

Times

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50

YEARS OF LEGACY

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His Majesty held meetings with King Felipe VI and PM Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón

MADRID: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Felipe VI of Spain have emphasised the significance of collaborative efforts to strengthen economic partnerships and foster growth and innovation, while expressing their satisfaction with the existing investment framework and mutual aspiration to elevate it to more substantial levels.

The joint communique issued on the occasion of the state visit undertaken by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Kingdom of Spain reads as follows: “As per the gracious invitation of His Majesty King Felipe VI of the Kingdom of Spain, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has paid a state visit to the Kingdom of Spain from 3 to 5 November 2025. This visit manifested the profound historical bonds of friendship between the two Royal Families, cultivated over decades, and demonstrated the resolute commitment of both nations to enhance bilateral cooperation across diverse domains for the benefit of their respective peoples.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik held meetings with King Felipe VI and Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, Prime Minister during which perspectives were exchanged on matters of bilateral and international mutual concern. >A4

An agreement and six MoUs signed



MADRID: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, on Wednesday graced at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid, the signing ceremony of one agreement and six memoranda of understanding (MoU) between the two countries covering various fields. >A5

EL PARDO PALACE

His Majesty, King of Spain convene Spanish business leaders meeting

MADRID: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Felipe VI of Spain convened with a distinguished gathering of Spanish prominent business leaders at the El Pardo Palace today, as part of His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the Kingdom of Spain.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan commended the distinguished level of economic and investment partnership between the two friendly nations, affirming the joint commitment to its enhancement and to capitalising upon all available opportunities to establish lucrative joint ventures that deliver mutual benefits to both countries.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and some Spanish officials. >A4

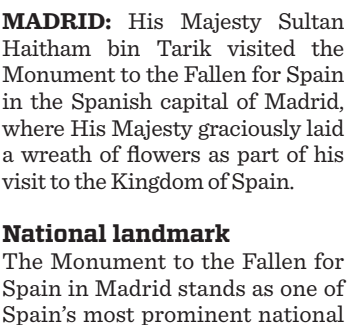


MONUMENT

HM lays a wreath of flowers

MADRID: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik visited the Monument to the Fallen for Spain in the Spanish capital of Madrid, where His Majesty graciously laid a wreath of flowers as part of his visit to the Kingdom of Spain.

National landmark
The Monument to the Fallen for Spain in Madrid stands as one of Spain's most prominent national landmarks, erected to perpetuate the memory and honour all those who have made sacrifices for their nation. >A4



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
State Council to open session on Sunday

1 At the behest of His Majesty the Sultan, the State Council will open on Sunday, 9 November 2025, the deliberations of its third ordinary session of the eighth term, continuing its national mission of contributing to supporting the comprehensive development march and institutionalising work within the state's legislative system. >A6

OMAN
ROP issues guidelines for pasting stickers

2 The ROP has issued instructions for placing stickers on vehicles in celebration of the Omani national Day. The stickers can be pasted on vehicles between November 5 November 30, 2025. >A3

WORLD
Toll from Philippine Typhoon rises to 46

3 Philippine authorities announced that the death toll from Typhoon Kalmaegi has risen to 46, including six crew members of a military helicopter that crashed during the storm. >B4

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....11:55pm
Asr.....3:07pm
Maghrib.....5:31pm
Isha.....6:43pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:59am

Media, journalists serve as the mirror showcasing role of Shura: Al Maawali

The meeting comes as part of the Council’s ongoing efforts to enhance communication with outlets and to reaffirm its commitment to strengthening cooperation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council held its annual media meeting on Wednesday for the year 2025, with wide participation from representatives of media institutions in the Sultanate of Oman and individuals interested in the Council’s affairs.

The meeting comes as part of the Council’s ongoing efforts to enhance communication with various media outlets and to reaffirm its commitment to strengthening cooperation with all segments of society, underscoring its role as an active partner in the national development process.

The meeting began with a speech delivered by Khalid Humaid Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council, who welcomed the attending media representatives and specialists, affirming that the Council operates within clear competencies that contribute to advancing Oman’s development process and strengthening its legislative framework in line with national visions and aspirations.



He stressed that partnership in national decision-making form the foundation of the Council’s relationship with the Council of Ministers, and are reflected in its work with the State Council in pursuit of the public good.

He further stated that the media and journalists serve as the true mirror reflecting the importance and role of the Shura institution, expressing appreciation for their significant efforts in covering the Council’s discussions and conveying the nation’s issues.

He emphasised that the annual media meeting reflects the Council’s deep trust in media professionals and its keenness to keep them informed through data and comprehensive indicators of the Council’s work.

He concluded by affirming that the Council continues to monitor social issues and remains committed to presenting recommendations that help address social and economic challenges facing citizens.

Following that, Ahmed Mohamed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council, delivered a visual presentation outlining the Council’s legislative and oversight mandates as stipulated in the Basic Law of the State and the Law of the Council of Oman.

The presentation also showcased the Council’s performance indicators and achievements during the first half of the tenth term, covering the first and second annual sessions.

He stated that the Council held 26 regular sessions during the first half of the current term, during which it discussed several draft laws, oversight tools, and ministerial statements from various service ministries, including the Ministries of Education; Heritage and Tourism; Housing and Urban Planning; Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion; Economy; Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources; Information; and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

In the legislative field, he noted that the Council completed 14

draft laws, 13 of which were promulgated by Royal Decrees.

Among the most notable are the Law on Combating Wildlife Trafficking, the Law on Deposit Protection, the Media Law, the Financial Law, the Law on Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, the Electronic Transactions Law, the Public Health Law, the Law on Organ and Human Tissue Transplantation, the Income Tax Law, the Law on Collection of State Revenues, the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, the Real Estate Regulation Law, and the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

He added that during the first and second annual sessions of the current term, the Council submitted around 466 oversight tools, including questions, requests for clarification, and urgent statements on various national issues.

Meanwhile, the standing committees held more than 211 meetings, addressing 255 topics.

The Council also maintained an active presence in the field of parliamentary diplomacy, participating in more than 67 regional and international events.

During his remarks, the Secretary-General highlighted the Council’s commitment to strengthening public awareness, communication, and societal partnership.

He added that the annual media meeting provides a platform for transparency and dialogue with the media, contributing to the effective transmission of the Council’s message to society.

The meeting also featured extensive discussions and constructive interactions with media representatives, covering various aspects of the Council’s legislative and oversight work.

Participants explored ways to enhance communication channels with media institutions to promote transparency and ensure the public has access to accurate information about the Council’s activities.

Heads of the Council’s standing committees also took part in the discussions, providing explanations on the committees’ roles in reviewing draft laws, examining government agreements, and monitoring the implementation of national programs and development plans through various parliamentary tools.

They further highlighted the committees’ efforts in studying legislative proposals and hosting competent authorities to discuss national priority issues.

Media representatives raised several questions regarding the Council’s working methodology, its oversight tools, and its role in discussing national files related to service, social, and economic sectors.

The session also addressed institutional coordination mechanisms between the Shura Council and government entities within the framework of national governance, reinforcing complementarity between the legislative and executive branches within their respective jurisdictions.

The event included an accompanying exhibition showcasing the Council’s key achievements during the first half of the tenth term.

Attendees were briefed on data and indicators reflecting the Council’s efforts in legislative review and its focus on issues relevant to citizens.

This meeting is part of the Shura Council’s continuous efforts to strengthen partnerships and communication with the media, ensuring transparency in providing information about its legislative and oversight roles, highlighting the accomplishments of its standing committees, and raising public awareness about the Council’s role and its complementarity with the State Council within the Council of Oman — all in service of the national interest.

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FOR MORE

Exclusive: Madhubanti to debut unreleased songs live in Muscat

India’s award-winning playback singer is set to regale Oman music lovers at the Sheraton Oman Hotel on Friday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: India's top playback singer Madhubanti Bagchi has revealed that she will perform a few unreleased tracks live for the first time during her concert in Muscat. Winner of the Best Playback Singer (Female) award at both the Filmfare Awards and the Zee Cine Awards 2025 for her chart-topping hit “Aaj Ki Raat” from *Stree 2*, Madhubanti will perform live at the Sheraton Oman Hotel on November 7, Friday, from 8pm. “I love testing new material with a live audience – it’s the most honest way to see how a song connects,” she said. Speaking about the upcoming performance,



she added, “The setlist is almost locked! It’s a mix of my most loved songs and some personal favourites that translate beautifully live. For the Bengali-speaking audience, yes, there’s a small surprise in store – a song very close to my heart that represents where I come from musically and emotionally.” When asked about including Arabic influences or local collaborations, Madhubanti said, “For this show, we’re keeping the set focused on my existing material and arrangements, so there aren’t any local collaborations planned just yet. “But I’m really hoping to connect with musicians while I’m here. There’s so much incredible talent in this region, and it would be amazing to explore a collaboration after the concert once I’ve had a chance to experience the local music scene a bit more.” Describing the concert setup, she shared, “The band is phenomenal – we’ve been rehearsing tirelessly. I have a mix of live percussion, synth, and acoustic elements this time. The stage design is minimal but immersive, with warm lighting, some visual storytelling, and a focus on sound purity. It’s a very soulful setup.” On balancing fan favourites with

newer material, she explained, “I like to rearrange my songs depending on what I’m listening to at the moment. I’ve always been a big rock and metal fan, so that influence naturally creeps into my sets. It’s fun to mix that edge with Bollywood vibes and see how the audience reacts!” Reflecting on her musical foundation, she said, “My classical training is my core. It teaches you how to feel every note deeply. Even in a pop or film song, that grounding helps me bring emotion and precision. My journey from Tollywood to Bollywood has been organic – each industry has taught me something unique about sound, storytelling, and audience connection.” On transitioning from classical music to contemporary genres, Madhubanti added, “It’s always about finding a balance between my classical roots and connecting with listeners everywhere. I enjoy reworking my songs so they carry their Indian essence while fitting into different soundscapes. Over time, I’ve learned to move between genres, and that makes it exciting to take the audience on a small journey through varied moods and styles.” As for what’s next, she revealed, “I’m going to be releasing one of my favourite songs independently. I’m

really excited about it – I consider it my true artistic revelation post my big Bollywood break.” The evening will also feature Omani singer Nadeem Al Balushi, creating a unique cross-cultural showcase that blends Arabic and Hindi influences. Following the soulful performance by Madhumanti, the evening’s energy will soar as DJ Pri (Priyanka) will take over the console, spinning an electrifying mix of beats to keep the crowd grooving late into the night. And for Muscat’s music lovers, November 7 is shaping up to be a night to remember. The events are being organised in association with Nexus Novel, and Kings United Dance Academy. Travel Point is the travel partner while Sheraton Oman Hotel is the hospitality and ticketing partner. The Ultimate AV Production is the AV Partner of the event. Other sponsors include OmPay, Unimoni, Gulf Exchange, Global Pay, Guide Me, Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital, Ripples, GPT, and *Times of Oman*. For sponsorship inquiries, please contact: Mobin Beg, Business Head – Nexus Novel Advertising +968 99440826. Tickets are available on Platinumblist Oman.

TSUNAMI RISKS

Oman observes World Tsunami Awareness Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman joins the world on Wednesday in observing World Tsunami Awareness Day under the theme “Be Tsunami Ready: Invest in Preparedness and Readiness.” This United Nations-designated day aims to enhance global awareness of tsunami risks and highlight the importance of advance preparation and effective planning to mitigate their impact on lives and property. The observance reflects Oman’s commitment to building communities aware of natural disaster risks and fostering a culture of prevention and early response,



thereby contributing to the protection of lives and national assets. The National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center at the Civil Aviation Authority places significant emphasis on developing the tsunami early warning system by up-

dating monitoring and observation systems and strengthening regional and international cooperation for real-time data and information exchange. This ensures the swift and accurate issuance of warnings in the event of any potential threat. In collaboration with the National Emergency Management Center and relevant authorities, the Civil Aviation Authority also works to enhance community and individual readiness through periodic drills, awareness programs, and training, thereby strengthening national capacities in dealing with natural hazards. -ONA

FOR NATIONAL DAY

ROP issues guidelines for pasting stickers on vehicles

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has issued instructions for placing stickers on vehicles in celebration of the Omani national day. The stickers can be pasted on vehicles between November, 5, 2025 to November 30, 2025. According to the Royal Oman Police, it is prohibited to change the vehicle’s colour or shape, add stickers that don’t comply with the traffic safety requirements as well as depicting the



crown and Khanjar emblem on stickers is also banned. **Relevant and appropriate** Additionally, stickers must be limited to relevant and appropriate image or expressions and they must be firmly and properly fixed. It is also prohibited to place stickers on the front or side windows, only images on the rear window are allowed, provided they don’t obstruct the driver’s view. Moreover, placing fabrics and attaching them to the vehicle’s hood is also not allowed.

WIPO

Discussion on innovation protection, intellectual property

MUSCAT: The Regional Meeting for Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) for Arab States began on Wednesday in Muscat. The meeting is organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), with the participation of representatives from Arab countries and a number of experts and specialists in intellectual property, scientific research, and innovation. The meeting included several sessions, during which the latest developments in WIPO’s TISC programme were reviewed, along with the experiences of countries in establishing and managing their TISC networks. Discussions also covered the technical, infrastructure, administrative, and financial aspects supporting these centres. The sessions featured extensive discussions on mechanisms for building national capacities and enhancing cooperation among research, academic, and industrial institutions, in addition to a session presenting the Arab League’s perspective on innovation protec-



tion and intellectual property policies in the region. The meeting will continue its work on Thursday to discuss the Regional Action Plan for TISCs in Arab States, review methods for future cooperation and exchange of experiences, and present a session on the new support packages offered by WIPO to these centers, in preparation for adopting joint recommendations that contribute to consolidating the innovation ecosystem in the region. Nusra Sultan Al Habsi, Director General of Trade at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, emphasised

that the Sultanate of Oman’s hosting of this meeting reflects a firm commitment to enhancing the intellectual property system and supporting the innovation environment, in alignment with the directions of “Oman Vision 2040” aimed at building a knowledge-based economy. She explained that cooperation with WIPO since the signing of the agreement in 2021 has contributed to expanding the network of TISCs in the Sultanate of Oman and providing qualitative services that enable researchers and innovators to access global knowledge resources and develop projects

with economic value. For her part, Dr. Maha Bakheit, Director of the Legal Affairs Department and the Intellectual Property Unit at the Arab League, clarified that regional cooperation among TISCs in Arab countries will create opportunities to support capabilities and transfer knowledge and technical practices in this field. **Exchange expertise** She pointed out that the meeting allowed participants to exchange expertise on developing national TISC networks, noting that there is an increasing positive transformation in Arab countries regarding the establishment of national TISC networks in cooperation with WIPO, aiming to incorporate them into the intellectual property and innovation strategies of Arab countries. In turn, Eng. Khalid Hamoud Al Hinai, Director of the National Intellectual Property Office at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said that this meeting represents an opportunity to enhance capabilities in patent searching and utilising its results to support innovative projects. He noted that these events affirm the Sultanate of Oman’s interest in building an environment conducive to scientific research, protecting innovations and inventions through the intellectual property system, and providing advanced technical and knowledge tools that help innovators, institutions, and scientific research centers develop their projects and protect their intellectual property. Meanwhile, Faisal Ali Al Hinai, Deputy Head of the Sultanate of Oman’s Mission to the World Trade Organization, clarified that the Regional Meeting for TISCs for Arab States is a regional event for coordinating initiatives and strengthening technical cooperation between WIPO and Arab countries, and an opportunity to enhance the bonds of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman, WIPO, and other regional development partners, stressing the Sultanate of Oman’s interest in benefiting from international expertise to serve national development priorities. Growth indicators in the intellectual property system in the Sultanate of Oman point to a noticeable increase in innovation activity. The total number of filed na-

tional patent applications and Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) patents reached approximately 8,837 patents by the end of the third quarter of 2025, reflecting the development of policies supporting research and development in the Sultanate of Oman and the focus on promoting the knowledge economy. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion is continuously working to develop the institutional structure of the intellectual property system and support innovation, facilitate patent registration procedures, provide technical support and consultancy services, expand the TISC network in universities and scientific research centres, and implement specialised and qualitative training programs to build national capacities in intellectual property and innovation support. It is noteworthy that this event coincided with the conclusion of the National Training Workshop on Patent Search organized on November 3rd and 4th, aimed at developing the capabilities of national personnel and enhancing the culture of intellectual property, protection, and innovation support. -ONA

HM the Sultan, Prime Minister of Spain hold bilateral meeting

An expanded official session of talks was convened with the attendance of the Omani official delegation and their Spanish counterparts

MADRID: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain, held a bilateral meeting at the Spanish Council of Ministers headquarters at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid on Wednesday morning, as part of His Majesty's visit to the Kingdom of Spain.

