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51

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TELEPHONE CALL

HM the Sultan, Bahrain King discuss regional developments and stability



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday received a telephone call from King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During the call, they discussed a number of recent developments

and issues of mutual concern on both the regional and international arenas. The two leaders exchanged views on ways to enhance security and stability in the region.

The conversation also touched

upon the deep-rooted fraternal relations binding the two countries and their peoples, as well as ways to develop them across various sectors in a manner that serves shared interests and common aspirations. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Forum on readiness for sustainable future

1 The proceedings of the 25th Annual General Conference on “Government Readiness for a Sustainable Future” opened on Tuesday in Salalah. The event is organised by the Ministry of Labour and the Arab Administrative Development Organisation of the Arab League. The opening of the two-day conference was held under the auspices of Dr. Mahad Said Ba’Owain, Minister of Labour, in the presence of several officials, representatives of government entities and the private sector. **>A2**



OMAN Contracts worth over OMR2 million signed

2 Ten agricultural usufruct contracts for the establishment of projects in the agricultural and livestock sectors worth over OMR2 million was signed in Dhofar. **>A3**

MARKET First shipment of chromium exported

3 Oman Minerals Trading Company launched its first shipment of Omani chromium ore, exceeding 50,000 tons, via Sohar Port. This achievement marks a new chapter in the marketing and export of Omani chromium. The chromium shipment included several types of Omani ore in a single consignment, allowing the company to meet the needs of a larger number of buyers and factories. This move aims to open new marketing channels for exports of chromium to more global markets. **>B1**

CPA PLANS ‘CONSUMER PASSPORT’ FOR EASIER ACCESS TO ITS SERVICES

New digital platform to bring complaints, reports and consumer services under one account

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Consumers in Oman will soon be able to access and manage a range of Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) services through a single digital identity, as the authority prepares to launch its new “Consumer Passport” platform.

The initiative is aimed at simplifying the way citizens and residents interact with the CPA by bringing consumer complaints, reports, services and alerts together in one digital account.

The authority announced the upcoming service through its social media platforms, describing it as a “completely different experience” for consumers. Promotional material for the platform says it is “coming soon”, although the CPA has not yet announced an official launch date.

Under the new system, consumers will be able to access their personal profile and manage their interactions with the authority through a unified digital identity. The platform is also expected to provide easier access to consumer-related services while reducing the need to navigate separate

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channels and procedures.

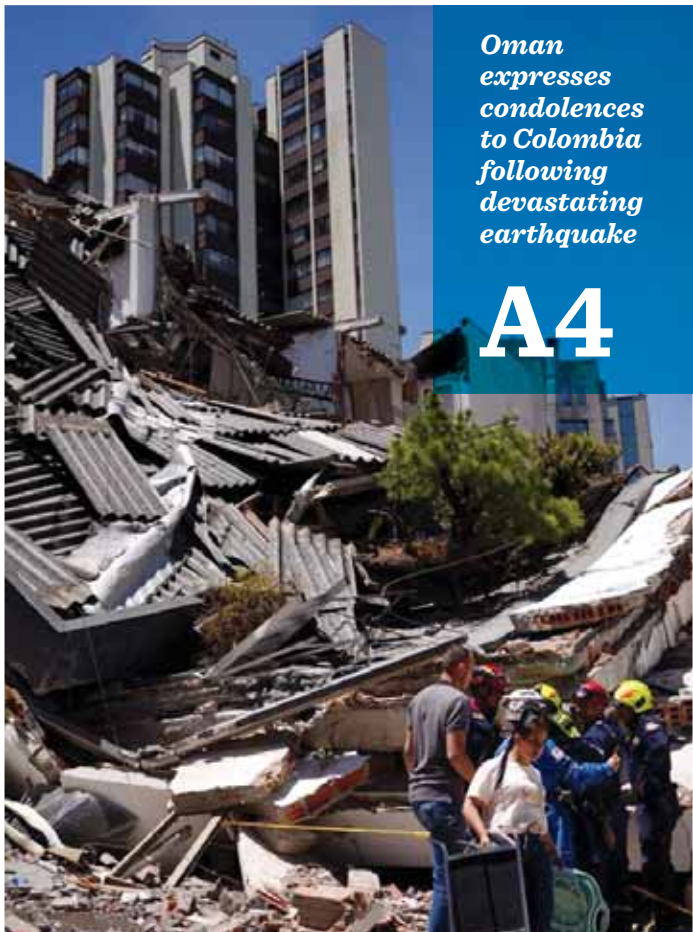
A key feature of the Consumer Passport will be the ability to track complaints and reports, giving users clearer information on the progress of their submissions and making follow-up more straightforward.

The platform is also expected to facilitate the submission and management of information and supporting documents linked to

consumer cases, helping streamline the process and reduce reliance on traditional paperwork.

By bringing consumer-related data and services together in one location, the CPA aims to make its services more accessible and convenient while improving the overall consumer experience.

The initiative is part of the authority’s wider efforts to expand digital services and strengthen the use of technology in consumer protection. It also supports Oman’s broader digital transformation objectives under Oman Vision 2040, which seek to make public services more efficient, accessible and user-focused. **>A3**



Oman expresses condolences to Colombia following devastating earthquake

A4

2026 FOOD FILM LIST COMPETITION

Omani photographer wins Best Film award in ‘Urban-Rural Connectivity’ category in Spain

MADRID: The film “Sufirat Ramadan fi Sur” (Ramadan Table in Sur) by Omani cinematographer Haitham Al Farsi has won the Best Film award in the “Urban-Rural Connectivity” category at the 2026 Food Film List competition, organised by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT), headquartered in Barcelona, Spain.

