized services.

CELEBRATION



12 Yaris won! 38 more chances to drive home new Yaris in Toyota 50th anniversary mega celebration

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive, the exclusive distributor for Toyota in Oman, has revealed six more lucky winners of its historic 50th Anniversary Campaign. In total, 50 customers will win the keys to a brand-new Toyota Yaris, making this one of the most exciting giveaways ever, in Oman. Marking five decades of partnership between Saud Bahwan Automotive and Toyota, the campaign is one of its kind. Along with the chance to win a Yaris through raffle draws, customers also enjoy exceptional purchase benefits such as 50% VAT covered, 5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service, 50% Insurance and RO 50 worth Thiqah Loyalty Points. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for families and individuals to take part in the golden jubilee celebrations and drive home their favourite Toyota. The announcement of six more winners has sparked huge excitement, with each winner sharing heartfelt emotions about their journey with Toyota and what this incredible milestone means to them. Ali Ahmed Salim BakhitHardanwho purchased a Land Cruiser pick-up said, “Toyota has been my trusted companion

for decades. I never imagined I would win, but today with this Yaris, I feel like Toyota has gifted me back for all the love I have had for this brand.” Hamed Said Ali Rouyashad Al Zidiwho purchased a Hilux said, “As a small business owner, every decision matters. Choosing Toyota has always given me peace of mind and now this Yaris win feels like a reward for believing in the brand.” Al Murtaja Khalaf Mohammed Rashid AlAbriwho purchased a Land Cruiser pick-up shared his thoughts saying, “My father always trusted Toyota and I am no different. Winning the Yaris is more than luck. It is a continuation of a family bond with a brand that has been part of our lives for generations.”

The owner of Kathiya Salim Mohammed Al Abadiwho bought the Hilux said, “I bought my first Corolla after university and since then Toyota has been part of every milestone. Winning a brand-new Yaris today feels like Toyota is giving me more opportunities to have the finest memories with them.” Two more winners – coupon no. 11542 and coupon no. 11546 were owners of one Yaris vehicle each.

SPECIAL OCCASION

Mothers from ABIS celebrates Omani Women’s Day at Sohar Beach Hotel

MUSCAT: On October 16, Sohar Beach Hotel hosted a vibrant celebration in honor of Omani Women’s Day, a special occasion that highlights and appreciates the invaluable contributions of women across Oman. The event was organized by Middle East Hospitality in collaboration with mothers from Al Batinah International School, creating a memorable event, recognizing the strength, resilience, and achievements of Omani women. The celebration was filled with joy



and enthusiasm, featuring a delicious breakfast and a variety of activities, including fun games and

interactive sessions designed to foster camaraderie and empowerment. The atmosphere was lively

and celebratory, reflecting the respect and appreciation Oman holds for its women. This special day at Sohar Beach Hotel exemplified the nation’s commitment to supporting and honoring women, strengthening their role in the social and economic development of Oman. The event left everyone inspired and motivated to continue acknowledging and embellishing the role of women in our society and the key they hold to brighten this nation further.

OMANI WOMEN’S DAY

Bank Muscat: Leading journey in empowering Omani women and enhancing their role in banking sector and society



MUSCAT: Omani Women’s Day, celebrated annually on the 17th of October, is a national occasion that highlights the remarkable achievements of Omani women and their growing contributions to building the nation across economic, cultural, political, and social spheres. The celebration of this day stands as a recognition of women’s active participation and success in driving the Sultanate’s sustainable development. Omani women play an integral role in the banking sector in general, and in the continued growth and performance of Bank Muscat in particular. Women currently represent over 46% of the Bank’s total workforce of more than 4,000 employees across various departments and branches throughout the Sultanate. Notably, Omani women hold 20% of executive management positions, underscoring the Bank’s commitment to investing in talent and empowering young female professionals to assume leadership roles. On this occasion, Wafa bint Ibrahim Al Ajmi, Assistant General Manager – Government Banking, expressed her pride and appreciation for the achievements of Omani women, saying: “We extend our sincere appreciation and pride to every Omani woman who has proven her capabilities