The meeting served to review the profound historical relations between the two nations and explore avenues for their enhancement to achieve greater benefits for both countries' peoples, in addition to deliberating upon the latest international developments and matters of shared interest.

Subsequently, an expanded official session of talks was convened with the attendance of the Omani official delegation and their Spanish counterparts.

The session served to review the established pathways of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Spain, which are built upon enduring foundations of mutual respect and shared interests.



The discussions emphasised the importance of broadening the scope of partnership and investment, particularly in the sectors of energy, renewable energy, logistics, food security, manufacturing, aquaculture, and agricultural production.

This was complemented by a shared commitment to supporting cultural and educational exchange to fulfill the strategic aspirations of both nations and enhance their mutual benefits.

Preceding the session of talks, commemorative photographs were captured of His Majesty the Sultan with the Prime Minister of Spain, following which His Majesty inscribed a message in The Distinguished Visitors' Book. -ONA



LAYS WREATH



HM the Sultan visits monument to the Fallen for Spain in Madrid



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

< FROM A1 Concern raised over humanitarian conditions in Gaza

Both sides reaffirmed their shared dedication to advancing peace and stability in conflict regions worldwide.

Within this framework, the two parties deliberated on contemporary developments and shared assessments of regional circumstances, welcoming the Sharm El-Sheikh peace agreement which resulted in ceasefire implementation, hostage release, and humanitarian access to Gaza.

They acknowledged with appreciation the mediation endeavours undertaken by the United States, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey. The peace agreement represents a renewed beacon of hope, underscoring the imperative of achieving an equitable solution that safeguards the legitimate rights of both Palestine and Israel, founded upon the two-state solution.

They affirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent, sovereign

state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, consistent with international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

In this context, both sides emphasised that the UN General Assembly resolution endorsing the "New York Declaration on the Implementation of the Two-State Solution" should serve as a definitive roadmap toward enduring peace.

They further voiced profound apprehension regarding the catastrophic humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip and affirmed support for international initiatives directed toward comprehensive implementation of the peace agreement across all phases, while stressing the critical necessity of delivering urgent humanitarian assistance to civilians and reconstructing Gaza.

The two leaders urged all involved parties to ensure the successful realization of the peace agreement, uphold international

law and humanitarian principles, and implement immediate, substantive measures that guarantee justice, peace, and security for Palestinians, Israelis, and all regional populations.

Both sides emphasised the paramount importance of resolving disputes and conflicts through diplomatic dialogue and peaceful means, with unwavering respect for international legal principles and the United Nations Charter. They affirmed the central role of diplomatic engagement and agreed to enhance cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels to address regional and international challenges constructively.

On bilateral matters, the two sides highlighted the crucial importance of intergovernmental cooperation in advancing economic partnerships and stimulating growth and innovation.

The visit featured the signing of a Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement for Official Passport Holders,

alongside multiple Memoranda of Understanding encompassing cultural and sporting cooperation, transition to clean energy, investment promotion, water resource management, transportation, and agricultural development.

Both parties expressed contentment with the existing investment partnership and mutual ambition to elevate it to more advanced levels, having explored cooperative opportunities in pivotal sectors including manufacturing, mining, tourism, artificial intelligence, energy, and space technology, with emphasis on establishing a future-oriented framework based on mutual understanding and collaboration.

In the presence of Their Majesties and Their Excellencies the Ministers, a meeting was convened with distinguished representatives from leading Spanish corporations in energy, engineering, technology, and other strategic sectors, focusing on shared pri-

orities and innovative cooperation pathways. Subsequently, the respective Chambers of Commerce conducted negotiations culminating in a signed MoU.

Looking ahead, Oman and Spain reaffirmed their commitment to consolidating their strategic relationship and deepening cooperation across vital sectors, particularly in energy transition focusing on carbon neutrality, renewable energy, and green hydrogen development, alongside collaborative water resource management initiatives, leveraging both nations' extensive expertise in sustainable hydrological solutions.

Recognising the importance of people-to-people connections and rooted in their belief in the profound historical and human ties between the two regions and nations, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Spain expressed their dedication to enhancing cooperation in academic and research exchanges. They empha-

sised the value of knowledge and research sharing, improved archival access, and the launch of joint initiatives in historical studies through partnerships involving governments, academic institutions, and the private sector.

The two sides further expressed satisfaction with the visit's outcomes and determination to build upon the current positive momentum and productive relations to serve mutual interests, reaffirming their commitment to realizing a future characterised by peace, prosperity, sustainability, and global interconnectedness for universal benefit.

His Majesty extended heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to King Felipe VI, Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister and the Spanish nation for the exceptionally warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to His Majesty and the accompanying delegation throughout their stay in the Kingdom of Spain." -ONA

His Majesty concludes visit to Spain

King Felipe VI of the Kingdom of Spain led the farewell party for His Majesty the Sultan at the Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport

MADRID: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik left Madrid on Wednesday afternoon, concluding a three-day visit to the Kingdom of Spain.

King Felipe VI of the Kingdom of Spain led the farewell party for His Majesty the Sultan at the Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport. His Majesty was also seen off by some officials in the King-

dom of Spain and members of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Madrid. Prior to his departure, His Majesty graciously signed the Distinguished Visitors' Book at the airport.

His Majesty the Sultan sent a cable of gratitude and appreciation to King Felipe VI of the Kingdom of Spain, expressing his profound thanks for the splendid reception and gracious hospitality extended to him and the accompanying delegation throughout their visit.

His Majesty the Sultan commended the opportunities created through his meeting with the King of Spain and the Prime Minister to enhance bilateral relations and establish new horizons for partnership and cooperation across diverse economic, investment, cultural, and scientific sectors.

His Majesty further conveyed his heartfelt wishes for the King's enduring success and for the continued prosperity and advancement of the Spanish people.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the visit by a high-level official delegation.



FROM A1 Mutual visa waiver agreement signed between Oman and Spain



This took place within the context of the state visit of His Majesty the Sultan to the Kingdom of Spain.

The agreement pertains to the mutual visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, special, and service passports between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Spain.

The MoUs covered the fields of culture and sports, investment promotion, cooperation in agricultural, livestock, fisheries, and food security fields, areas of water resources management and protection, clean energy and the field of transport and infrastructure.

The agreement and MoUs were signed on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals.

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, they were signed by José Manuel Albares, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Carlos Cuerpo, Minister of Economy, Trade and Business and Luis Planas, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. -ONA



SUMMIT AND AWARDS 2025 Top HR Leaders at Oman Employee Experience (OEX) Summit & Awards 2025

MUSCAT: The Oman Employee Experience (OEX) Summit & Awards 2025 will take place on 10th November at the Inter-Continental Muscat, bringing together Oman's most influential HR and business leaders to discuss the future of work and celebrate excellence in employee engagement and experience. The event is organized by Gulf Leaders Circle, in collaboration with Times of Oman and Muscat Media Group, and supported by the Omani Society for Human Resource Management (OSHRM). Green Umbrella Recruitment is the Strategic Partner for the event.

The summit will be graced by His Excellency Hamed Al-Nazouani, Undersecretary of Housing at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, as the Chief Guest, with keynote speeches from the guests of honour including Dr. Mohammed Al-Najjar, Director General of Training and Development at the Ministry of Labour, and Dr. Ghalib Al Hosni, Chairman of OSHRM.

A key highlight of the summit will be a high-level panel discussion on "Building the Future of Work: Designing Employee Experiences that Matter." The panel will feature leading HR professionals including Shabib Al Mahrooqi, People Director, Petroleum Development Oman; Mahira Saleh Al Raisi, Chief People Officer at Sohar International; Luluwa Al Ismaili, Human Resources Director at Zubair Investment Corporation; Majeed



Al Jabri, Head of HR at GBM; Maryam Al-Shabibi, Founder & Managing Director of Green Umbrella Recruitment; and Dr. Mohamed Ghallab, Founder and Chairman of Interface Inc. The discussion will be moderated by Deepa Swaminathan, Editor of Gulf Leader Circle.

During the day, a series of engaging presentations will explore how organizations can reimagine employee engagement and foster meaningful workplace experiences. The speakers include Nadine Zureikat, Chief Revenue Officer at Elevatus (Saudi Arabia); Yasmine Yehia, Global Employer and Personal Branding Expert at Interface Inc. (Egypt); and Al Hanun Al Barwani, Human Resources Business Partner at OQ8.

The OEX Awards Ceremony will honour over 20 organizations and HR leaders who are pioneering innovative people practices and shaping outstanding workplace cultures in Oman. The awards ceremony will be graced by His Highness Sayyid Dr. Faris Bin Turki Al

Said as the Chief Guest.

The Oman Employee Experience Summit & Awards 2025 is expected to draw over 160 senior HR professionals from key sectors such as banking, finance, oil & gas, utilities, manufacturing, technology and logistics, along with HR consultants, technology providers, policymakers and training experts.

Through a day of dialogue, insights and recognition, the OEX Summit aims to advance the national HR agenda by aligning people strategies with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040 — fostering workplaces that inspire, empower and elevate employee potential.

The event is supported by Oman American Business Council (OABC), Elevatus, MENA HR Solutions, Interface Inc., Infoline, Jotun Paints, McDonald's, GBM and Changan.

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DIGITAL ECONOMY

At HM’s behest, State Council to open third ordinary session on Sunday

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the State Council will open next Sunday, 9 November 2025, the deliberations of its third ordinary session of the eighth term, continuing its national mission of contributing to supporting the comprehensive development march and institutionalising work within the state’s legislative system.

The first session will open with a speech to be delivered by Sheikh



Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

The session will discuss the study by the Technology and Innovation Committee on “Data Management and Governance and Their Impact on the Digital Economy,” in addition to several reports submitted by the members of the Council.

The session will conclude with a discussion of the General Secretariat’s report on the activities of the Council’s bodies. -ONA

Workshop recommends new conservation plan for Arabian leopard

The workshop also recommended the establishment of a specialised research centre for the Arabian leopard in the Dhofar Governorate



SALALAH: Wildlife specialists on Wednesday held a workshop during which they recommended updating the 2025-2030 Arabian Leopard Conservation Strategy.

Organised in the city of Salalah by the Directorate General of Environment in Dhofar Governorate, the workshop recommended steps to enhance national and regional efforts to protect the Arabian leopard and preserve its natural habitats.

In the recommendations, the specialists stressed the need to update the objectives of the Arabian Leopard Conservation Strategy in line with the achievements made during the period from 2014 to 2025. They also laid emphasis on forming a national committee, under the leadership of the Environment Authority, to follow up the implementation of the strategy and ensure integration among the parties concerned.

The workshop also recommended the establishment of a specialised research centre for the Arabian leopard in the Dhofar Governorate. The centre is envisaged to serve as a reference point that contributes to supporting studies and field monitoring, in ad-



dition to updating environmental legislation—with the prime aim of providing more comprehensive protection for the Arabian leopard, its prey and its natural habitats.

The recommendations also called for expanding the scope of nature reserves in the Sultanate of

Oman and training national cadres in cooperation with the Arabian Leopard Fund in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The workshop, which was attended by experts and specialists from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad, assessed the previous national strategy and recommended ways to develop the Arabian leopard protection mechanisms.

The workshop included brainstorming sessions that addressed current environmental challenges and ways to improve the management of the natural habitats of Arabian leopard and affirm the Sultanate of Oman’s position as a leading country in the field of wildlife protection.

The programme of the workshop concluded with a field visit to Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve where the participants were briefed about efforts made with the context of the Arabian Leopard Conservation Project. The efforts highlighted the Sultanate of Oman’s commitment to preserve biodiversity and protect the Arabian Leopard as a natural symbol of national and regional heritage. - ONA



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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Oman showcases its culture and heritage at Sharjah book fair

SHARJAH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and the National Records and Archives Authority, is participating in the 44th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) in the United Arab Emirates.

The event began its activities today under the auspices of Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, and will continue until 16 November at Expo Centre Sharjah.

The Sultanate of Oman’s pavilion is exhibiting a selection of recent and diverse publications in the fields of literary and historical production, covering multiple literary, intellectual, artistic, scientific, and historical specialisations.

This participation reflects the Sultanate of Oman’s commitment to strengthening media and cultural cooperation with the UAE, its firm belief in the importance

of making Omani books available in Arab and international cultural forums, enriching the intellectual and cultural product on the international stage, and promoting the unique tourism components Oman boasts.

The current session brings together more than 2,350 publishing houses, including 1,224 Arab and 1,126 foreign publishers, offering millions of titles and works in various world languages. It also hosts more than 250 creators, writers, and thinkers from 66 countries, presenting over 1,200 cultural, creative, and artistic events.

This year, the Fair celebrates Greece as the Guest of Honour, honouring one of the oldest global civilizations and its pioneering role in enriching human heritage. 58 Greek publishers and cultural institutions are participating, showcasing 600 titles in Greek and other languages, along with over 70 prominent Greek figures, including writers, poets, translators, artists, academics, musicians, and librarians.

- ONA

MUSANDAM GOVERNORATE

Mizi tree has a special place in the culture of Omani people

KHASAB: Al Mizi tree (*Amygdalus arabica*), is one of the prominent environmental and cultural symbols of the Musandam Governorate.

Its presence on the slopes of mountains and valleys embodies the spirit of challenge and adaptation to harsh climatic conditions, reflecting the established values of the governorate’s inhabitants in patience, endurance and coexistence with the rugged mountainous nature.

Noora bint Abdullah Al Shahi, head of Biodiversity Division at the Department of Environment in Musandam Governorate, stated that the Mizi tree is a plant species adapted to the temperate rocky environments, particularly in the Alsi area of Khasab, giving it a distinguished ecological status as a key element in maintaining the natural balance in mountainous regions. This tree also plays a vital role in reducing soil erosion, in addition to providing natural habitats for wildlife and serving as a source of shade and shelter in arid environments characterised by sparse vegetation.

She explained that the Mizi tree is naturally found in the mountains



of Musandam Governorate and part of the Eastern Hajar Mountains at an altitude exceeding 1,000 metres above sea level, and belongs to the legume family.

It is characterised by its evergreen nature and its height, which can reach up to three metres. It is a de-



ciduous tree, as its branches remain leafless for most part of the year. It blooms with pinkish-white flowers, while its fruits are small,

hard, hazelnut-shaped, and covered with fine brown feathers.

This tree is classified as a near-threatened species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, which underscores the need to intensify efforts to protect it and ensure its sustainability in its natural environment.

She added that this tree represents a natural resource and an environmental treasure that must be preserved, calling for concerted official and community efforts to protect it from negative practices such as overgrazing and random uprooting.

She also emphasised the need to raise awareness of its importance in the environmental system and local identity through the implementation of awareness programmes, afforestation initiatives and rehabilitation of mountainous areas, in order to ensure the sustainability of the vegetation cover and its inheritance for future generations.