The accolade was achieved in an international competition featuring over 100 films from around the world vying across 14 categories.

The winning film offers a visual and cultural journey into the Ramadan dining experience in the wilayat of Sur, showcasing the customs and traditions associated with the holy month of Ramadan, as well as the distinctive dishes and social practices that characterise the Sur table — reflecting the depth of the wilayat’s cultural heritage and its historical uniqueness. The film also highlights the



close connection between Sur’s culinary heritage and its rich maritime history, shaped over centuries by seafaring and commercial activity, as well as cultural exchange with numerous ports and communities. These influences are evident in aspects of the local cuisine, including its ingredients, flavours, and methods of preparation

and presentation, rendering the Sur table a living testament to the region’s history and its social and cultural memory.

This achievement holds particular significance amid the growing global interest in culinary tourism, gastronomic arts, and experiential travel, where local cuisine has become a vital means of discovering

destinations and engaging with their cultures and communities. The tourism experience is no longer confined to visiting landmarks and sites, but rather encompasses the authentic experiences that visitors live—experiences that reflect a place’s identity and offer a deeper understanding of its culture, stories, and ways of life. — **ONA**

COMMENTARY

Trump’s Retreat and the Strait of Hormuz: Has Washington Declared a Tacit Defeat to Tehran?

The Wall Street Journal recently revealed a striking shift in the US administration’s position, with President Donald Trump expressing his willingness to end military operations against Iran if Tehran fully reopens the Strait of Hormuz to maritime navigation, even without reaching a comprehensive agreement on its nuclear programme.

This statement warrants more than a cursory glance; it demands a thorough analysis to review the trajectory of American rhetoric and assess its political and operational dimensions. From the “Fourteen Conditions” to an explicit retreat. The American tone toward Iran has never been conciliatory. Trump initially set fourteen impossible conditions, all of which Tehran had to fulfill before any ceasefire could be discussed. He even went so far as to threaten to

obliterate Iran’s ancient civilization and return it to the Stone Age if it failed to comply with these demands.

Today, after a long series of economic warfare, sanctions, and military confrontations, Trump has reduced all those stringent conditions to a single demand: the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. So what does this sudden retreat mean?

Have the fourteen conditions suddenly disappeared from the American agenda? Or has the reality on the ground proven that Iran possesses more powerful cards than Washington had anticipated?

In the realm of politics and strategy, this descent from the pinnacle of threats to the depths of concessions can only be interpreted as a tacit admission of failure, a retreat indicating that the deterrence equation was not in the favor of the party that



initiated the threats.

The contradiction deepens further when considering Trump’s conflicting statements. Just yesterday, he was claiming complete control over the Strait of Hormuz, threatening to impose tariffs and taxes on ships passing through it. This raises a logical and simple question: if Trump truly controls the strait, how can he demand that Iran open it? This glaring contradic-

tion leaves observers with only two possibilities: either the American rhetoric was based on unfounded claims on the ground, or the US administration has begun contradicting itself publicly. It is time to acknowledge that the world, and even the American public itself, has grown weary of this continuous stream of conflicting statements.

These developments prove that military force and media

threats are ineffective against effective management and genuine geographic and field control. Events have demonstrated that the theoretical calculations of Washington policymakers have crashed against the solid wall of reality.

The current situation reinforces the fact that the equation has changed. The victor in this confrontation is not the one with the largest arsenal, but rather the one who was able to impose their conditions and change the rules of the game on the ground. With this retreat, the same question arises clearly on the international stage: if the most powerful nation has been forced to back down in the face of this resilience, how will the global power map change from now on?

This American retreat is not just about Tehran; it is a direct message to all countries in the region. The lesson is this:

whoever controls their territory and withstands a blockade can impose their conditions, even on the world’s greatest power. The Strait of Hormuz was not merely a waterway; it became a strategic bargaining chip, proving that security is not bought with deals, but rather seized through steadfastness and organisation.

What Trump did reveals the end of a long era of the “carrot and stick” policy that Washington practiced for decades. When the “stick” falls and only one demand remains, it means the “carrot” is no longer enticing. The world has entered a new phase: no one can dictate terms by force alone. Iran today has not only won a military battle, but also the battle of narrative. It has transformed itself from a “rogue state” in the American media to an “indispensable party” at the negotiating table. This is the true victory in politics.

Conference highlights government readiness for a sustainable future

The conference discusses ways to enhance government readiness for future transformations, keep pace with economic, technological, and environmental changes, and achieve sustainable development



representatives of government entities and the private sector, and representatives of the Arab Administrative Development Organisation of the Arab League.

Held as part of the activities of the Labour Forum 2026 in Dhofar Governorate, the conference discusses ways to enhance government readiness for future transformations, keep pace with economic, technological, and environmental changes, and achieve sustainable development. It also explores the role of digital transformation, innovation, and modern governance in developing government work, reviewing international experiences and practices in sustainability and government management, and enhancing the exchange of expertise among government, regional, and international entities.

The conference focuses on building more flexible and efficient government institutions



SALALAH: The proceedings of the 25th Annual General Conference on “Government Readiness for a Sustainable Future” opened on Tuesday in the Wilayat of Salalah. The event is organised by the Ministry of Labour and the Arab Administrative Development Organisation (ARADO) of the Arab League.

The opening of the two-day conference was held under the auspices of Dr. Mahad Said Ba’Owain, Minister of Labour, in the presence of several officials,

capable of responding to future challenges, as well as deploying modern technologies and data to support decision-making and improve the quality of public services and policies.