across all fields and contributed with dedication and excellence to the nation’s growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. At Bank Muscat, we firmly believe in women’s vital role as key partners in institutional progress and sustainability. Women have always been and continue to be a driving force behind our success—demonstrating creativity, leadership, and commitment to achieving the Bank’s goals. Empowering Omani women remains one of our top priorities through providing a supportive work environment that promotes professional growth, equal opportunities, and active participation in decision-making. We are proud of the remarkable achievements of our female employees, which reflect determination and an unwavering spirit of excellence.” Several of Bank Muscat’s female employees also shared their pride and reflections on this special occasion. Aisha bint Kamel Al Hooti, Acting Branch Manager – Royal Hospital Branch, said: “We celebrate Omani Women’s Day with deep pride and gratitude. It is a day that honors women’s achievements and leadership in building our nation. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to every Omani woman for her accomplishments, as we continue our journey of giving

and excellence.” Al Hooti described her journey at Bank Muscat as rich with challenges and opportunities. “From the very beginning, I worked in a professional environment that encouraged innovation and continuous improvement, where I developed essential skills in customer service and teamwork. This experience laid a strong foundation for my career growth until I reached my current position as branch manager. I encourage all women to face challenges with confidence and to be a source of strength and inspiration—for themselves and others—as they are the cornerstone of Oman’s prosperous future.” Arwa bint Saud Al Rashdi, Branch Manager – Meethaq Islamic Banking Main Branch, said: “This special day carries deep meaning—it is not just a celebration, but a living testament to the high status and trust placed in Omani women by our leadership. Omani Women’s Day reminds us of the continuous empowerment journey that began under the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and continues under our wise leadership today. It highlights women’s success across education, healthcare, the economy, banking, and beyond, as well as their vital role as mothers and mentors of future generations. I am proud to be part

of this ongoing journey and hope to serve as a role model for other women in contributing to our nation’s progress.” Al Rashdi added that her professional journey has been guided by a strong belief that real investment begins with knowledge. Ruwaya bint Mohammed Al Hinai, Branch Manager – Barka Souq Branch, stated: “On Omani Women’s Day, I extend my warmest congratulations to every Omani woman who has proven that ambition knows no limits and that giving knows no boundaries. This day celebrates the achievements and resilience of Omani women across all fields. Every year, we continue to advance and contribute proudly to building our beloved Oman.” Al Hinai, who holds a bachelor’s degree in Finance and Banking, added that her banking career has been full of growth opportunities. “Through my role as a branch manager, I’ve learned valuable lessons in leadership, team management, and community engagement. I am proud to be part of an institution that prioritizes human development and provides Omani women with real opportunities to contribute to the national economy.” Naïma bint Rashid Al Balushi, Manager – Inbound Operations, Meethaq Contact Center, said: “This day is a tribute to every Omani

woman and the essential role she plays in national development. I’m proud to be part of this journey, especially through my work at Bank Muscat, where I’ve gained extensive experience in banking and customer service. The Bank has provided a stimulating work environment that encourages confidence, leadership, and growth.” She added: “My journey at Bank Muscat has been one of growth, learning, and continuous development. Over the years, I’ve gained deep experience in banking operations and customer service, which has strengthened my confidence and enhanced my ability to lead initiatives within my department.” Sabiha bint Jandoub Al Harthi, Unit Head - Business Systems & Development – Customer Service & Corporate Communications Department, said: “Omani Women’s Day is a source of pride for every Omani woman. It is not merely a celebration but a reflection of the leadership’s belief in women’s potential and trust in their ability to be active partners in sustainable development. For me, this day is a renewed motivation to give more and continue serving society through my role at Bank Muscat.” She added that she is passionate about leading digital transformation projects and enhancing customer experience through the

adoption of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence. “Working at Bank Muscat has been a rewarding experience, offering opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and leadership.” Huda bint Habib Al Balushi, Head- Mid Sector, SME Department, said: “On this occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and to every Omani woman—ambitious, dedicated, creative, and inspiring—whose contributions continue to shape our nation’s success. My journey at Bank Muscat has been truly empowering. The Bank entrusted me with responsibilities and decision-making, which encouraged me to pursue my professional growth and raise my ambitions even higher. I say to every Omani Woman: pursue excellence and keep learning and acquiring new talents every day.” Bank Muscat continues to introduce innovative banking solutions to support women—from small business financing products to financial inclusion and awareness programs—helping to remove barriers for women entrepreneurs and professionals. The Bank also participates in community events and workshops marking Omani Women’s Day, reinforcing the private sector’s contribution to national empowerment goals.

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