She explained that the Mezi tree also has a special place in the popular heritage of the people of Musandam, as it is associated with

stories and symbols that express resilience, generosity and connection to the land, thus becoming a natural and cultural icon that reflects the beauty and uniqueness of the Omani environment.

The importance of the Mizi tree is not limited to its environmental value, but extends to include the fields of traditional craft industries in the Musandam Governorate, where its hard wood is used in the manufacture of heritage tools such as the ‘Jarz stick’, which is a symbol of the authentic Omani heritage. Its wood is also used in the manufacture of handles, agricultural tools and some wooden items that express the skill of local craftsmen and their ancient heritage.

She emphasised that preserving the Mizi tree is not just about protecting a local plant, but about protecting an environmental and cultural identity rooted in the Musandam mountains, calling for its inclusion in school awareness programs and voluntary environmental initiatives to ensure its continued presence as an authentic symbol of balance between man and nature. - ONA

Italian National Unity and Armed Forces Day celebrated

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Commodore Khalid bin Ali bin Mohammed Al Muqbali, Director of Military Sports at the Ministry of Defence, Captain (Navy) Mario Bertero, Italian Defence Attaché and His Excellency Pierluigi D’Elia, Ambassador of Italy to the Sultanate of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Embassy of Italy in Muscat hosted a distinguished reception on Tuesday to mark the Italian National Unity and Armed Forces Day, a day of great national significance commemorating the unification of Italy and the courage of its Armed Forces.

Held under the patronage of Commodore Khalid bin Ali bin Mohammed Al Muqbali, Director of Military Sports at the Ministry of Defence, Captain (Navy) Mario Bertero, Italian Defence Attaché and His Excellency Pierluigi

D’Elia, Ambassador of Italy to the Sultanate of Oman, the ceremony welcomed high-ranking officials from the Omani government and military institutions, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the business community, and friends of Italy.

The evening opened with the National Anthems of the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Italy, followed by remarks from Ambassador D’Elia, who emphasised the importance of this commemoration in strengthening the shared values of peace, unity, and international cooperation between the



two nations. In his address, Captain Mario Bertero highlighted the mission and values of the Italian

Armed Forces, said: “The Italian Armed Forces stand as a symbol of courage, professionalism, and ded-

ication — serving not only the nation but also the global community through peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and maritime security operations. This day reminds us that strength lies in unity, and unity is the foundation of peace.”

During the ceremony, Captain Bertero presented the Italian Naval Academy Dagger (Khanjar), accompanied by a diploma signed by Admiral Enrico Credendino, Chief of the Italian Navy, to Sub-Lieutenant Said bin Hammed bin Ali Al Anboori of the Royal Navy of Oman, in recognition of his exceptional merit and commitment.

A highlight of the evening was

also the presentation of the “Star of Italy” to Mrs. Donatella Donatelli, Head of Marketing, Communication & CRM at Mercedes-Benz Oman. The prestigious honour was conferred by Ambassador Pierluigi D’Elia on behalf of the President of the Italian Republic, in acknowledgment of her outstanding contribution to promoting friendship and cultural exchange between Italy and Oman.

Ambassador D’Elia, in his remarks during the decoration ceremony, stated: “Mrs. Donatelli represents the excellence and creativity that define the Italian and European spirit. Her achievements, both as a professional and as a proud Italian and European, have built bridges between our two countries and inspired mutual respect and admiration. The Star of Italy is a well-deserved tribute to her dedication and talent.”

Following the award presentation, the Italian Defence Attaché and the Italian Ambassador, joined the Guest of Honour, for the cutting of the celebratory cake, marking the culmination of the formal proceedings. The evening concluded with a festive Italian buffet, offering guests a taste of Italy’s culinary heritage and warm hospitality.

UNITED NATIONS TOURISM ORGANISATION

UN forum to review current trends in international tourism

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will take part in the 26th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Tourism Organisation, to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 7 to 11 November 2025—under the theme “AI-powered Tourism: Redefining the future.”

Oman’s delegation to the meeting will be led by Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism.

The session will see the election of a new Secretary General for the UN Tourism Organisation. It will also review the Secretary General’s report on current trends in international tourism and the financial situation of the UN Tourism Organisation.

The minister said that the meetings of the UN Tourism Organisation provide opportunities to exchange experiences and discuss key issues of relevance to global tourism, including innovation, digital transition and artificial intelligence (AI).

He added that technology and education have become two basic pillars for building a smart and sustainable tourism sector.



The minister pointed out that the Ministry is embarked on developing national expertise in the fields of digital tourism and desti-

nation management.

He said that tourism has become an integrated system for development and building bridges among people belonging to different cultures. He explained that the use of AI and digital technologies will contribute to improving the experience of tourists, augmenting the efficiency of operational procedures and supporting innovation in the management of tourist destinations and services.

The minister laid emphasis on the importance of investing in the human capital to achieve competitiveness and sustainability in the tourism sector. -ONA

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS DISCUSSED

National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking holds meeting

MUSCAT: The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (NCCHT) held its periodic meeting on Wednesday, chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs and Chairman of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking.

During the meeting, the committee members welcomed the issuance of the new Anti-Human Trafficking Law, and discussed its most prominent provisions and its importance in bolstering the efforts and work of the committee.

The committee discussed the



latest developments in the implementation of the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking in the Sultanate of Oman (2024-2026) and reviewed the level of achievement, most notably the currently ongoing

“Aman” (Safety) Campaign. Member entities also reviewed their efforts and activities aimed at consecrating awareness of the importance of countering the crime of human trafficking.

— ONA

WORLD CANCER CONGRESS

Focus on cancer control, research

MUSCAT: The World Cancer Congress, Summit and Exhibition 2025, held in Muscat, is consolidating its position as a leading regional and international scientific and medical platform through the rich scientific activities and specialised research discussions it hosts in the fields of cancer treatment, research, and prevention.

The third day of the Congress

maintained its scientific and research momentum through a series of specialised sessions that addressed the latest developments in the diagnosis and treatment of tumours, with the participation of an elite group of physicians, consultants, researchers, and nursing experts from inside and outside Oman.

Experts and speakers during

the Congress sessions emphasised the importance of keeping pace with the latest global developments in cancer control and strengthening cooperation between academic and research institutions and specialised medical centres. This contributes to achieving the best treatment outcomes for patients and improving their quality of life. — ONA

MENTAL HEALTH

Seminar on promoting mental health, life quality organised

SOHAR: The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) in Sohar on Wednesday organised a seminar on mental health, titled “Psychological Balance.”

The seminar included three working papers. The first paper dealt with the concept of psychological balance and strategies to

achieve it. The second paper focused on the role of social relations in promoting psychological balance. The third paper discussed psychological balance in modern life and its relation to stability in study and at work. The seminar also included entertainment activities and competitions aimed at promot-

ing positive interaction among the participants and applying the concepts of psychological awareness.

The event concluded recommendations requiring academic departments and civil society institutions to upgrade sustainable awareness programmes in the field of mental health. — ONA

Investment Manager Report			
On behalf of the Fund Management Board, I am pleased to present the unaudited financial results of ahli Global Equity Fund for the quarter ended 30th September 2025:			
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED	Sep-25	Sep-24	
Net asset value (RO)	3,362,349	3,259,661	
Number of units	3,373,193	3,285,311	
Net asset value per unit (RO)	0.900	0.858	
Net profit/(loss)	230,277	277,469	
For the period ended 30th September 2025, the Fund posted a quarter-to-date return of 4.6%, outperforming the benchmark return of 4.2% by a margin of 0.4%. On a year-to-date basis, the Fund has returned 7.8% versus the benchmark return of 6.2%, continuing to deliver consistent alpha in a complex market environment.			
Key positive contributors during the quarter included TSMC, Al Rajhi Bank, and Etihad Etisalat, which benefited from structural growth drivers and robust earnings momentum. The Fund's emphasis on 25-35 high-quality global businesses with strong balance sheets and pricing power continued to add value in a constructive market environment.			
Markets Performance			
Global equities extended their rally in Q3 2025, supported by resilient corporate earnings and greater clarity following the Federal Reserve's rate cut. The MSCI World Index gained +7.0% during the quarter, while Emerging Markets outperformed strongly at +10.1%, led by robust gains in China (+12.7%). The rally was underpinned by easing macroeconomic uncertainty and sustained investor confidence in technology and cyclical sectors.			
U.S. equities delivered steady advances, with the S&P 500 up +7.8% and the Nasdaq rising +8.8%, driven by continued strength in the technology sector and expectations of looser financial conditions in the coming quarters. European markets also posted solid returns, with the Euro Stoxx 50 up +4.3%.			
Within Emerging Markets, China rebounded on policy support and improving investor sentiment, while India and Latin America benefited from strong capital inflows.			
Despite strong global performance, GCC markets delivered mixed results. The S&P GCC Index rose +3.5%, reflecting selective investor appetite but improving sentiment across several markets. Oman led the region with a +15.1% surge, supported by robust fiscal momentum and rising investor participation. Kuwait (+6.0%) and Saudi Arabia (+3.0%) also advanced, buoyed by optimism around regulatory reforms and earnings recovery. However, Dubai (+2.3%) and Abu Dhabi (+1.6%) posted modest gains, while Bahrain (-1.9%) edged lower.			
			
*As of 30th September 2025			
Market Outlook			
Our outlook for the remainder of 2025 remains constructively balanced, as the global economy continues to navigate moderating inflation, easing financial conditions, and improving corporate fundamentals. The post-rate-cut environment has strengthened investor sentiment, though persistent volatility in energy prices and uncertainty around the pace of global growth warrant selective positioning.			
Markets now anticipate two additional 25bps rate cuts from the U.S. Federal Reserve by year-end, contingent on inflation data. Central banks across Europe and Asia are expected to maintain an accommodative stance, providing further liquidity support to risk assets.			
Corporate earnings remain the key catalyst for equity performance. Investors are likely to continue favoring companies with margin resilience, strong balance sheets, and exposure to structural growth themes such as artificial intelligence, healthcare innovation, and clean energy. Select opportunities also persist in consumer and industrial sectors benefiting from cyclical recovery.			
In the GCC, fundamentals remain solid, anchored by fiscal surpluses, ongoing diversification efforts, and large-scale infrastructure programs. While lower oil prices and selective capex reprioritization in Saudi Arabia may temper near-term momentum, activity in sectors linked to non-oil diversification — including digital transformation, logistics, and mining — is expected to remain robust.			
ahli Global equityfund			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025			
	30-Sep-25	30-Sep-24	31-Dec-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	RO	RO	RO
ASSETS			
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3,351,620	3,198,137	3,253,867
Cash and cash equivalents	17,996	87,096	19,969
Dividend Receivable	-	78	-
Amount due from brokers	3,577	-	3,577
Total assets	3,373,193	3,285,311	3,277,413
LIABILITIES			
Accruals and other payables	10,235	16,446	12,897
Amount due to unitholders	609	9,204	619
Total liabilities	10,844	25,650	13,516
Net assets attributable to the unitholders	3,362,349	3,259,661	3,263,897
Total liabilities and net assets attributable to the unitholders	3,373,193	3,285,311	3,277,413
Net assets per unit attributable to the unitholders	0.900	0.858	0.860
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025			
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	30-Sep-25	30-Sep-24	31-Dec-24
Income			
Dividend income	102,374	112,751	128,074
Net unrealised gain on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	241,211	113,743	97,089
Net realised (loss)/ gain on sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(58,900)	111,219	141,564
Other income	4,102	2	-
Net investment income	288,787	337,715	366,727
Expenses			
Management fees	(30,216)	(29,077)	(39,078)
Custody fees	(9,244)	(4,738)	(6,400)
General and administrative expenses	(19,049)	(26,430)	(37,659)
Total expenses	(58,510)	(60,245)	(83,137)
Profit and total comprehensive income and increase in net assets attributable to unit holders for the period/ year	230,277	277,469	283,590
Profit per unit	0.061	0.077	0.078
			

SPORTS

ICC DECISION

Rauf gets two-match ban; Suryakumar, Bumrah sanctioned after Asia Cup drama

DUBAI: Haris Rauf missed the first ODI against South Africa on Tuesday, and will be unavailable for the second one as well, as he serves an ICC ban. He has accumulated four demerit points, from two separate offences that occurred during Pakistan's matches against India during Asia Cup 2025.

Though the ICC said on their official website that Rauf's violations took place on September 14 and 28, they in fact occurred in the games on 21 September and the final, 28 September.

Rauf's sanction was one of many that resulted from incidents during the three India-Pakistan games across the Asia Cup. India captain



Suryakumar Yadav also picked up two demerit points under the same charge, following comments he made after India's win over Pakistan on September 14.



The ICC officially made the sanctions public on Tuesday, five weeks after the conclusion of the tournament. Sahibzada Farhan also received

an official warning and a demerit point for an offence on September 21, though, once more, the ICC attributed it to September 14. Jasprit Bumrah picked one up

for a gesture he made during the final. Meanwhile, Arshdeep Singh was charged with a breach of Article 2.6, which pertains to using a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting, for actions on September 21. He was ultimately found not guilty.

All the charges resulted from a trio of ill-tempered games between India and Pakistan at the Asia Cup, during which political tensions spilled over onto the field. India refused to shake hands with the Pakistan players in any of the three games, a move Pakistan captain Salman Agha criticised as "not in the spirit of the game". Suryakumar countered by say-

ing a "few things" were "bigger than sportsman's spirit".

The tournament ended with the first-ever Asia Cup final between India and Pakistan. India won a thrilling encounter in the final over.

However, the drama was not done. At the presentation ceremony, India's players refused to accept their trophy from ACC president and PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who insisted on handing it over himself.

After a lengthy delay, India celebrated on the podium without the trophy.

The trophy has still not been given to the Indian team. - Agencies

OPENING ODI

Pakistan defeat Proteas in tense Faisalabad finish

FAISALABAD: Pakistan survived a late scare to beat South Africa by two wickets in a nerve-wracking opening ODI at the Iqbal Stadium on Tuesday night, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chasing 264, Pakistan appeared in full control for most of the innings before a late collapse nearly undid their earlier dominance. Mohammad Rizwan (55) and Salman Agha (62) laid the platform with a composed 91-run stand after an 87-run opening partnership between Fakhar Zaman (45) and Saim Ayub (39) had set up the chase perfectly. Yet, what seemed a routine pursuit turned into a thriller before victory was sealed with two balls to spare.

Earlier, South Africa were bowled out for 263, with Quinton de Kock (63) and debutant Lhuan-dre Pretorius (57) providing the foundation before Pakistan's bowlers wrestled back control. Naseem Shah (3 for 40) and Abrar Ahmed (3 for 53) triggered a middle-order collapse as South Africa lost five wickets for 37 runs.

Pretorius reached a 47-ball fifty, while de Kock was fluent on his ODI return, guiding South Africa to 98/1 in the 16th over. However, once Pretorius miscued

Saim Ayub to mid-off and de Kock chopped Naseem onto his stumps, the innings lost steam.

Abrar spun his way through the middle overs, removing captain Matthew Breetzke (42) and Bjorn Fortuin in quick succession, while Nawaz and Ayub kept things tight. A late flurry from Corbin Bosch (41) lifted South Africa past 260, but it proved just short on a flat track.

Pakistan's chase began with authority. Fakhar and Ayub attacked South Africa's seamers, racing to 87 in 15 overs. But debutant Donovan Ferreira turned the tide briefly, removing both openers before Fortuin trapped Babar Azam for 7 to silence the Faisalabad crowd. Rizwan and Agha then steadied the ship with sensible accumulation, pushing Pakistan close to victory.

However, when Rizwan flicked Bosch to deep square and Hussain Talat and Agha followed soon after, Pakistan's chase stumbled. From 241/5, they slipped to 252/7 in 48 overs, leaving 12 to win.