Nasser Salim Al Hadhrami, Director General of Labour in Dhofar Governorate, explained in a speech that organising the conference comes as part of the Labour Forum activities under the theme “A Nation’s Vision: Em-

powerment and Action,” within the framework of the Ministry of Labour’s efforts to enhance government work readiness to keep pace with future transformations and examine the challenges and opportunities associated with building more flexible, efficient, and sustainable governments.

He said that the conference forms a platform for exchanging Arab and international experiences and expertise, and discussing

sustainable government policies, digital governance, strategic foresight, artificial intelligence, and the development of government competencies.

He pointed to several ministry initiatives, including the Strategic Human Resources Planning Project in the Government Sector, the National Occupational Competency Framework, the Human Resource Management and Development Matrix, the Institutional Innovation and Change Management System, and the Artificial Intelligence Initiative in Government Environments, contributing to developing institutional performance and building future-ready government capacities.

In a related context, Dr. Nasser Al Hatlan Al Qahtani, Director General of the Arab Administrative Development Organisation of the Arab League, affirmed in a speech that rapid changes in

technology, artificial intelligence, and economic and climate shifts dictate that governments develop more flexible and efficient working models, and enhance their ability to foresee the future and manage risks. He noted that the conference represents a platform for exchanging expertise and knowledge regarding the readiness of Arab governments for sustainability requirements, and discussing issues of digital transformation, governance, artificial intelligence, and innovation.

He emphasised the importance of Oman Vision 2040 as a model for future planning based on governance, sustainability, and building national capabilities, stressing that government readiness is not limited to technical infrastructure, but also requires qualified leaders, agile institutions, advanced digital infrastructure, and effective governance systems. — OMA

TOUCH THE FUTURE

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DIGITAL TRANSITION

Special new digital spatial portal officially unveiled in Musandam

KHASAB: The Governorate of Musandam recently launched its digital spatial portal, both in Arabic and English.

The digital special portal, launched on the Governorate’s website, reflects efforts to enhance digital transition and use modern technologies to develop its services. It provides an interactive platform designed to enable users to easily access geographical and spatial information and data related to the Governorate.

The Director of the Department of Information Technology

at the Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs in Musandam Governorate, Amna Mohammed Al Shuhhi, said that the portal offers accurate and up-to-date information within a user-friendly, interactive digital environment.

She added that the portal features a range of digital services and tools, including interactive maps and advanced search components that can be used in planning and decision-making. The portal also contributes to linking geographical data within an integrated digital environment that

supports the work of government units and enhances the efficiency of urban planning and infrastructure development, she explained.

The new portal constitutes a cornerstone for future projects and initiatives that use technologies of smart cities and emerging technologies like the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital twins, said Amna Al Shuhhi. This consolidates integration among different systems and services and supports the development of a smarter and more sustainable future for the Governorate, she observed. — OMA

10 farm usufruct contracts worth over OMR2mn signed in Dhofar

The signing took place as part of the activities of the 2026 Food Security Forum and Exhibition, currently being held in the wilayat of Salalah



SALALAH: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has signed ten agricultural usufruct contracts for the establishment of projects in the agricultural and livestock sectors in Dhofar Governorate, with a total investment value exceeding OMR2 million and covering an area of over 2,000 feddans.

The signing took place as part of the activities of the 2026 Food Security Forum and Exhibition, currently being held in the wilayat of Salalah.

The signed contracts are distributed across the wilayats of Maqshin, Thumrait, Shaleem

and the Hallaniyat Islands, and encompass a range of productive activities and projects, including crop cultivation, watermelon and cantaloupe production, poultry farming, as well as seasonal and non-seasonal crop cultivation. This reflects the diversity of investment opportunities linked to the food security sector in Dhofar Governorate.

The contracts are part of the Ministry's efforts to utilise government land in support of economically and developmentally viable investments, and to provide the real estate enablers for investment projects through the usufruct sys-

tem. This contributes to strengthening food security projects, boosting local production, and encouraging the private sector to establish sustainable agricultural and livestock ventures.

The contracts were signed on behalf of the Ministry by Eng. Khalfan Masoud Al Naabi, Director General of Housing and Urban Planning in Dhofar Governorate, alongside representatives of a number of local companies and institutions.

These projects are expected to support national objectives related to economic diversification, investment promotion, the de-

velopment of productive sectors, and the achievement of sustainability within the food security ecosystem.

The Ministry emphasises the importance of integrated coordination between government entities and the private sector in creating a conducive investment environment, maximising the utilisation of government land, and directing it towards high-value-added projects, thereby reinforcing the food security system and enhancing the contribution of productive sectors to the national economy.

— ONA



MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH



Oman to mark International Youth Day today

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, will join its counterparts from around the world on Wednesday in observing International Youth Day, which falls annually on 12 August.

This participation underscores the critical importance of youth as the cornerstone of development and the architects of future civilizational progress.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth affirmed that Omani youth are an integral part

of the nation's growth trajectory, actively contributing to shaping both the present and the future of the country. In order to further strengthen their role across various domains of national endeavour, the Ministry—through the Directorate General of Youth—has continued its efforts throughout 2025 and 2026 to build communication bridges with young people, listen to their views and aspirations, and provide safe environments for dialogue on issues that affect and empower youth engagement. — ONA

CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

CPA seeking to make interactions simpler

< FROM A1 The Consumer Passport is being developed as an additional digital channel alongside the CPA's existing services, providing consumers with a more centralised way to engage with the authority. The move comes as consumer protection increasingly relies on timely access to information, efficient complaint handling and greater awareness

of consumer rights. By providing users with a single digital account, the CPA is seeking to make these interactions simpler and more transparent.