Brief scores: Pakistan 264/8 in 49.4 overs (Agha 62, Rizwan 55; Bosch 2-32, Ngidi 2-46) beat South Africa 263 (de Kock 63, Pretorius 57, Naseem 3-40, Abrar 3-53) by two wickets. - Agencies



West Indies edge NZ in Auckland thriller



Shai Hope's fifty rescued WI from 43/3, while Roston Chase starred with an all-round show as tourists go 1-0 up in the T20I series



AUCKLAND: West Indies held their nerve to claim a dramatic seven-run victory over New Zealand in the opening T20I at Eden Park on Wednesday, surviving a late blitz from skipper Mitchell Santner to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Chasing 165, New Zealand were reeling at 107/9 before Santner launched a stunning counter-attack, smashing an unbeaten 55 from just 28 balls.

His late fireworks — featuring eight fours and two maximums — nearly pulled off a miraculous win, but Romario Shepherd bowled a composed final over to deny the hosts. The result marked

the lowest total ever successfully defended in a T20I at Eden Park.

Earlier, skipper Shai Hope's composed half-century and Roston Chase's all-round brilliance rescued the visitors from a rocky start. Hope's 53 off 39 balls guided the West Indies from 43/3 to a competitive total of 164/6, while Chase chipped in with 28 off 27 and later spun a web around New Zealand's middle order to return 3/26.

Matthew Forde, making his comeback after a shoulder injury, gave the West Indies early control with a lively new-ball spell. Bowling with sharp swing and accuracy, the right-armer dismissed Devon Conway with a peach that clipped the

top of off stump and conceded just nine runs in his first three overs. His figures were blemished only by Santner's late assault, which cost him 23 runs in the 18th over.

Forde's early strikes set the tone as New Zealand collapsed spectacularly, losing 7 wickets for 37 runs after reaching 70/2. Jaydon Seales joined the act with 3/32, exploiting the extra bounce and movement to dismantle the middle order. What had looked like a routine chase turned into a nightmare until Santner's late stand, which produced a record 50-run partnership for the tenth wicket in T20Is for New Zealand.

West Indies' innings had earlier

begun in uncertain fashion. The top order struggled to adjust to the bounce and pace of Eden Park. Brandon King, Alick Athanaze, and Ackeem Auguste all perished to mistimed strokes as Jacob Duffy (2 for 19) and Kyle Jamieson applied early pressure.

Rovman Powell (33 off 22) added valuable runs in the death overs despite two lives in the field, while Chase's late cameo helped the West Indies reach what looked a par total.

Brief scores: West Indies 164/6 (Hope 53, Powell 33; Duffy 2-19) beat New Zealand 157/9 (Santner 55*, Chase 3-26, Seales 3-32) by seven runs. - Agencies



TWO-MATCH SERIES

Pant returns to India's Test squad for South Africa series

MUMBAI: Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has returned to India's Test squad for the two-match series against South Africa beginning on November 14 in Kolkata.

Pant replaced N Jagadeesan while Akash Deep took Prasidh Krishna's spot in the squad that beat West Indies 2-0 in October. Pant had missed that series as he was recovering from the foot fracture he suffered during the fourth Test against England in Manchester in July.

Akash Deep was recovering from a back injury that had kept

him out of the Duleep Trophy after his return from England; he has since played the first two rounds of the Ranji Trophy for Bengal.

Pant proved his match fitness by captaining India A to victory in the first four-day game against South Africa A at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru last week. Pant made 90 in the second innings as India A chased down a target of 275.

India's Test captain Shubman Gill, Jasprit Bumrah, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar are cur-

rently playing the T20I series in Australia, and will join the Test squad after the five-match series ends on November 8.

Kuldeep Yadav was released from the T20I squad after the third match in Hobart so that he could prepare for the Test series by playing India A's second four-day game against South Africa A starting on November 6.

India play two Tests against South Africa from November 14 in Kolkata, and then from November 22 in Guwahati, a city that will be hosting Test cricket for the first



time. India are currently third in the World Test Championship table with 61.90% points; South Africa, meanwhile, are fifth with 50% points, having most recently drawn a series 1-1 in Pakistan.

India's Test squad

Shubman Gill (capt), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep

India A's squad

Tilak Varma (capt), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vc), Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Ishan Kishan (wk), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Vipraj Nigam, Manav Suthar, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Prabh-simran Singh (wk). - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by January 2026 reaching \$65.57, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 24 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$65.33. - **OMA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 5,565.87 points, down by -0.89% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.48% at 476.54 points. Salalah Mills, up 8.06%, was the top gainer while, Ominvest, down 3.95%, was the top loser.

OQ signs strategic agreements to strengthen Oman's gas value chain

Through sustainable investments that unlock greater value from Oman's natural resources, OQ continues to advance the readiness of existing and future projects in Duqm, Sohar and Sur, while further establishing Oman as a regional centre for petrochemicals and clean energy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ, the global energy investment group, has taken a new step in reinforcing its role in Oman's gas sector transformation, signing five agreements and one memorandum of cooperation with the Integrated Gas Company (IGC). The agreements aim to strengthen the resilience and integration of Oman's gas value chain, from upstream exploration to downstream industries, ensuring reliable supply for industrial growth across Oman. The milestone aligns with OQ's long-term strategy to position gas as a key enabler of industrial development and economic diversification. Through sustainable investments that unlock greater



value from Oman's natural resources, OQ continues to advance the readiness of existing and future projects in Duqm, Sohar and Sur, while further establishing Oman as a regional centre for petrochemicals and clean energy. As part of Duqm's industrial expansion, the first agreement is a gas supply term sheet that secures the supply of 48 million cubic meters of natural gas per day for 20 years to the Saih Nihayda NGL Extraction Project. The project's first phase will include facilities for gas separation, storage and export in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD). The Term Sheet, as a second phase, provides for the allocation of gas resources to the planned Duqm Petrochemicals Complex, with a potential ethane production capacity of one million tonnes per year, creating an integrated industrial ecosystem that

enhances in-country value.

This agreement was signed by Ashraf Hamed Al Mamari, Group Chief Executive Officer of OQ and Abdul Rahman Humaid Al Yahyaei, Chief Executive Officer of IGC. The second agreement enables OQEP to sell its share of natural gas from Block 65 to IGC, enhancing flexibility and sustainability within Oman's domestic gas supply network and ensuring the steady flow of gas to industrial clients. This agreement was signed by Eng. Mahmoud Abdullah Al Hashmi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of OQEP. In the liquefied natural gas (LNG) segment, the third agreement enables Marsa LNG to receive and transport up to 150 million standard cubic feet per day of natural gas from its entitled share in the Mabrouk field (Block 10), where Marsa LNG holds a 33.19%

interest. A joint venture between TotalEnergies (80%) and OQ Exploration & Production (20%), Marsa LNG represents a strategic milestone in Oman's downstream evolution, developing the nation's first LNG bunkering project and reinforcing Sohar Port's role as a regional centre for clean energy. The gas, supplied through the OQ Gas Networks (OQGN) system, will provide the essential feedstock for the Marsa LNG's new facilities under development at Sohar Port. The agreement was signed by Fares El Khazen, Chief Executive Officer of Marsa LNG. In the downstream sector, the fourth agreement was signed between Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) and IGC to renew an existing natural gas supply contract for 10 years and to define the commercial and operational framework for the sale and pur-

chase of 4.3 million cubic meters of gas per day (equivalent to 161,000 MMBtu/day). This agreement will ensure the continued production of ammonia and urea through secured feedstock and was signed by Dr. Ahmed Said Al Marhoubi, CEO of OMIFCO. To ensure infrastructure sustainability in Duqm, IGC signed a fifth agreement with Marafiq to supply natural gas to the Duqm power and water desalination plant, guaranteeing consistent energy and water services critical to SEZAD's continued growth. This agreement was signed by Talal Al Lawati, VP Commercial and Investments at Marafiq. To advance the clean energy transition, OQAE signed a Memorandum of cooperation with IGC to advance gas efficiency through electrification of high-energy systems, greater use of renewa-

bles across industrial facilities, adoption of ISO 50001 energy management standards, and pilot initiatives to optimise energy performance. The memorandum was signed by Ghalib Said Al Mamari, Acting CEO of OQAE. Ashraf Hamed Al Mamari, Group Chief Executive Officer of OQ, said: "The signing of five agreements and a memorandum of cooperation by OQ and its subsidiaries underscores the Group's continued efforts to maximise the value of Oman's natural resources and advance its investment strategy. We value this strategic partnership with IGC as a model of national integration in developing the gas ecosystem and strengthening the sustainability of supply. Through its fully integrated value chain, OQ and its international partners contribute to gas production from several major fields that together represent around 40% of Oman's total gas output. The Group also operates a gas transportation network extending more than 4,000 kilometres across Oman. Over the past years, OQ has channelled its gas revenues into growth projects valued at nearly USD 29 billion, including the Polymer Complex, the Duqm Refinery (OQ8), and the ammonia, methanol and LPG plants, all of which have played a pivotal role in supporting Oman's economic development." He added: "Reliable gas supply remains essential to accelerating investments in industrial and petrochemical sectors that underpin the government's diversification agenda, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040." Through these strategic initiatives, OQ continues to shape Oman's gas ecosystem as a catalyst for sustainable growth, building an integrated, future-ready industrial base anchored in efficiency, innovation and environmental responsibility and advancing the national ambition of achieving net zero by 2050.

IN Q3 CY25

Corporate deals in India hit six-quarter high, recording \$44.3 billion in transactions

NEW DELHI: The corporate deal market in the country continued its strong growth momentum in the third quarter (July-September) of calendar year 2025 (Q3 CY25), recording 999 transactions with a total value of USD 44.3 billion, according to a report by PwC. As per the report, this marks the highest level in the past six quarters, reflecting a 13 per cent rise in deal volume and a sharp 64 per cent increase in value compared with the previous quarter. **Upward trajectory** It stated "India's deal market continued its upward trajectory in Q3 CY25, recording 999 transactions valued at \$44.3 billion". The deal market refers to the overall market activity involving corporate transactions, such as Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A), where companies buy, merge, or acquire other companies. Another type is Private Equity (PE) investments, where investment firms or funds invest money in companies, either by buying a stake or providing funding for their growth. The report noted that the growth in the third quarter followed a slight dip in Q2 CY25, with mergers and acquisitions (M&A) driving the uptrend. In the third quarter, the M&A activity saw 518 transactions worth USD 28 billion, representing a 26 per cent increase in volume and an impressive 80 per cent jump in value on a quarter-on-quarter basis. The average M&A deal size also rose to USD 74 million in Q3

CY25 from USD 59 million in Q2 CY25, suggesting a strong preference for larger, high-impact strategic deals across sectors. Domestic M&A remained the primary growth driver, accounting for 381 deals, a 30% increase over the previous quarter. **Cross-border deals** Cross-border deals also strengthened, with inbound transactions rising to 55 and outbound deals (Indian investments overseas) increasing to 82, both reaching their highest levels in six quarters. This trend suggests that India remains a magnet for global investors, as Indian companies expand their international reach. Private equity (PE) activity stayed stable during the quarter. The average PE deal size increased to \$38 million in Q3 CY25 from \$27 million in Q2 CY25, indicating a renewed focus on larger, higher-quality investments. **Transition** The report further highlighted that over the past six quarters, India's total deal volume has expanded by 61 per cent, while the overall deal value has nearly doubled. This highlights the country's transition toward a more mature and value-driven investment environment. Both M&A and PE investors are increasingly targeting strategic, scale-oriented, and globally relevant opportunities. With higher activity levels and growing deal sizes, Q3 CY25 reinforces India's position as one of the world's most dynamic deal markets. -**ANI**

BUSINESS DIALOGUE

Invest Oman's visit to Brazil aimed at strengthening bilateral investment and trade cooperation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, represented by Invest Oman, has concluded an official visit to the Federative Republic of Brazil as part of ongoing efforts to enhance economic and investment cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Brazil, and to explore new avenues for partnership across priority sectors for both nations. During the visit, the delegation organised the Advantage Oman Business Dialogue and held a series of productive meetings with key Brazilian entities, including the Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce. The visit also featured bilateral engagements with several leading Brazilian companies in the fields of mining, logistics, manufacturing, agriculture, and renewable energy. These meetings served to showcase Oman's diverse investment opportunities and to highlight the economic advantages and infrastructure that position the Sultanate as a strategic regional hub for business and investment. The delegation also conducted a field visit to the iron ore mines of Vale, one of the world's largest mining corporations, to learn about the company's industrial practices and modern sustainability technologies. Discussions focused on potential cooperation in mining and metals, as well as on the exchange of technical expertise and knowledge. Commenting on the visit, Ola Al Suleimaniya, from the Market Targeting Team at Invest Oman, stated that this mission aligns with Oman's broader economic direction to strengthen international



investment cooperation and diversify global partnerships, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. She emphasized that the initiative supports Oman's ambition to build a competitive and sustainable economy, diversify national income sources, empower the private sector, and attract high-value, quality investments that contribute to long-term growth. Brazil is recognized as one of the

world's leading emerging economies, with exports totaling USD 337 billion and imports reaching USD 263 billion in 2024, according to recent economic reports. China and the United States remain Brazil's top trading partners, while its trade relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have witnessed strong growth, with exports to the GCC reaching USD 10.7 billion in 2024.

Bilateral trade between Oman and Brazil has also seen steady progress. Brazilian exports to Oman increased by 16%, reaching OMR 547 million, while imports from Oman amounted to OMR 28.8 million. Metals—particularly iron—constitute the largest share of trade between the two nations. At the same time, there is growing potential for collaboration in agri-food industries, industrial manufacturing, energy, and logistics. During the visit, the Invest Oman team showcased a range of investment opportunities across Oman's special economic zones and free zones—particularly in Duqm, Sohar, and Salalah—which serve as strategic platforms for Brazilian investors in logistics, storage, agri-processing, and clean energy. The team emphasized Oman's unique geographic position, connecting Asian, African, and Arab markets, as a key enabler for regional and global expansion.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Salalah Mills, up 8.06%, was the top gainer while, Ominvest, down 3.95%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,565.87 points, down by -0.89% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.48% at 476.54 points. Salalah Mills, up 8.06%, was the top gainer while, Ominvest, down 3.95%, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 6096 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 25.69 million, with more than 108.2 million shares changing hands. Out of 58 traded securities, 10 advanced, 26 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 1098K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 937K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 161K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 9,118.76 points, down -0.82%. Prices of Takaful Oman, Bank

Dhofar, National Bank Oman were up by 3.92%, 0.63%, 0.28% respectively. Prices of Ominvest, Al Anwar Investment, Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank, Al Sharqia Investment were down by 3.95%, 2.80%, 2.44%, 1.27%, 1.19% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,276.92 points, down -0.40%. Prices of Salalah Mills, Oman Chlorine, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 8.06%, 4.17%, 0.35% respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy were down by 1.24%, 1.22%, 0.75% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.82% before closing at 2,255.69 points. Prices of Majan College, Sembcorp Salalah were up by 1.64%, 1.08% respectively. Prices of Abraj Energy, Al Suwadi Power, National Gas, Al Batinah Power, Al Jazeera Services were down by 2.40%, 2.30%, 1.19%, 1.15%, 1.10% respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	5,614.93	5,537.08	5,565.87	5,616.02	-50.15	-0.89	
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,188.73	9,081.21	9,118.76	9,193.91	-75.15	-0.82	
Industry Index	7,315.26	7,260.59	7,276.92	7,305.95	-29.03	-0.40	
Services Index	2,272.79	2,246.80	2,255.69	2,274.30	-18.61	-0.82	
MSX Shariah Index	478.90	475.15	476.54	478.84	-2.30	-0.48	
MSX TR INDEX	8,427.34	8,310.49	8,353.71	8,428.98	-75.27	-0.89	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	10,916.53	10,788.79	10,833.40	10,922.68	-89.28	-0.82	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	9,019.09	8,951.68	8,971.81	9,007.60	-35.79	-0.40	
SERVICES TR IDX	2,951.08	2,917.34	2,928.88	2,953.04	-24.17	-0.82	
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	0.00	0.00	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
108,207,696	25,692,878	6,096	31,346,260,219	10	26	22	58