Further details, including the official launch date and the full range of services that will be available through the Consumer Passport, are expected to be announced by the authority ahead of its public rollout.

GHALA BASE

Royal Air Force of Oman celebrates graduation of new batch of recruits

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) on Tuesday celebrated the graduation of a new batch of recruits at the military parade ground at Ghala Base and the Sultan Qaboos Air Academy.

The event was held under the patronage of Retired Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Manthri, and in the presence of Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman.



Diverse military displays

The ceremony featured a series of diverse military displays.

Then, the graduates chanted the anthem of the Royal Air Force of Oman, took the oath of loyalty, pledged allegiance and proclaimed thrice: "Long live His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander."

Outstanding performers of the course were also recognised. Recruit Ali Mohammed Belhaf secured first place overall for the course, Recruit Munthir Musabih Al Ghamlasi achieved top honours in military drill, and Recruit Mohammed Nasser Al Adawi earned first place in light weapons marksmanship.

— ONA

OMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Elite Forum for athletes participating in Asian Games in Japan organised

MUSCAT: Oman Olympic Committee, represented by the Omani Athletes Committee, organised the Elite Forum for athletes participating in the 20th Asian Games "Aichi-Nagoya 2026", scheduled to be held next September.

The organisation of the forum comes within the framework of Oman Olympic Committee's keenness to enhance the readiness of athletes participating in the Asian Games and prepare them with various knowledge and information that contribute to supporting their participation and honourable representation of the Sultanate of Oman, alongside promoting direct communication between athletes, the Omani Athletes Committee, and relevant entities.

The Sultanate of Oman is participating in the Games' competitions through ten national teams represented in athletics, taekwondo, shooting, hockey, golf, fencing, cricket, weightlifting, sailing, and beach volleyball.

The forum included several awareness and knowledge pillars



that focused on sports, administrative, health, psychological, and legal aspects associated with athletes' participation in major sports events.

Safe sports environment

These included raising athletes' awareness of their rights and duties in accordance with the principles of the Olympic Movement, promoting a culture of athlete protection and providing a safe sports environment, spreading awareness about anti-doping and

compliance with relevant international regulations and rules, alongside enhancing psychological well-being and managing stress associated with major competitions.

The forum also sought to familiarise athletes with administrative procedures, travel arrangements, and official representation of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as enhancing the clarity of roles and responsibilities and elevating readiness levels before and during participation in the Games.

The forum featured a diverse

program of presentations, awareness sessions, and panel discussions addressing a group of pillars related to athletes' readiness to participate in the Asian Games.

The programme concluded with a panel discussion with the athletes, offering them a space to interact, raise inquiries, and discuss various topics related to their participation in the Asian Games, in addition to exchanging views and raising challenges and needs with the Omani Athletes Committee and relevant entities. — ONA

FOLLOWING DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE

Oman expresses solidarity, condolences to Colombia

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has conveyed its sincere solidarity and condolences to the government and people of the friendly Republic of Colombia in the wake of the devastating earthquake that struck western Colombia, resulting in a number of fatalities and injuries.

In a statement issued yesterday by the Foreign Ministry, the Sultanate of Oman expressed its deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and extended its earnest wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured, as well as for the successful mitigation of the aftermath of this natural disaster.

— ONA



NCSI DATA

Oman's population tops 5.3mn

MUSCAT: Oman's population reached approximately 5,398,645 by the end of June 2026, reflecting a growth of 1.7 percent compared to the end of June 2025, when it stood at 5,306,976.

Data from the monthly statistical bulletin issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated that the number of Omanis reached 3,063,949 by the end of June 2026, representing 56.75 percent of the total population of the Sultanate of Oman, while the number of expatriates reached 2,334,696, representing 43.25 percent.

At the governorate level, Muscat Governorate had the largest population, with a total of 1,542,619, representing 28.6 percent of the total population of the Sultanate of Oman. — ONA

COMMENTARY

Spider-Man: Brand New Day - Everyday Hero with Modern Mysteries

Spider-Man: Brand New Day comes with intriguingly familiar things, and yet there is something distinct about it. The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has been increasingly exploring the territories of mind manipulation, possession, psychological control, etc. recently; that's where the film meanders into. The powers that blur the line between science, magic, and the supernatural come to play in this film in a gripping and emotionally powerful manner.

It is the same youthful energy that Tom Holland brings back as Peter Parker. Something that has always defined his portrayal of the character. Despite the decades that have passed, Holland still carries the appearance and exudes the vulnerability of the teenage Parker image fixed in our minds.

Peter is much lonelier and more isolated this time after the events of the previous film. Post the loss of his aunt, Peter is living largely on his own – by choice and carrying the emotional outcomes of his decisions to protect those closest to him.

Peter's relationship with MJ (Zendaya) is probably the most poignant element of his journey after he'd previously erased himself from the memories of his closest friends to keep them safe. So, ironically, MJ knows him, but not the Peter Parker she once knew. It becomes an unexpectedly painful experience for Peter watching her move on with another relationship. Holland exhibits much of that pain without words, particularly in the momentary expressions and flashes that reveal sentiments he is unwilling to acknowledge.

His confrontations with Ned Leeds (Jacob Batalon) carry an unusual mix of warmth, longing, nostalgia, and emotional bond. Peter can remember the past but simply cannot reclaim.

Sadie Sink as Jean Grey is the most intriguing addition in the



Peter is much lonelier and more isolated this time after the events of the previous film. Post the loss of his aunt, Peter is living largely on his own – by choice and carrying the emotional outcomes of his decisions to protect those closest to him

film. She is a mutant capable of extraordinary telepathic abilities, who becomes a mysterious and challenging presence. She

can enter minds, influence actions, and effectively use others as extensions of herself, making them do what she wants to do. Sadie brings an intensity that makes her character difficult to understand and even harder to dismiss.