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (R)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	976,854	352,800	11	0.390	0.395	0.390	0.391	0.390	0.001	0.278	0.391	0.391	0.395	0.100	586,966,624
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,053	4,114	7	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150	0.000	0.000	2.150	2.100	2.150	0.100	192,855,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	500	290	1	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.000	0.000	0.580	0.580	0.600	0.100	72,440,817
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	288,800	18,483	14	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	22,732,147
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	1,774	294	2	0.166	0.166	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.155	0.163	0.100	33,000,000
OM0000004430	BANK MUZNA	2,600,841	270,491	50	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.100	233,243,115
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	106,000	9,214	8	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.089	0.100	15,250,000
OM0000005968	QOHEDOO	9,042	1,215	3	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.236	-0.001	-0.424	0.235	0.232	0.240	0.100	152,971,894
OM0000006026	OMANI TELECOM	1,248,255	1,292,981	72	1.037	1.039	1.030	1.032	1.038	-0.006	-0.578	1.032	1.032	1.032	0.100	774,900,000
OM0000006296	BANK MUSCAT	20,571,861	9,890,331	1,158	0.335	0.336	0.332	0.335	0.337	-0.002	-0.593	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.100	2,514,643,016
OM0000006224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	296,897	55,859	32	0.281	0.282	0.287	0.292	0.294	-0.002	-0.680	0.292	0.286	0.292	0.100	89,031,720
OM0000006961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,611	6,155	6	0.931	0.931	0.931	0.931	0.938	-0.007	-0.746	0.931	0.925	0.930	0.100	87,153,854
OM0000008072	QO GAS NETWORKS	18,286,963	3,331,820	852	0.184	0.184	0.181	0.183	0.185	-0.002	-1.081	0.183	0.183	0.184	0.100	792,504,177
OM0000008226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	92,392	16,623	17	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.182	-0.001	-1.099	0.180	0.178	0.180	0.100	771,738
OM0000008425	ALBATINAH POWER	257,036	44,412	14	0.173	0.173	0.172	0.172	0.174	-0.002	-1.149	0.172	0.172	0.173	0.100	116,890,638
OM0000008240	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	20,000	1,660	3	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.100	747,000
OM0000008188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	544,115	87,808	39	0.162	0.164	0.161	0.162	0.164	-0.002	-1.220	0.162	0.161	0.163	0.100	35,640,000
OM0000008204	ASAFFA FOODS	23,375	11,169	8	0.472	0.480	0.472	0.479	0.485	-0.006	-1.237	0.479	0.450	0.479	0.100	57,880,000
OM0000008398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	20,525,331	3,174,217	771	0.156	0.156	0.153	0.155	0.157	-0.002	-1.274	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.100	1,025,873,172
OM0000008483	AL SUWADI POWER	345,318	59,803	35	0.173	0.173	0.170	0.170	0.174	-0.004	-2.289	0.170	0.170	0.172	0.100	12,148,078
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	3,559,978	1,019,640	837	0.290	0.290	0.282	0.285	0.292	-0.007	-2.397	0.285	0.285	0.300	0.100	219,507,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	102,143	32,301	12	0.316	0.320	0.315	0.316	0.329	-0.013	-3.951	0.316	0.316	0.322	0.100	295,684,864
Total	22	78,866,119	18,712,392	3,942												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	100	39	1	0.389	0.389	0.389	0.389	0.390	0.009	8.056	0.389	0.390	0.389	0.100	24,298,132
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	187	47	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.240	0.010	4.167	0.250	0.000	0.255	0.100	17,877,210
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	10,000	530	1	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.051	0.002	3.922	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.100	13,250,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	72,012	8,895	15	0.122	0.125	0.122	0.124	0.122	0.002	1.638	0.124	0.122	0.125	0.100	11,180,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	96,250	8,710	13	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.091	0.085	0.091	0.100	59,021,719
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	451,200	84,826	29	0.190	0.190	0.188	0.188	0.186	0.002	1.075	0.188	0.186	0.188	0.100	179,459,227
OM0000008869	THE PEARL REIF	38,327	5,560	14	0.145	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.145	0.001	0.680	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.100	86,349,784
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	294,959	46,020	178	0.156	0.159	0.156	0.159	0.158	0.001	0.633	0.159	0.157	0.159	0.100	483,327,967
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	24,170	722	11	0.298	0.298	0.291	0.291	0.290	0.001	0.345	0.291	0.285	0.291	0.100	13,317,947
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV.	4,000	1,000	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.240	0.250	0.100	12,401,035
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	80,015	4,003	9	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	15,357,216
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	78,081	1,578	8	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.100	1,449,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	4,350	879	4	0.219	0.219	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.205	0.100	3,524,733
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	13,091	1,633	2	0.124	0.125	0.124	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.122	0.125	0.100	39,427,125
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	100	31	1	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.000	0.000	0.305	0.305	0.300	0.100	48,836,175
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	9,248	737	5	0.797	0.797	0.797	0.797	0.797	0.000	0.000	0.797	0.797	0.797	0.100	48,836,175
OM0000003000	AL JAZEERA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	662	662	1	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.990	0.999	0.100	69,000,000
OM0000004248	SVN POWER HOLDING	22,462	4,969	6	0.221	0.221	0.221	0.221	0.222	0.000	0.000	0.222	0.221	0.222	0.100	44,519,103
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	3,628	533	2	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.147	0.149	0.100	294,403,270
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	795,746	117,712	47	0.149	0.151	0.145	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.146	0.149	0.100	217,927,018
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	6,109	550	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.087	0.095	0.100	20,001,600
OM0000008959	JABAL REIF	5,422	586	2	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.090	0.110	0.100	187,920,000
OM0000009709	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	5,595,854	1,988,877	234	0.356	0.356	0.355	0.355	0.357	-0.002	-0.560	0.355	0.355	0.355	0.100	2,840,000,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	5,000	865	1	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.174	-0.001	-0.575	0.173	0.173	0.180	0.100	27,880,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	27,000	4,023	4	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.150	-0.001	-0.667	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	40,313,248
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	37,185	4,984	7	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.135	-0.001	-0.741	0.134	0.130	0.134	0.100	30,100,000
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	13,422,592	2,325,792	788	0.175	0.175	0.172	0.174	0.176	-0.002	-1.136	0.174	0.174	0.173	0.040	60
OM0000001020	ASVAD SHIPPING	76,296	1,292,544	709	0.171	0.172	0.168	0.170	0.172	-0.002	-1.163	0.170	0.170	0.172	0.000	885,486,828
OM0000001482	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	976,854	352,800	11	0.390	0.395	0.390	0.391	0.390	0.001	0.278	0.391	0.391	0.395	0.100	586,966,624
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,053	4,114	7	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150	0.000	0.000	2.150	2.100	2.150	0.100	192,855,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	500	290	1	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.000	0.000	0.580	0.580	0.600	0.100	72,440,817
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	288,800	18,483	14	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	22,732,147
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	1,774	294	2	0.166	0.166	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.155	0.163	0.100	33,000,000
OM0000004430	BANK MUZNA	2,600,841	270,491	50	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.100	233,243,115
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	106,000	9,214	8	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.089	0.100	15,250,000
OM0000005968	QOHEDOO	9,042	1,215	3	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.236	-0.001	-0.424	0.235	0.232	0.240	0.100	152,971,894
OM0000006026	OMANI TELECOM	1,248,255	1,292,981	72	1.037	1.039	1.030	1.032	1.038	-0.006	-0.578	1.032	1.032	1.032	0.100	774,900,000
OM0000006296	BANK MUSCAT	20,571,861	9,890,331	1,158	0.335	0.336	0.332	0.335	0.337	-0.002	-0.593	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.100	2,514,643,016
OM0000006224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	296,897	55,859	32	0.281	0.282	0.287	0.292	0.294	-0.002	-0.680	0.292	0.286	0.292	0.100	89,031,720
OM0000006961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,611	6,155	6	0.931	0.931	0.931	0.931	0.938	-0.007	-0.746	0.931	0.925	0.930	0.100	87,153,854
OM0000008072	QO GAS NETWORKS	18,286,963	3,331,820	852	0.184	0.184	0.181	0.183	0.185	-0.002	-1.081	0.183	0.183	0.184	0.100	792,504,177
OM0000008226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	92,392	16,623	17	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.182	-0.001	-1.099	0.180	0.178	0.180	0.100	771,738
OM0000008425	ALBATINAH POWER	257,036	44,412	14	0.173	0.173	0.172	0.172	0.174	-0.002	-1.149	0.172	0.172	0.173	0.100	116,890,638
OM0000008240	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	20,000	1,660	3	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.100	747,000
OM0000																



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FINANCE

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

MARKETING

Indian male MBA, 20+yrs of experience throughout Oman in marketing, business development and team leader in building materials and AC industry is available for suitable positions.

Contact : 90477180
Email : dasstarnew@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

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

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7 years and above GCC experience with NOC, required for a reputed construction company in Oman. Interested candidates may send their CV to
E-mail: civilengjobs2025@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

MANAGER

FINANCE MANAGER well experienced M.Com with 20 yrs of Oman experience looking for senior position in finance and accounts, can join in short notice.

CONTACT: 95392251

FINANCE

Financial & Management Accountant with 15 yrs exp in manufacturing, trading, contracting, oil and gas, insurance, construction, IT. Skilled in accounting, auditing, VAT, payroll, budgeting, cost control, and financial reporting.

Contact: 92106856,
Email: lizmarytherese@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Indian, B.Tech-Mech Engineering Holder having 13 years of experience in Oman specialized in Steel Fabrication looking suitable position.

Contact: Mobile : 95945230
Email : Arungopalakrishnan85@yahoo.com

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Group finance manager Indian 26yrs of experience, looking job change, Contact- 78399621

Indian male, MBA finance, 15 yrs experience in accounting up to finalisation, VAT submission. Immediate joining. Contact: 96290882, Email: ajithakes@gmail.com

Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277

Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Male,46yrs, Manager (handling accounts & operations) 22yrs of exp (20yrs in Oman,seeks suitable placement Contact: 91410602

42yrs female(M-com) working as Finance manager 18yrs of exp over-all (15yrs in Oman) Currently working in a reputed shipping company Contact: 98184705

Accounts job Oman experienced Indian female looking for Accounts job in Muscat region, on a family visa and available for immediate joining. Contact: 78041486/98523127 Email: rmathadhira@gmail.com

M.com, Indian, Chief accountant, having DL, 16 yrs experience in Oman, looking for a suitable position, 5 yrs exp in fuel station Contact 96973776

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male Accounts assistant (2yrs of GCC experience) seeking job and available to join Immediately. Contact: 93100261 Email: askarmhd5506@gmail.com

Indian male, Sr.Accountant (Mcom & MBA Finance), having 10 yrs of Oman experience up to finalization with D/L. Contact: 97524285. Email bobykji@gmail.com

Indian male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs. Contact: 97436925. sasdrk@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

Indian ex-police officer (39 yrs) with over 10 yrs of experience in law enforcement, crime prevention, and public safety. Served as a Supervisory Police officer (Inspector of Police) with proven expertise in security management and leadership. Currently in Oman and available for security or administrative roles. Contact +968 72268055. Email: shd9182@gmail.com

Indian Male-26 Bcom, MBA having 4 years experience. Seeking suitable placement. Contact: +91 8075574438. Email: gokulkrishnak122@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

24 yrs experience , BSc, Diploma in office management. Secretary, tender tech, supporter, company registrations, subcontracting coordinator, admin & HR looking for job. Contact 96934274. Email oamkumarkc@yahoo.com

Indian female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles looking for suitable placement. Contact 79166904/97498882

Highly skilled accounting and administrative professional with diverse experience in technical and office administration roles Contact 90473476 Email: kpsanjay202@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

Architect, Interior designer having more than 8+ yrs of experience with design and engineering consultants. Contact: 95759832, Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com

DRIVER

Pakistani with 7yrs of experience looking for job. Contact: 92101382

Pickup light driver available, having all PDO licences & can speak English. Contact: 97681676

Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job. Contact: 99116288

Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/+968 94117967, Email: induchan-dran01@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Diploma in Electrical Engineering looking for Fire Fighting site supervisor/suitable job. Contact: 95933453, Email: haquefaizan3786@gmail.com

Experienced Biomedical Engineers seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvi@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225

Project Manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience, valid D/L and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786

B.E Mechanical design engineer, draftsman engineer with experience of 1yr in solidworks 3D designing looking for job. Contact: +968 92024546, 93551277

Indian(m), diploma in civil eng with 1 yr Oman experience as a site supervisor having Oman D/L looking for a suitable position Contact: 95759511

Project Manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience, valid D/L and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786

B.E Mechanical design engineer, draftsman engineer with experience of 1yr in solidworks 3D designing looking for job. Contact: +968 92024546, 93551277

Indian(m), diploma in civil eng with 1 yr Oman experience as a site supervisor having Oman D/L looking for a suitable position Contact: 95759511

LOGISTICS

Indian male graduate with 25 yrs of proven experience in Car rental, fleet Management & logistics. Currently seeking for Senior/ middle management position. Contact: 92152334.

MANAGER

Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203

Indian male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch Manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact: 98132055

MECHANICAL/ TECHNICAL

BMS, SCADA operator, 5+yrs experience, skilled in Siemens & Honeywell systems, Oman DL. Contact: 90461944 Email emmarbz1199@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Indian female chemist experienced in food and water testing, seeking a lab role. Contact: +968 95418558. Email sumithasubair@gmail.com

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male had 13+ yrs experience with Procurement at construction field in civil and MEP. Worked for a well reputed company's in Oman. Currently seeking jobs in Oman. Contact: +968 97438087

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading whatsapp+96895839964

Indian male 40 yrs Bcom MBA having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L, seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: +971529546753

SALES/ MARKETING

Sales & Marketing Manager MBA Indian 28 years' experience for Consumer durables, FMCG. Strong relationships with major retailers across Oman. Contact: 93340457

Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales(FMCG/retail) with D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact: 95548480

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

Indian male with 12 yrs of experience in Oman and UAE looking for Sales business development manager job opportunity in FMCG and UPVC Industry Contact 95842228

Young Indian sales coordinator and data analyst, B.com graduate having 5yrs experience looking for Immediate placement. Contact 96875080968

Young Indian sales executive, B com graduate having 06 yrs experience in sales looking for Immediate placement. Contact +968 75053173

Indian M(35) MBA in Oman 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma Contact: 79755795

US govt shutdown longest in American history

The impasse is impacting millions of Americans with federal programme cuts, flight delays and federal workers nationwide left without salaries

WASHINGTON DC: The US government shutdown on Wednesday entered its 36th day, making it the longest on record. The previous longest-running shutdown took place during US President Donald Trump's first term in office.

The current stalemate is rooted in a battle over health care in which the Democrats are insisting on firm commitments to extend health care benefits.

"Why is this happening? We're in a shutdown because our colleagues are unwilling to come to the table to talk about one simple thing: health care premiums," Democratic Senator Amy Klobuchar said in a late evening speech.

"Stop this mess, come to the table, negotiate it," she said.

What is a government shutdown?

A "shutdown" takes place when



Congress — comprised of the Senate and the House of Representatives — and the president fail to agree on the release of new budget funds.

If no budget is passed, the government is unable to approve new spending, meaning large chunks of the state apparatus temporarily cease to work.

Under the shutdown, federal workers are furloughed or continue to work without pay.

The impasse is impacting millions of Americans with federal program cuts, flight delays and federal workers nationwide left without salaries.

Trump has threatened to halt Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme (SNAP) food aid unless Democrats agree to reopen the government.

Warnings of travel chaos

Air travel is among the vital sec-

tors impacted, with tens of thousands of air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers working without pay.

The American Automobile Association (AAA) has predicted a bumper period of travel for Thanksgiving, with nearly 6 million set to fly domestically over the November 27 holiday.

The Trump administration has warned of turmoil at the country's airports should the crisis continue.

"So if you bring us to a week from today, Democrats, you will see mass chaos...you will see mass flight delays," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy told reporters in Philadelphia. "You'll see mass cancellations, and you may see us close certain parts of the airspace, because we just cannot manage it because we don't have the air traffic controllers."

In October, as the impasse was dragging on, Germany said it would pay some 11,000 local employees at US military bases as salary payments hung in the balance.

Senate again fails to pass funding bill

Meanwhile, the US Senate on Tuesday again failed to pass a temporary funding bill, marking the 14th unsuccessful attempt.

This means the federal government shutdown is on track to surpass the 35-day record set during the 2018-2019 shutdown and become the longest in US history.

The Republican-held Senate voted 54-44 on the House-approved "clean" continuing resolution, which would fund the government at current levels through Nov. 21. The bill needed 60 votes to overcome filibuster and move forward in the upper chamber.

AKITA PREFECTURE

Japan deploys soldiers to deal with deadly bear attacks

TOKYO: Japan began deploying soldiers on Wednesday to Akita prefecture in northern Japan amid a string of deadly bear attacks that have had residents living in fear.

Japan's Environment Ministry says there have been 100 bear attacks with 12 people killed across the country since April.

The bulk of fatal attacks have taken place in Akita, accounting for around two-thirds of the deaths, prompting local authorities to appeal for help from the country's military.

Local authorities said there had been more than 8,000 bear sightings, representing a six-fold jump this year alone, leading to calls last week for Japan's Self Defense Forces to intervene.

The operation started in the town of Kazuno, where residents have been advised to steer clear of thick forests and stay home when darkness falls.

They've also been advised to carry bells in the hope of deterring bears that come looking for food near residential areas.

"The townspeople feel the danger every day," Kazuno Mayor Shinji Sasamoto said after meeting 15 or so soldiers who rolled into town in an army truck and several jeeps, equipped with body armor and large maps.

"It has affected how people live their lives, forcing them to stop going out or cancel events," Sasamoto said.

Soldiers are helping set and inspect traps to capture the bears that will then be culled by trained hunters.

— DW

CENTRAL PHILIPPINES



Philippine typhoon death toll rises to 46

MANILA: Philippine authorities announced that the death toll from Typhoon Kalmaegi has risen to 46, including six crew members of a military helicopter that crashed during the powerful storm, which brought torrential rains and flooding to the central Philippines.

The Philippine Army said in a statement that the helicopter crashed while on a rescue mission. The bodies of the crew members have been recovered. The crash occurred approximately 270 km from Cebu Island, the most affected area.

Although Kalmaegi, locally known as Tino, has gradually weakened since making landfall on Tuesday, it continued to batter the country with winds reaching speeds of up to 120 km per hour as it passed through the Visayas islands, heading towards northern Palawan and the South China Sea.

Local authorities indicated that tens of thousands of residents in Visayas have been evacuated, and rescue operations are ongoing. The typhoon is expected to leave the Philippines later on Wednesday or early on Thursday. — **UNA**

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

Russia has begun developing new nuclear-powered cruise missiles

MOSCOW: Russia has begun developing the next generation of nuclear-powered cruise missiles, president Vladimir Putin said as reported by the official media.

Addressing an award ceremony for weapons developers in the Kremlin, Putin was cited by TASS as saying that the speed of the next generation of nuclear-powered cruise missiles will be "more than three times the speed of sound, and in the future, they will even become hypersonic."

All our plans for the development of promising weapons systems, for the development of the defence sector, for equipping the Russian army and Navy with state-of-the-art weapons and vehicles are being implemented," he said, adding that the newest Avangard strategic missile system has entered combat duty.

"We have developed and put on duty, and launched mass production of the Oreshnik intermediate-range missile system," Putin



was cited as saying by TASS.

"We have equipped our intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine missiles with advanced warheads," the Russian President said.

Putin handed over state awards to developers of the country's nuclear-powered Burevestnik missile and Poseidon unmanned underwater vehicle.

He said that the nuclear-capable

weapons were of "historic significance" for Russia and "for the entire 21st century."

Putin said the Burevestnik demonstrated the missile's advanced capabilities. "In terms of flight range, the Burevestnik...has surpassed all known missile systems in the world," Putin said in his speech, he said.

Further the Russian president claimed that a NATO vessel was

present in the area where the Burevestnik was tested on October 21, and that Moscow "didn't interfere with its operations."

Apart from the Burevestnik, Russia also recently tested the Poseidon -- a nuclear-powered underwater drone -- and launched the Khabarovsk, a new nuclear submarine specifically designed to deploy such weapons.

The Poseidon drone system reportedly enables the drone to travel at great depths, exceed the speed of modern torpedoes, and cover intercontinental distances.

According to a CNN report, Putin had unveiled both weapons in 2018, and even announced a successful test of the Burevestnik in 2023.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump directed the Pentagon to restart nuclear weapons testing.

The US president said he gave the order "because of other countries' testing programmes." — **ANI**

1,000 OTHERS INJURED

Afghanistan earthquake toll mounts to 27

KABUL: The total death toll in the powerful earthquake that struck northern Afghanistan on Monday night has risen to 27, with nearly 1,000 others reported injured on Wednesday, Tolo reported, citing officials.

According to Tolo News, many victims, who lost their homes in the disaster, are currently taking shelter in school buildings, with survivors describing the destruction and the challenges they are now facing as winter approaches.

Gulabuddin, a resident of Samangan province, said that his house was completely destroyed, leaving him and ten family members homeless.

He also mourned the death of his pregnant daughter-in-law, saying, "When I ran outside, a brick fell on me and I was injured. My daughter-in-law, who was pregnant, was killed when the house collapsed. God saved eight other members of our family," Tolo News reported.

In Khulm district, several families who lost their homes are also staying in schools and appealing for urgent assistance.

Nasim Gul, another survivor,



said, "We need food and do not have a proper place to sit. Winter is approaching, and we have ten mouths to feed. My youngest child also became sick tonight," Tolo News reported.

"Everything we had is buried under the rubble. We came to the school building, but here we have nothing," added Mirza Mohammad, another survivor in the disaster.

Earlier in the early hours of Monday, an earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck northern Afghanistan near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, causing widespread destruction in the region.

Preliminary reports indicated

that the epicentre was in Samangan province, where most of the casualties and damage were reported.

Sharafat Zaman Amarkhail, spokesperson for Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health, confirmed the casualties, stating that more than 960 people were injured in Samangan, Balkh, Baghlan, and Kunduz provinces, Tolo News reported.

Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported that at least 512 residential houses were fully or partially destroyed across the affected provinces.

According to NDMA data,

around 418 injuries were reported in Samangan and approximately 435 in Balkh, with additional casualties in Baghlan, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, and Kunduz.

Authorities have warned that without immediate support from the government and aid organisations, families displaced by the earthquake could face a severe humanitarian crisis as winter sets in.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Monday said that India delivered food items for families affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan.

Official spokesperson for the MEA, Randhir Jaiswal shared images of aid sent by India.

"Reaffirming its support to the Afghan people, India delivers food items for the families affected by the earthquake. India first responder," Jaiswal said in a post on X.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday called his Afghanistan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi to convey condolences at the loss of lives in an earthquake that struck Balkh, Samangan and Baghlan provinces of the landlocked nation. — **ANI**

34-YEAR-OLD

Zohran Mamdani wins New York mayoral race

NEW YORK: Zohran Mamdani has won the New York City mayoral race, capping a meteoric rise from a little-known state lawmaker to one of the country's most visible Democratic figures.

The 34-year-old will become the first Muslim mayor of the largest city in the United States.

He defeated Democratic former Governor Andrew Cuomo who ran as an independent after losing the nomination to Mamdani in the primary election. Cuomo also had the backing of Republican President Donald Trump.

Mamdani's campaign and subsequent victory may have national implications in terms of the direction for the Democratic Party.

Spanberger becomes first female governor of Virginia, offering first test of Trump's second term

Democrat Abigail Spanberger won the Virginia governor's race on Tuesday, defeating Republican Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears to give the Democrats a key win heading into the 2026 mid-term elections.



In winning, Spanberger also made history as the first woman ever to lead the state.

Spanberger's win will flip partisan control of the governor's office when she succeeds outgoing Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin. Spanberger, 46, a former congresswoman and CIA case officer, won with a campaign focusing on economic issues, a strategy that may serve as a model for other Democrats in next year's elections as they try to break President Donald Trump's and Republicans' stranglehold in Washington. — **ANI**

Chinese ambassador decodes the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee

The formulation of China’s “15th Five-Year Plan” brings brand-new opportunities and significant benefits for deepening China’s friendly cooperation with Oman

MUSCAT: On 4 November, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China held a press briefing on the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Ambassador of China to Oman H.E. Lyu Jian delivered a speech titled “A shared journey to modernization, A shared future for Mankind”. He also took questions from journalists.

Ambassador Lyu introduced Background and Significance of the Session, pointing out that a cornerstone of the Communist Party of China’s governance is guiding the nation’s economic and social development through medium- and long-term planning. Since its inception in the 1950s, each successive plan has contributed to the methodical advancement of a single, long-term goal: the modernization of China as a socialist nation.

He pointed out that the world is undergoing profound transformations and challenges on a scale unseen in a century. In this context of heightened external uncertainties and risks, Through 15th Five-Year Plan, China will continue to secure the twin miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability, leveraging its own development certainty as a stabilizing force in an uncertain world.

Ambassador Lyu reviewed China’s major achievements during the 14th Five-Year Plan period. He stated that the Communist Party of China has united and led Chinese people, withstood the severe impact of the once-in-a-century pandemic and effectively responded to a series of major risks and challenges, and achieved new leaps in economic, scientific, technological, and comprehensive national strength.

From 2021 to 2024, the gross domestic product (GDP) of China achieved an average annual growth rate of around 5.5%, with its contribution to global economic growth remaining at approximately 30%, and its manufacturing scale has ranked first in the world for 15 consecutive years. China possesses the largest networks of expressways, high-speed railways, ports, urban rail transit network, power transmission and distribution network, broadband network, as well as wind power and photovoltaic power generation facilities.

China is progressively transforming from the “world’s factory” into a “global innovation hub.” Breakthroughs were made in innovative fields such as aerospace, satellites, aircraft, artificial intelligence, quantum communications, and advanced chips. AI models like DeepSeek have gained international recognition.

He pointed out that China’s comprehensive national strength has advanced by leaps and bounds. China has become the world’s largest trader in goods, the largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, the largest energy producer, and the country with the largest workforce. It hosts the world’s largest middle-income group and has established the most extensive social security system.

Remarkable results have been achieved in green development, with China contributing one-quarter of the world’s new green area. Approximately one-third of electricity consumption now comes from clean sources. China has expanded its opening up and conducted high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations. For eight consecutive years, it has ranked first in global trade in goods and remained among the top three in outward investment. All these major achievements have been made possible under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with

Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, and under the scientific guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Ambassador Lyu pointed out that China’s “15th Five-Year Plan”, guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, puts forward a series of strategic arrangements and measures, mainly embodying the following characteristics:

First, Defining the era with high-quality development to solidly advance Chinese modernization, accelerating the achievement of high-level self-reliance and self-strengthening in science and technology, drive the transformation of old and new growth drivers.

Second, Deepening mutually beneficial cooperation through high-standard opening up, steadily expand institutional opening-up in areas such as rules and standards.

Third, Pursuing a comprehensive green transition to build a Beautiful China, increasing the share of renewable energy, promoting clean power sources such as wind, solar, hydro, and nuclear.

Fourth, Adhering to an independent foreign policy to promote a shared future for mankind, steering the reform of the global governance system toward greater fairness and reasonableness

Fifth, Ensuring high-quality development and high-level security reinforce each other.

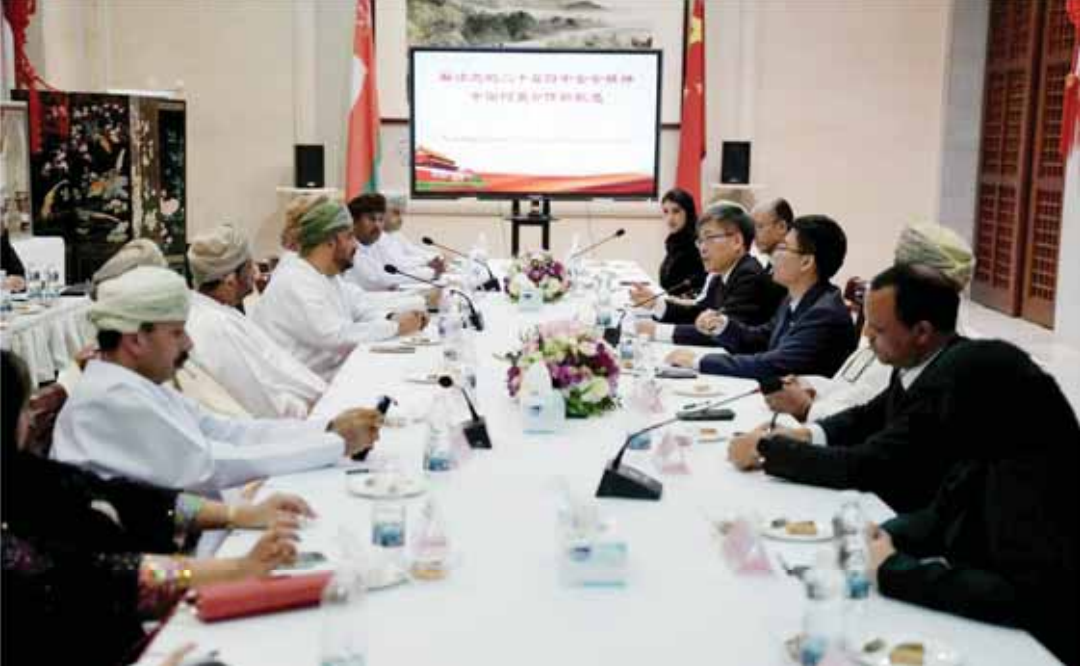
He emphasised that at a time of global transformations, China’s actions demonstrate that it is a reliable partner and a source of certainty in an uncertain world—a nation committed to working with others for a shared and better future. The Communist Party of China will give full play to its strength in pooling resources to accomplish major tasks, persist in exercising full and rigorous self-governance, and lead the Chinese people in working consistently toward long-term goals—fulfilling its solemn commitment to national development and rejuvenation.

He elaborated on how China’s development will create more opportunities for the world. China and Arab countries, as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, are like-minded friends and partners marching forward hand in hand. In 2022, the first China-Arab States Summit and the first China-GCC Summit were successfully held, during which President Xi Jinping proposed the “Eight Major Joint Actions” for China-Arab cooperation and the “Five Priority Areas of Cooperation” for China-GCC cooperation. Under the new circumstances, China places its relations with Arab and Gulf countries in an even more prominent position within its overall foreign relations. Next year, China will host the second China-Arab States Summit.