While most of the time Jean appears to be an antagonist, leading Peter into conflict with her. Peter leads Jean into the custody of William Metzger (Tramell Tillman), who heads the Department of Damage Control. As the climax arrives and the truth behind Jean's actions is revealed gradually, with memories of her sister Sara, the storyline takes a flip, and Peter eventually chooses to help and not fight her.

For the traditional lovers of Spider-Man, the spectacle is likewise rewarding, with the familiar aerial sequences across New York's skyline with spectacular 3D effects, breathtaking falls, impossible rescues, and cheering crowds. Interestingly, the appearance of Hulk adds another layer to the action and fortifies the film's connection with the MCU.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day offers an entertaining mix of memories, showbiz, feelings, along with superhero drama. It also balances action with conversations around humanity, morality, good and evil, and the choices that define individuals.

The author is Founder Festival Director, KidzCINEMA and Culture Cinema Film Festivals in India



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TENDERS

The company invites specialized companies to participate in the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Request for Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	1580000586-26	ELECTRICAL MCC ROOM CONSTRUCTION & TRANSFORMER VFD INSTALLATION	Free	27th August 2026 2359 Hours	01st September 2026 2359 Hours
2.	1720000244-26	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS AT FACTORY SITE & HOUSING - STP	Free	27th August 2026 2359 Hours	01st September 2026 2359 Hours
3.	1650000364-26	MINING, CRUSHING, TRANSPORTATION & SUPPLY OF GYPSUM	Free	27th August 2026 2359 Hours	01st September 2026 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by scanning the barcode provided at the bottom of this advertisement. Bidders are required to complete all the requested information in the form to submit their request. Upon successful submission, the tender documents will be shared accordingly.

The last date for submission of offers is on **Tuesday, 2359 hours**, detailed date on the above table, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value. The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers, and the ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception of our Administration Building, Al Misfah West factory Site, Bausher, Muscat, Oman.

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COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 30th June 2026.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th June 2026 is 11.661 million  compared with 13.144 million  for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 11%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 30th June 2026 is 10.879 million  compared with 12.406 million  for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 12%.

At the group level, net loss after tax for the period ended 30th June 2026 is  (110,071) compared with re-stated net profit of 1,720,706  for the same period of the last year.

The parent Company's net profit after tax for the period ended 30th June 2026 is 64,405  compared with re-stated net profit of 1,730,114  for the same period of the last year.

During the year 2025, Management has restated the inventories to match with IAS 8 and corresponding corrections in cost of revenue where the current year results were affected by positive 2,163,894 . The same took place for the year 2024 that was affected by the same amount negatively. The above restatement has no impact on Retained Earnings and Equity

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Mr. Abdullah Saud M. Al Romaih
Chairman

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	30 June 2026		30 June 2025	
	Parent 	Group 	Parent 	Group 
Revenue	10,879,338	11,660,841	12,406,462	13,144,539
Cost of sales	(10,324,548)	(11,104,531)	(9,843,926)	(10,413,097)
Gross Profit	554,790	556,310	2,562,536	2,731,442
General and administration expenses	(493,931)	(669,960)	(564,533)	(737,747)
Investment and Other Income	14,912	14,995	42,589	42,589
Profit for the period before tax	75,771	(98,655)	2,040,592	2,036,284
Provision for Income tax	(11,366)	(11,416)	(310,478)	(315,578)
Net Profit for the period after tax	64,405	(110,071)	1,730,114	1,720,706
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	64,405	(110,071)	1,730,114	1,720,706
Earnings per share	0.002	(0.004)	0.058	0.057

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2026						
	30 June 2026		30 June 2025		31 December 2025	
	Parent 	Group 	Parent 	Group 	Parent 	Group 
ASSETS						
Non-current Assets:						
Property, plant and equipment	2,944,373	3,267,092	2,660,212	3,023,260	3,032,227	3,404,324
Right of use assets	270,269	270,269	196,694	196,694	276,292	276,292
Deferred Tax Asset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment	2,004,118	-	2,004,118	-	2,004,118	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	490,558	490,558	-	-	490,558	490,558
Total Non-current Assets	5,709,318	5,024,719	4,861,024	4,216,754	5,803,195	5,167,974
Current Assets:						
Inventories	857,035	1,094,305	1,066,861	1,244,483	876,604	1,105,346
Trade and other receivables	3,929,979	3,959,045	4,512,819	4,367,238	3,255,200	3,195,853
Cash and cash equivalents	1,358,021	1,504,831	1,187,350	1,347,545	1,676,146	1,915,049
Total Current Assets	6,145,035	6,558,181	6,767,030	6,959,266	5,807,950	6,216,249
TOTAL ASSETS	11,854,353	11,582,900	11,628,054	11,176,020	11,611,145	11,384,222
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES						
Equity:						
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,015,863	1,000,000	1,015,863	1,000,000	1,015,863
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	1,292,166	1,370,366	807,666	807,666	1,292,166	1,370,366
Retained earnings	(738,778)	(1,000,697)	(501,293)	(661,457)	(803,183)	(884,548)
Total Equity	6,010,455	5,842,599	5,763,440	5,619,139	5,946,050	5,958,748
Non-current Liabilities:						
End of service benefits	154,931	202,075	134,431	166,998	144,223	185,204
Non current portion of Term Loan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non current portion of lease liabilities	335,291	335,291	252,916	252,916	323,995	323,995
Deferred tax	115,605	128,657	92,532	94,375	115,605	128,657
Total Non-current Liabilities	605,827	666,023	479,879	514,289	583,823	637,856
Current Liabilities:						
Trade and other payables	4,581,434	4,417,591	5,281,130	4,938,664	4,638,013	4,334,471
Bank overdraft	614,989	614,989	74,203	74,203	413,115	413,115
Current portion of Term Loan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current portion of lease liabilities	10,064	10,064	9,184	9,184	9,926	9,926
Income Tax	31,584	31,634	20,218	20,541	20,218	30,106
Total Current Liabilities	5,238,071	5,074,278	5,384,736	5,042,592	5,081,272	4,787,618
Total Liabilities	5,843,898	5,740,301	5,864,614	5,556,881	5,665,095	5,425,474
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	11,854,353	11,582,900	11,628,054	11,176,020	11,611,145	11,384,222
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.200	0.195	0.192	0.187	0.198	0.199