He said that Oman is an important country in the Arab and Gulf regions. The formulation of China’s “15th Five-Year Plan” brings brand-new opportunities and significant benefits for deepening China’s friendly cooperation with Oman. As China and Oman respectively advance their “15th Five-Year Plan”, Chinese-style modernization and Oman’s 11th Five-Year Plan and “Vision 2040”, the two countries should face the future, seize opportunities, move forward hand in hand, and achieve mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

(1) Deep Traditional Friendship and Firm Political Mutual Trust — Reliable Strategic Partners

China and Oman share a profound traditional friendship and solid political mutual trust, making them reliable strategic partners for each other. President Xi



Jinping and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq attach great importance to the development of China-Oman relations and play an essential role in providing strategic guidance.

China and Oman have strong political mutual trust and firmly support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests. Oman has firmly adhered to the one-China principle, for which China expresses its appreciation. We hope Oman will continue to firmly uphold this principle, resolutely oppose any form of “Taiwan independence,” and support China’s early realization of national reunification.

Strong Economic Complementarity and Emerging Cooperation in Education and Science — Partners for Mutual Benefit and Development

The 15th Five-Year Plan emphasizes high-quality development and technological self-reliance, cultivating leading scientific talent through top universities, which aligns perfectly with Oman’s efforts to promote industry-academia-research integration. China stands ready to share its ex-

perience in transforming research achievements and promoting industrial upgrading with Oman, encouraging scientific cooperation between our universities and supporting Chinese enterprises in providing training opportunities for Omani students.

China is building a strong manufacturing nation and modern industrial system, which complements Oman’s development goals. Chinese automobiles and new energy equipment gaining popularity in the Omani market. Significant cooperation potential remains in high-end equipment and aerospace. China has proposed accelerating the building of a strong aerospace nation and is currently the only country with its own operational space station. China is willing to make further progress in space cooperation with Oman.

China is committed to steadily expanding high-level opening-up. China is willing to strengthen mutual recognition and alignment of standards with Oman in product quality, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures. China welcomes more Omani entrepreneurs to visit Chinese

trade fairs and encourages quality Omani products to enter the Chinese market. China welcomes Omani enterprises and financial institutions to invest in China.

Building on Oman’s unique geographical advantages, we are ready to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, particularly in digital economy, green development, artificial intelligence, and tourism.

China’s emphasis on comprehensive green transformation and building a new energy system matches Oman’s Vision 2040 focus on new energy development. With China’s advanced technology and production capacity in renewable energy and Oman’s abundant natural resources, we have enormous cooperation potential in solar power, wind energy, and green hydrogen.

(3) China-Oman Tourism and Cultural Cooperation Reflects the Aspirations of the People — Intimate Partners in People-to-People Connectivity

Both China and Oman possess rich cultural and tourism resources. In November 30th, the upcoming direct flight between China and

Oman will be opened. In June this year, China’s unilateral visa exemption policy for Omani citizens further facilitate exchanges. China is willing to strengthen two-way tourism promotion and integrate cultural-tourism development.

Four Omani secondary schools have already offered Chinese language courses and the scale of language education cooperation growing. We actively encourages Omani students to study in China and will provide more scholarship support. We are organizing Omani youth delegations to visit China and enhancing mutual learning between our civilizations. China will deepen exchanges in museums, performing arts, literature, film and television.

(4) Similar Diplomatic Concepts and Common Policy Positions.

Both countries adhere to independent foreign policies, advocate harmony and inclusiveness, and are committed to safeguarding their own and global and regional peace and stability. At the Manama Dialogue, Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr stated that true security cannot be achieved through policies of isolation, containment, and exclusion. He called for the establishment of a more comprehensive mechanism for dialogue among all regional countries. This fully reflects Oman’s diplomatic approach in face of challenges and conflicts.

China is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Oman to jointly promote the global governance system toward greater fairness and justice. Not long ago, the International Organization for Mediation, a Chinese initiative, was officially inaugurated. It is the world’s first intergovernmental international legal organization dedicated to resolving international disputes through mediation, which is highly consistent with the principles of the Global Governance Initiative. China sincerely welcomes all countries including Oman, to join the International Organization for Mediation, and contribute to improving global governance and peacefully resolving international disputes.

Ambassador Lyu concluded by quoting President Xi Jinping, emphasizing that “Walking with China means walking with opportunities, believing in China means believing in tomorrow, and investing in China means investing in the future.”

He expressed his expectation that, under the strategic guidance of the heads of states of China and Oman, the two sides will, through strengthening the alignment of their development strategies, usher in an even brighter future for the China-Oman strategic partnership, make unremitting efforts to build a more just and equitable international order, and contribute more to safeguarding world peace and development, and jointly advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Oman and Kazakhstan tee up new era of golf collaboration

Kazakhstan Golf Federation President Davran Alidzhanovich Ibragimov held talks with Oman Golf Association Vice-Chairman Faiz Mohammed Riaz and other board members in Muscat to discuss new opportunities for golf development and international cooperation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The fairways of Oman may soon welcome golfers from the Central Asia nation of Kazakhstan, as the Oman Golf Association (OGA) and the Kazakhstan Golf Federation (KGF) embark on a new partnership designed to drive the growth of the game across both nations.



The collaboration was formalised during the recent visit of Davran Alidzhanovich Ibragimov, President of the Kazakhstan Golf Federation (KGF), to Muscat, where he was hosted by the OGA leadership. The visit culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at promoting joint development programmes, youth engagement initiatives, and technical knowledge sharing. The meeting was attended by Faiz Mohammed Riaz, OGA Vice-Chairman, along with board members Nikhil Sampat and Ahmed Al Jhdhamy. Discussions focused on broadening access to golf through initiatives such as introducing the game in schools, creating player exchange opportunities, and hosting joint training camps and tournaments. Riaz described the agreement as an exciting milestone in the OGA's efforts to strengthen international ties and elevate the level of the sport in the Sultanate.



"We are delighted to welcome Davran Ibragimov and to establish a partnership that reflects our shared commitment to developing the sport," said Riaz. "This MoU opens the door for our players and coaches to gain international exposure and learn from different environments by holding camps and participating in tournaments in Kazakhstan. It's initiatives like this that inspire more young people to take up the game and help raise overall

standards." He added that the collaboration aligns with the OGA's strategy to position Oman as a regional hub for golf development and competition. "Working closely with like-minded federations such as Kazakhstan's allows us to share expertise in coaching, course management and grassroots programmes," Riaz explained. "It's about building a sustainable future for golf — one that encourages participation, professionalism and pride in both countries." During his visit, Ibragimov toured several of Oman's leading golf facilities and met with OGA officials to discuss future cooperation. Both federations share a vision of raising playing standards, enhancing coaching skills and promoting golf as an inclusive sport that connects communities. The OGA expressed its appreciation to the KGF president for his visit and reaffirmed its commitment to fostering partnerships that contribute to the sustainable growth of golf in Oman and beyond.



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Bayern, Liverpool earn statement victories

LONDON: Bayern Munich and Liverpool won the blockbuster matchups in the Champions League on Tuesday. With a 2-1 win at defending champion Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern made it 16 straight victories in all competitions to underline its status as perhaps the new leading force in European football. Real Madrid came unstuck at Anfield for the second straight season, losing 1-0 to Liverpool as Trent Alexander-Arnold — jeered on his every touch — endured a miserable return to his long-time former club. Midway through the fourth round of league-stage games, only Bayern and Arsenal are on a maximum 12 points. Arsenal swept to a 3-0 win at Slavia Prague, bringing 15-year-old Max Dowman off the bench to make him the youngest player in Champions League history. The moment of the night fell to Van de Ven, the lanky Tottenham defender who set off on a mazy, 90m run from the edge of his own area to score the team's third goal in a 4-0 win over FC Copenhagen. **Mixed fortunes for Diaz** Bayern oozed quality in the first half before showing resilience in the second half to hold on with 10 men at the Parc des Princes on a night of mixed fortunes for Luis Diaz. The former Liverpool winger produced clinical finishes in the fourth and 32nd minutes to power the German champions into a 2-0 lead, only to mar his display with a reckless lunge from behind on



PSG right back Achraf Hakimi in first-half stoppage time. Diaz was sent off after a VAR review and Hakimi hobbled out of the game with an injured left ankle. PSG, which had already seen Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé come off hurt, reduced the deficit through substitute Joao Neves and Bayern endured some nervy moments before clinching yet another win. **Mac Allister's winner** At Anfield, Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois produced save after save to defy Liverpool almost single-handedly but was finally beaten by Alexis Mac Allister's header off a free kick in the 61st minute. The teams had played each other in the league phase of last season's competition at the same stadium, with Liverpool winning 2-0. It took the brilliance of Courtois to keep the score down, with Kylian Mbappé kept quiet at the other end.

Arsenal's record-setters A fourth straight win. An eighth straight clean sheet to tie a 122-year record. A competition debut for 15-year-old schoolkid. It was quite the night for Arsenal in Prague, where Bukayo Saka converted a penalty and Mikel Merino added two second-half goals. Arsenal has yet to concede a goal in the Champion League and has matched its best-ever streak for shutouts, which was recorded in 1903 when in the second tier of English football. Dowman, aged 15 years and 308 days, entered as a second-half substitute for the Premier League leaders for his latest record-setting salvo.

Spalletti's start Juventus is still waiting for its first win of the league stage after coming from behind to draw 1-1 with Sporting Lisbon in Luciano Spalletti's first Champions League game since taking over as coach. Also, Julian Alvarez, Conor Gallagher and Marcos Llorente scored a goal each as Atletico Madrid defeated Union Saint-Gilloise 3-1 at home. Monaco also won, 1-0 at Bodø/Glimt thanks to U.S. international Polarin Balogun's first-half strike, for a first victory of the campaign. Goals were expected but none arrived in a 0-0 draw between Napoli and visiting Eintracht Frankfurt. In the night's other match, U.S. striker Ricardo Pepi scored in the third minute of stoppage time for PSV to salvage a 1-1 draw at Olympiakos. - Agencies

AGAINST ENGLAND

Konstas dropped, Weatherald called up for first Ashes Test

MELBOURNE: Sam Konstas has been dropped from Australia's Test squad for the first Ashes Test against England with Tasmania opener Jake Weatherald handed his first international call-up as the national selectors pick a 15-man group that gives them a host of options. Marnus Labuschagne, who was dropped in West Indies earlier this year, is set to be recalled into the XI following a prolific start to the season with Queensland, but where he bats remains uncertain and will likely be dictated by whether Cameron Green can operate fully as an allrounder. Chair of selectors George Bailey said no decision had been made on the batting order or the final XI but stressed Labuschagne could bat anywhere. "He can bat three, he could open," Bailey said. "He's got the skill set for both, but he's been looking pretty good of late." Bailey said Weatherald had earned his place after scoring 1391 runs at 53.50 striking at 68.65 opening the batting for Tasmania and Australia A in the last 14 months. Bailey added Konstas had taken



the axing very well after a conversation with him on Wednesday morning. Steven Smith will captain the side in Pat Cummins' absence. Cummins, who has been battling a lumbar stress injury, will travel to Perth with the group and continue to build up his bowling loads in the hopes of being fit for the second Test in Brisbane. Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland and Nathan Lyon look set to be the four-man attack, supported by at least one all-rounder, with Lyon returning to the XI after being left out of

Australia's last Test in Jamaica. Brendan Doggett and Sean Abbott have been named as the reserve fast bowlers. Doggett returns to the squad after being withdrawn from the Caribbean tour due to a hip injury. **Australia squad:** Steven Smith (capt), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey (wk), Brendan Doggett, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis (wk), Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc, Jake Weatherald, Beau Webster. - Agencies

WTA FINALS

Sabalenka defeats Pegula



RIYADH: World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka entered "beast mode" to defeat Jessica Pegula and close in on a place in the knockout stages of the WTA Finals - after Coco Gauff also won to keep alive her hopes of defending her title. US Open champion Sabalenka secured back-to-back wins in Riyadh by overcoming American fifth seed Pegula 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, but required a straight-set win to confirm progression from the Stefanie Graf Progress. Instead, Sabalenka will face world No.3 Gauff in the final round on Thursday with both players' semi-final ambitions in the balance. Earlier, American Gauff ensured she remains in contention by eliminating Italy's Jasmine Paolini in an impressive 6-3, 6-2 win. The leading eight women's players in singles and doubles are competing in Saudi Arabia, with the tournament having £12m (\$15.5m) in prize money. Elena Rybakina became the first player to confirm her place in the knockout stages by defeating world No.2 Iga Swiatek in the Serena Williams Group on Monday.

NORTH AL BATINAH GOVERNORATE:

The logistics backbone of Oman’s economy

A tender has currently been floated to establish an industrial city in A'Suwaiq, and work will soon begin on a new industrial city in Shinas

SOHAR: The North Al Batinah Governorate has emerged as a vital hub for achieving multidimensional developmental milestones, spanning infrastructure expansion, transportation improvements, quality of life enhancements, education and healthcare advancements, industrial and logistics development, and support for investment and entertainment.

Mohammed Sulaiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah, stated that the governorate forms a primary gateway to Oman and the backbone of the logistics economy through an integrated system of ports, free zones, industrial cities, land and sea ports, and a modern road network connecting it with various governorates.

In an interview with Oman News Agency (ONA), he explained that adding the ports of A'Suwaiq and Shinas to the port system and linking them with industrial cities such as Sohar Industrial City, which houses about 354 factories, has enhanced various economic activities in the governorate.

A tender has recently been floated to establish an industrial city in A'Suwaiq, and work will soon begin on a new industrial city in Shinas.

This will contribute to the integration of these industrial cities with each other and with ports, logistics zones, and free zones, making North Al Batinah Governorate a focal point for local and foreign investments across Oman.

He pointed out that work is currently underway to implement the railway connection project between Oman and the United Arab Emirates to develop a modern railway network that enhances logistics efficiency and economic growth between the two countries. He pointed to numerous positive logistical aspects of this project, which will stimulate various economic sectors.

Regarding the development of Sohar Airport, the Governor indicated that the Civil Aviation Authority is preparing to develop the airport's passenger terminal. Once the terminal design is finalized, a tender for its implementation will be floated.

He affirmed that the governorate has managed to achieve exceptional developmental steps, making each wilayat a platform for growth and service, each project an opportunity to enhance the national economy and local affairs, and each initiative a leap in the life of the Omani citizen.

He added that the Governor's Office has formulated a vision based on these comparative advantages of the governorate, particularly in economic, logistical, and industrial fields.

This has positively reflected on the growth of non-oil economic activities, which witnessed a growth rate of 16% between 2022 and 2023, and about 5.6% from mid-2023 to mid-2024, with total revenues exceeding OMR4.4 billion, encompassing service, industrial, agricultural, and fisheries activities.

He clarified that service sector revenues in the governorate reached OMR2.4 billion, the industrial sector about OMR1.8 billion, and the agricultural and fisheries sector OMR159 million.

He noted that the governorate's population reached 925,000, containing the highest proportion of Omani nationals among all governorates, providing a positive indicator for investors and companies to invest in the governorate.

The Governor pointed out that the volume of foreign investments in North Al Batinah Governorate during 2024 reached USD 6.4 billion, indicating the governorate's ability to attract more diverse investments.

Meanwhile, investment volume during the first half of this year



amounted to about USD 1.7 billion, contributing to providing a number of job opportunities.

He added that North Al Batinah Governorate, through its budget, focuses on empowering small companies and pushing forward projects that provide job opportunities for job seekers, in addition to developing and enhancing some infrastructure projects such as parks, internal road construction, and other projects that meet the needs of residents and the community.

He affirmed that the pace of development in the governorate is rising noticeably with the capacity building of employees in various government units in the governorate, significantly helping to improve work quality and enhance the decentralization approach

adopted by the government to empower governorates.

He touched upon the importance of holding investment forums and meetings at the governorate level, such as the Sohar Investment Forum organised by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry in coordination with the Governor's Office and other government and private entities, which contributed to attracting many investors from around the world.

Preparations are underway to hold the second edition of the forum in the first quarter of 2026, expected to further attract investments and activate commercial, service, and tourism aspects in the governorate, which has 58 hotel establishments.

Regarding the impact of investment projects on the community, he said these projects have achieved positive and tangible results for the community, whether through direct employment, support for small and medium enterprises, or allocating financial amounts for community development in the six wilayats of the governorate, such as establishing parks, building markets, enhancing the healthcare sector.

Regarding the municipal sector in North Al Batinah Governorate, he clarified that the sector has witnessed the implementation of many projects, most notably the expansion of the second phase of the vehicle sales complex project in Al Awhi area in Sohar, development of the Liwa entrance, internal road maintenance project, development of the commercial market area in Shinas, the project to develop the area for street vendors in Al Khadra area in A'Suwaiq, internal road maintenance in Saham, implementation of side protection works, beautification and rehabilitation of Wadi Hasoun stream in Sohar, and protection works for the Al-Durrah project in Al Khaboura.

He pointed out that North Al Batinah Municipality seeks to promote local tourism and provide dedicated recreational spaces for

the residents of mountainous areas in Al Khaboura through three projects aimed at improving quality of life and meeting community needs.

These include Al Dhweher Park, development of Sakhayat Park, and establishment of Al Baks Park to develop the infrastructure for recreational aspects in these areas. These projects represent an important step towards enhancing social and recreational life in Al Khaboura and providing a distinctive recreational environment for the residents. He stated that North Al Batinah Municipality continues to implement one of the most prominent infrastructure projects in the governorate, which involves paving roads in compensatory plans in Al Khaboura and Saham over a length of 60 kilometres. Work has also been completed on the project to develop Shinas Marine Park.

He added that North Al Batinah Municipality continues to implement large-scale road projects in the wilayats of Sohar, Saham, Al Khaboura, A'Suwaiq, Liwa and Shinas, with total lengths of 258 kilometres, as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at improving the internal road network and enhancing connectivity between residential and commercial areas.

He pointed out that North Al Batinah Municipality has com-

pleted the first phase of the Al Hisn area development project in Al Khaboura, which aims to protect the coastal strip affected by wave impacts and repeated environmental factors, by implementing a 430-meter-long protection wall to safeguard key facilities overlooking the coast, including the fish market and commercial shops.

He stated that the implementation of A'Suwaiq Public Park project will resume after being re-floated by Jusoor Company following its previous suspension.

Approximately 90,000 square metres of the park's total area will be developed. Additionally, Liwa Market for fish, vegetables, and fruits is being constructed at a cost of about OMR1.2 million, to be an integrated market consisting of two buildings designed in a modern and contemporary architectural style.

The Governor affirmed that the healthcare sector has witnessed the completion of promising health projects, including A'Suwaiq Hospital project, expected to open soon, and the Sohar Referral Hospital expansion project with a total cost of OMR28 million, increasing the hospital's capacity to over 636 beds—an increase of 270 beds—and the opening of dialysis units in the wilayats of Saham, Al Khaboura, and Sohar. -ONA

ROUND-UP

BankDhofar’s Chief Human Resources Officer recognised for transformative HR leadership

Recognised among Oman’s most influential executives, Dr. Khalid Salim Ali Al Hamadani, received the award for his transformative leadership in human resources, which has redefined HR excellence at BankDhofar

MUSCAT: In one of the most distinguished highlights of this year’s CXO Awards, celebrating Oman’s most visionary C-suite leaders, Dr. Khalid Salim Ali Al Hamadani, Chief Human Resources Officer of BankDhofar, was honoured as CHRO of the Year – Banking.

Held recently at the JW Marriott Muscat, the CXO Awards 2025 celebrated leaders whose strategic foresight, innovation, and transformative impact continue to shape Oman’s corporate landscape in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. This year’s edition extended its reach across the GCC, positioning Oman as a regional hub for leadership, innovation, and inspiration.

Presiding over the ceremony was Eng. Saeed bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, who commended the awardees for their outstanding contributions to the Sultanate’s progress and resilience.

Recognised among Oman’s most influential executives, Dr. Al Hamadani received the award for his transformative leadership in human resources, which has redefined HR excellence at BankDhofar. The award citation highlighted his strategic vision, commitment to Omani talent development, and his success in fostering a culture of innovation,

inclusion, and sustainable growth within the organization.

A veteran professional with over 27 years of HR experience spanning the banking and public sectors, Dr. Al Hamadani joined BankDhofar in 2016 to support its transformation journey and strengthen HR practices across all levels of the Bank. Under his leadership, BankDhofar has implemented comprehensive HR transformation programmes designed to cultivate a performance-driven culture of excellence.

Dr. Al Hamadani holds a Doctorate in Human Resources Management from Northampton Business School (UK), a Master’s in HR Management from Sheffield Business School, and a Bachelor’s degree in Education from Sultan Qaboos University.

Throughout his career, Dr. Al Hamadani has championed the creation of a positive and engaging work environment, emphasizing open communication, continuous feedback, digital HR services, and employee wellness initiatives. His people-first philosophy is now embedded in BankDhofar’s HR frameworks, reinforcing the Bank’s position as one of Oman’s most progressive and employee-centric financial institutions.



MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

MCBS appoints its alumni to board of governors, reinforcing women’s leadership in higher education



MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) announced the appointment of two distinguished alumni – Dahlia Al Riyami and Insherah Bawazir – to its Board of Governors. Both were among the College’s earliest undergraduate cohorts and graduates of the University of Missouri–St. Louis (UMSL) partnership program.

Dr. Muneer Al Maskari, Executive Chairperson of MCBS, remarked: “We are proud to welcome our alumnae to the Board of Governors. Their appointment reflects the College’s enduring values of leadership, excellence, and community engagement, and reinforces the important role of women in advancing higher education in Oman.”

The appointments reaffirm the college’s commitment to advancing women’s representation in governance and leadership, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Oman Vision 2040’s focus on inclusive and sustainable development.

With over 19 years of experience in human resources, talent management, and organisational development at Petroleum Development Oman, the U.S. Embassy, and MCBS, Dahlia Al-Riyami brings strategic vision and a people-centred approach to the Board of Governors. An MCBS alumna and former Director of Admissions, she exemplifies lifelong learning and leadership, strengthening the college’s commitments to innovation, good governance, and Oman Vision 2040.

This milestone reflects MCBS’s ongoing dedication to inclusive governance, alumni empowerment, and gender-balanced leadership as cornerstones for fostering innovation, sustainability, and national growth

Insherah Bawazir, Country Head of Human Resources at Standard Chartered Bank Oman, offers deep expertise in people and culture strategy, talent development, and organizational transformation. She brings an international perspective and a focus on localization, diversity, and leadership development, contributing valuable private sector insight to the Board’s strategic direction.

This milestone reflects MCBS’s ongoing dedication to inclusive governance, alumni empowerment, and gender-balanced leadership as cornerstones for fostering innovation, sustainability, and national growth.

AT LONDON’S HISTORIC GUILDHALL

Royal Academy of Management announces winner of the Future Readiness Award

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM) has announced the winner of the Future Readiness Award, launched in partnership with Thinkers50, at a ceremony held at London’s historic Guildhall.

The announcement marks a celebration of achievement and a tribute to innovative and influential contributions shaping global thinking on how leaders and institutions can anticipate change and strengthen preparedness for the future. The award attracted more than 300 submissions from across the world, including books, research papers, frameworks, and leadership tools – all reflecting a rich diversity of ideas on what it means to be truly future-ready.

In August 2025, eight finalists were shortlisted, and the winner was revealed at the closing ceremony attended by senior officials, international experts, academics, and leading voices in leadership and foresight – reaffirming the award’s position as a global platform for excellence in management and strategic leadership.

The award aims to nurture a culture of forward-looking leadership and to strengthen institutional capability by recognizing research and initiatives that demonstrate adaptability and readiness in an era of rapid transformation.

Dr Ali Al Lawati, President of



the Royal Academy of Management, emphasized that the award represents one of RAM’s global initiatives, reflecting its vision of embedding future readiness as a defining pillar of sustainable leadership.

Al Lawati added, “Across the world, the very notion of ‘readiness’ is being redefined. Technology, values, and expectations are shifting faster than ever, and what once defined success no longer guarantees relevance. At the Royal Academy of Management, we see future readiness not as a skill to be taught but as a mindset to be cultivated – the discipline to stay curious when others rush to conclude, and the courage to act with principle when the path ahead is uncertain.”

“This award marks a milestone in RAM’s journey to bring Omani leadership thinking to the global stage. Through the Future Readiness Award, we honour those who lead with imagination and resolve

– those who remind us that the future is not a distant horizon, but something we design every day through our decisions, our leadership, and our shared humanity.”

He also highlighted the importance of international partnerships, adding: “Our collaboration with Thinkers50 brings together global perspectives and pioneering local experience. It strengthens the exchange of ideas, advances leadership thinking, and builds enduring knowledge bridges from Oman to the world.”

Des Dearlove, Co-founder of Thinkers50 said, “Leadership today must transcend boundaries. The Future Readiness Award embodies a shared conviction that leaders everywhere must anticipate, adapt, and act with clarity and purpose. In a world of accelerating change, the ability to think ahead – and to act with intention – is the hallmark of great leadership.”

Shama Al Toobi, Lead of the

Award Team at the Royal Academy of Management, described the award as a vibrant platform for collaboration and learning, “The Future Readiness Award goes beyond recognition. It is a living platform for dialogue, exchange, and continuous learning. The diversity of entries from around the world reflects a growing commitment to building practical models for adaptation and resilience. At RAM, we are transforming this shared knowledge into meaningful initiatives that develop national capabilities, inspire foresight-driven leadership, and enable organisations to create lasting and measurable impact.”

The 2025 Future Readiness Award was awarded to Amy Webb.

Amy Webb, Founder and CEO of the Future Today Institute, is a globally recognised futurist whose data-driven foresight work informs strategy for Fortune 100 companies, governments, and international organisations. Through pioneering frameworks, influential publications, and accessible methodologies, she has helped establish future thinking as an essential leadership capability. Her impact – spanning AI policy to emerging technology – earned her the Future Readiness Award for advancing data-driven, ethical, and inclusive approaches to navigating change. – OMA

BRAND STRATEGIST

Ahmad Sinnokrot: Empowering brands and minds across Middle East

MUSCAT: With over 15 years of experience shaping brands and driving marketing innovation, Ahmad Sinnokrot stands as one of the region’s most influential voices in modern marketing. As a Brand Strategist and Marketing Consultant, Ahmad has empowered brands and professionals across multiple sectors including automotive, media, events, FMCG, fitness, healthcare, insurance, and more, delivering countless successful campaigns and growth strategies across the Middle East.

Ahmad’s expertise spans the full marketing spectrum – from brand strategy and digital marketing to social media, advertising, and content creation. Over the years, he has trained more than 2,500 professionals and collaborated on consulting and training projects with over 50 companies, helping



organizations translate marketing theory into measurable results.

As a marketing consultant, trainer, and digital marketing expert, Ahmad is passionate about bridging the gap between creativity and performance. In recent years, he has also championed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in marketing, leveraging it to enhance creativity, optimize campaigns, and better understand audiences. He believes AI empowers marketers to focus more on innovation and storytelling, shaping the next era of smart, human-centered marketing.

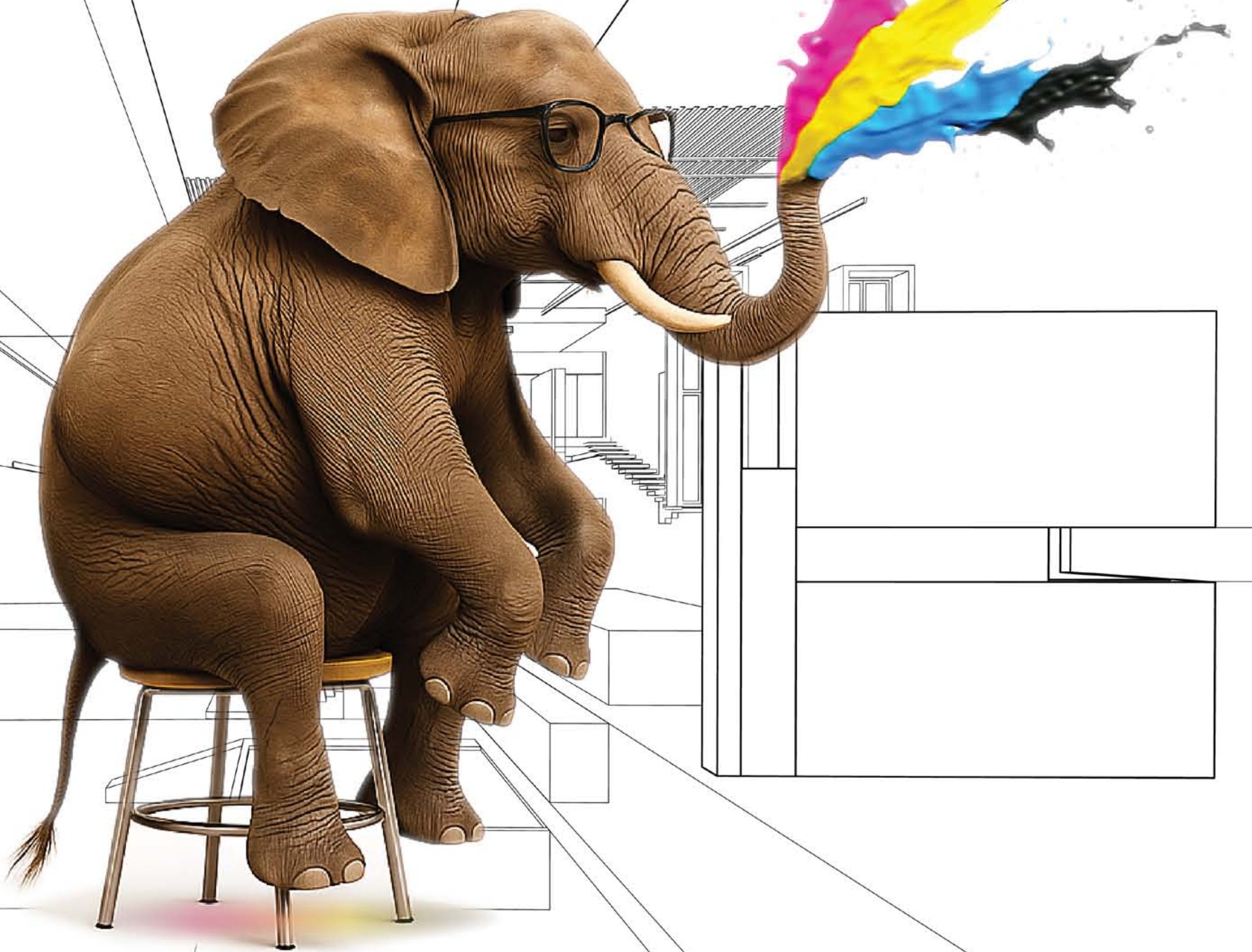
Beyond his consulting work, Ahmad Sinnokrot is also a TV presenter, having hosted and appeared in numerous live programs on Jordan’s top TV channels, including Roya TV and Al Ordon Al Yoom. He has also been

featured and recognized as a marketing expert on Al Mamlaka TV, the Jordan Television, the Libyan National TV and several other media platforms.

In addition, Ahmad has built a strong presence on social media as an influencer and content creator, known for his engaging approach to marketing, lifestyle, and leadership. His media projects blend humor, strategy and human stories, reflecting his belief that marketing is not just about selling, but about connection and inspiration.

Now based in Oman, Ahmad continues his mission to elevate the region’s marketing landscape. Through his strategic insights, creative leadership, and mentorship, he aims to inspire a new generation of marketers to think smarter, act bolder and build brands with purpose.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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