SALALAH’S SPECTACULAR KHAREEF SEASON INVITES TRAVELLERS TO DISCOVER A GREENER SIDE OF OMAN WHILE STAYING AT HAWANA SALALAH HOTELS



SALALAH: As Khareef season reaches its peak, Salalah is once again revealing one of the region's most extraordinary natural transformations. From now through the end of September, the Dhofar landscape takes on a dramatic new character, as seasonal rains bring the mountains to life with lush greenery, flowing waterfalls, mist-covered valleys and cool, refreshing weather.

For visitors arriving during Khareef, Salalah offers an experience unlike any other in the Arabian Peninsula. The familiar desert landscape gives way to rolling green hills, cloud-covered mountains, natural springs and spectacular waterfalls, creating a setting that feels almost otherworldly. As mist drifts across the mountains and rain-fed streams flow through the valleys, the destination becomes a natural retreat shaped entirely by the season.

At the heart of this experience is Hawana Salalah, Oman's largest integrated tourism destination, ideally positioned along the Arabian Sea and offering a gateway to explore the region's natural wonders while enjoying an extensive range of hospitality, dining and leisure experiences.

Hawana Salalah brings together four distinctive hotels, giving travellers a choice of experiences to suit different styles of travel. Salalah Rotana Resort offers an expansive five-star resort experience, while Fanar Hotel & Residences combines beachfront living with a vibrant resort atmosphere. Juweira Boutique Hotel offers an intimate adults-focused escape overlooking the marina, while The Club by Fanar provides an exclusive setting with its own distinctive character.

The destination also offers a variety of experiences beyond its hotels. Guests can explore the marina, enjoy an extensive selection of restaurants and cafés, spend time along the coastline, or discover family-friendly attractions including Hawana Aqua Park. Together, these experiences provide visitors with the opportunity to combine the natural beauty of Khareef with memorable moments of relaxation, adventure and discovery.

For families, couples, honey-

At the heart of this experience is Hawana Salalah, Oman's largest integrated tourism destination, ideally positioned along the Arabian Sea and offering a gateway to explore the region's natural wonders while enjoying an extensive range of hospitality, dining and leisure experiences

mooners and groups of friends, Khareef offers an opportunity to experience a different side of Oman. Days can begin beneath cool, cloudy skies and continue with excursions into the green mountains, visits to waterfalls and natural springs, or scenic drives through the mist-covered landscapes of Dhofar.

With the season continuing until the end of September, travellers still have time to experience the greenery, mist, waterfalls and cooler climate that make Salalah so distinctive. Whether seeking a family getaway, a romantic escape or simply a chance to reconnect with nature, Hawana Salalah offers an ideal base from which to experience the season.

Guests can explore exclusive Khareef stay offers across Hawana Salalah's hotels and plan their seasonal escape today.

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‘Examining Hasina’s extradition request’

The official response came after Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi held talks to discuss several key issues



NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday affirmed that Dhaka’s request for the extradition of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is being examined as per established procedures and reiterated that its stand on the issue remains unchanged.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Tuesday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the matter concerning Hasina’s extradition was being processed, while investigations into the case involving the suspects in the murder of Bangladeshi activist Sharif Osman Hadi are currently underway.

“Our High Commissioner met with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh yesterday, and they discussed matters of mutual interest. On the other two issues that you raised about the extradition of the former Prime Minister, as also the case of Hadi. On Hadi, I told you that this is a legal matter in which investigations are ongoing presently. As far as the extradition matter is concerned, as I said before, our position has been very clear on this particular matter: that we are looking into the case

Bangladesh House panel chief reaffirms ties with India

DHAKA : Bangladesh remains committed to maintaining a constructive, mutually beneficial baseline in its bilateral ties with India, according to Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Speaking to ANI, Chowdhury emphasised that the newly elected government, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), is approaching foreign policy through a “Bangladesh First” lens while prioritising

stable engagement with its largest neighbour.

“India is our largest neighbour. For Bangladesh, obviously, we want to have a very good, healthy relationship with our neighbour... When it comes to foreign relationships, we have presented our ‘Bangladesh First’ approach. And that is very clear--that we want to build all our foreign relationships based on a win-win strategy. And that would be the baseline for our relationship with India.”

-ANI

as per established processes that we have on our side,” said Jaiswal.

The official response came after Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Indian High

Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi held talks yesterday to discuss several key issues, including Hasina’s extradition and the return of those accused in Hadi’s murder, local media reported.

Following the high-level meeting in Dhaka, a press release issued by the Rahman’s PM’s Press Wing noted, “Bangladesh hopes that India will expedite the process of extraditing Sheikh Hasina.”

Concurrently, Bangladesh has called upon India to hand over the accused involved in the murder of Hadi, according to Bangladeshi daily Prothom Alo.

Hadi was shot in the head on December 12 last year by assailants firing from a moving motorcycle while riding a rickshaw on Paltan Road in Dhaka. He was subsequently airlifted to Singapore for medical treatment but succumbed to his injuries on December 18.

Earlier this year, the Bangladesh High Commission in Kolkata stated, “The Kolkata Police informed this Deputy High Commission in a message that two Bangladeshi citizens named Faisal Karim Masud (37) and Alamgir Hossain (34) have been arrested. Indian media has identified these two individuals as suspects in the Shahid Sharif Osman Bin Hadi murder case. Immediately after this news was published, the Deputy High Commission established the necessary contact with the Indian authorities in Kolkata and requested the Government of India to provide consular access.”

Meanwhile, Indian High Commissioner Trivedi described his initial interaction with Prime Minister Rahman as “fruitful”, remarking that the two nations do not merely share a physical border but also “share dreams”, as per Bangladeshi local media.

Following the engagement with Rahman, the Indian High Commission posted on X that the envoy communicated India’s intent to collaborate with the Bangladeshi administration and its citizens in a “positive, constructive and forward-looking manner”. -ANI



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Some shipping stops as Rhine hits new lows

BERLIN: New record-low water levels have been measured on the Rhine, a vital transport waterway, with some cargo vessel owners stopping shipping on river sections in the south.

The inland navigation agency WSV reported that the gauge at Kaub, near Koblenz, had fallen to an all-time low of 15 centimetres (5.9 inches) on Tuesday, indicating that the river depth is about 115 centimeters at its deepest point .

A commodity trader told the Reuters news agency that it was “no longer to book cargo shipments on the Rhine past Kaub.”

“Most sailings there have stopped,” the trader said.

Traders said that sailings on northern sections of the river were continuing.

Germany, along with much of Europe, has experienced a series of heat waves and a long period without meaningful rainfall this summer, leading to low water levels in several rivers.

The situation is having not only an environmental but also an economic impact, with companies that are reliant on goods normally transported via water suffering supply shortfalls. The ships that are still sailing are carrying much lighter loads than usual and at higher prices. -aw



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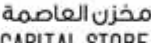
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PREMEDITATED MURDER

Former Syrian president Assad sentenced to death in absentia

DAMASCUS: Former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was sentenced to death in absentia by a criminal court in Damascus on Tuesday, after being convicted of premeditated murder, while Atef Najib, former head of political security in southern Syria's Deraa province, was also sentenced to death after being found guilty of premeditated murder and torture, Al Jazeera reported.

According to the Times of Israel, the Damascus court's ruling marks the first death sentence against Assad by Syria's transitional authorities, which began proceedings this year against figures associated with his former government, both in person and in absentia.

According to court convictions, Assad was convicted over charges linked to the 13-year civil war, with the case also described as involving "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity".

Assad fled Syria with his family in December 2024 as opposition forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) advanced towards Damascus. He was subsequently granted asylum in Russia.

Assad was ousted after HTS-led opposition forces launched an offensive from the northwestern province of Idlib and reached Da-



mascus in the early hours of December 8, 2024, bringing an end to more than five decades of rule by the Assad family.

Ahmed al-Sharaa, whose forces led the offensive that removed Assad, subsequently became the head of Syria's transitional authorities, after which he pledged to hold accountable those responsible for bloodshed and atrocities committed during the Assad era.

Al-Sharaa also became the first Syrian leader in nearly 60 years to address the UN General Assembly, where he called for the complete

lifting of sanctions imposed on Syria. The Trump administration later revoked the foreign terrorist organisation designation of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), also known as the al-Nusra Front, which spearheaded the movement that led to Assad's ouster under al-Sharaa's leadership.

Following his departure from Syria, Assad issued his first public remarks in a statement attributed to him and published on the Syrian presidency's Telegram channel.

Assad denied that his departure had been planned and rejected claims

that he had left Syria during the final stages of fighting in Damascus.

"First, my departure from Syria was neither planned nor did it occur during the final hours of the battles, as some have claimed," the statement read.

"On the contrary, I remained in Damascus, carrying out my duties until the early hours of Sunday, December 8, 2024," it added.

According to the statement, Assad moved to a Russian military base in the coastal city of Latakia after opposition forces entered Damascus, saying he intended to

oversee military operations.

He claimed that after the military position became untenable, Moscow requested that the base command arrange his evacuation to Russia.

"With no viable means of leaving the base, Moscow requested that the base's command arrange an immediate evacuation to Russia on the evening of Sunday 8 December," the statement said.

The statement added that the evacuation took place after the fall of Damascus and the collapse of the remaining military positions and state institutions.

Assad also defended his years in power and said he considered himself the "custodian" of a national project supported by Syrians.

"I have carried an unwavering conviction in their will and ability to protect the state, defend its institutions, and uphold their choices to the very last moment," the statement said.

"When the state falls into the hands of terrorism, and the ability to make a meaningful contribution is lost, any position becomes void of purpose, rendering its occupation meaningless," it added.

Assad became president in 2000 following the death of his father, Hafez al-Assad, and ruled Syria for

more than two decades.

His presidency was marked by a devastating civil war that began in 2011, when protests erupted against the government as part of the wider "Arab Spring" pro-democracy uprisings across the Middle East.

The demonstrations were met with a deadly crackdown by Syrian security forces, eventually transforming the unrest into an armed conflict that lasted for more than 13 years.

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed during the war, while Syria became fragmented amid fighting between different forces.

Rights groups accused Assad's government of widespread human rights violations during the conflict. Following the collapse of his government, opposition fighters and rights advocates reported discovering evidence of alleged abuses, torture and mass executions at prisons that had held thousands of detainees. Tens of thousands of Syrians believed to have been held in government custody remain unaccounted for.

The death sentence against Assad now represents a major judicial action by Syria's transitional authorities against the former leadership, while Assad remains outside the country in Russia. **ANI**

BRUTAL ATTACKS

Iran condemns Israel's strikes on Lebanon

TEHRAN: Iran on Tuesday strongly condemned Israel's strikes on southern Lebanon over the weekend, accusing the United States of being an "accomplice and partner" in Israeli crimes in Lebanon, occupied Palestine and the wider region due to Washington's "comprehensive support" for Israel.

Spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Esmail Baqaei, in a statement condemned the "brutal attacks" by Israel on areas in southern Lebanon over the past few days, saying the strikes had resulted in the deaths and injuries of Lebanese citizens and the destruction of infrastructure and homes.

Baqaei also criticised the continuation of Israeli attacks and what he described as violations of Lebanon's territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

"Ismail Baqaei, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, strongly condemned the brutal attacks by the Zionist regime against areas in southern Lebanon over the past few days, which have resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of Lebanese citizens and the destruction of infrastructure and people's homes," the ministry said.

Beqaei also blamed what he called the silence and indifference of international institutions, particularly the United Nations Security Council, for allowing Israel to continue its actions.

"Referring to the continuation of the occupation regime's attacks and the violation of Lebanon's territorial integrity

and national sovereignty, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considered the silence and indifference of international institutions, especially the United Nations Security Council, to be the cause of the Zionist regime's further arrogance and the continuation of its aggression and crimes," the statement added.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson further accused the US of being an accomplice and partner in Israel's actions because of its support for Israel.

He said the US "ruling delegation", due to its "comprehensive support for the occupation regime", was "considered an accomplice and partner in all the Zionist regime's crimes in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, and the entire region."

The comments came after Israeli forces fired 455 projectiles into southern Lebanon and breached Lebanese airspace 97 times between Friday and Sunday, according to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

UNIFIL said in a statement on Monday that Saturday alone accounted for 229 projectiles, the highest single-day total recorded by the peacekeeping mission since June 21. An airstrike was also reported in Al Mansuri on Sunday. Most of the airspace violations involved drones, while helicopters and fighter jets were also observed, UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said.

UN peacekeepers also tracked two Israeli boats moving north through Lebanese waters before turning back south on Friday. **ANI**

Tremors were felt in several cities across Colombia, including the capital Bogota, where alarms sounded and people in several buildings evacuated to the streets as a precaution



New York Times.

Tremors were felt in several cities across Colombia, including the capital Bogota, where alarms sounded and people in several buildings evacuated to the streets as a precaution.

Earlier, President Abelardo de la Espriella said that 1,577 residential buildings had been damaged, while 37 others were completely destroyed. He added that more than 60 buildings had collapsed, along with damage to 18 health centres and 52 schools, The New York Times reported.

The department of Risaralda in western-central Colombia has emerged as the worst-hit area, Risaralda Governor Juan Diego Patino told radio station BluRadio.

In a statement, de la Espriella said he had convened an emergency committee to address the damage and pledged that the

government "will do whatever is necessary" to protect those affected. He added that he would "personally lead efforts" to steer the country through the aftermath of the quake.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) recorded the quake at around 7:34 am local time with an epicentre near San Jose del Palmar in Colombia's Choco area, around 280 kilometres west of Bogota, at a depth of 107 kilometres.

According to CNN, the governor of Colombia's northwestern area of Choco, Nubia Carolina Cordoba Curi, confirmed that in the regional capital, Quibdo, "there are injured people and severe damage to buildings" and expressed concern about possible aftershocks.

Meanwhile, Bogota Mayor Carlos F Galan announced on X that six collection points for donations are being set up, seeking essential

supplies including drinking water, blankets, non-perishable food, hygiene products and first-aid materials for affected communities.

"In Bogota, we have set up 6 collection points to receive donations for the cities most affected by the earthquake. Needed: drinking water, blankets, quilts, mats, non-perishable food, personal hygiene items, and first aid supplies. Please, if you can donate, do so," he wrote on X.

He further added, "So far, no serious impacts have been reported in Bogota. On the other hand, everything has already been coordinated with the National Government so that 100 rescuers from Bogota can travel to the most affected cities and support search and rescue operations. We are ready to continue helping so that the response is as swift as possible. We are all in this together." **ANI**

SERIOUS AND DANGEROUS DISEASES

Trump advocates overhaul of US childhood vaccine policy

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump on Monday (local time) signed an executive order, saying his administration would recognise "Gold Standard" recommendations for 11 core vaccinations against serious and dangerous diseases, along with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Trump said that for years, the US had recommended more childhood vaccines than other peer nations, with children in some cases receiving up to 72 vaccine doses.

"Effective immediately, my administration is recognising Gold Standard childhood vaccine recommendations for only 11 core vaccinations against the most serious and dangerous diseases, along with the MMR," Trump said, while signing an executive order in the Oval Office, adding that the MMR vaccine should be administered as three separate vaccina-



tions at different times.

"No parent should feel the pressure of immediately after their

child is born, and a bunch of vaccines are pressured and pushed upon them. This is about freedom

at the end of the day," he added.

US Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr said the administration would ensure vaccine access while strengthening safety monitoring, research, and parental choice in healthcare decisions.

"We will preserve access to vaccines, strengthen safety monitoring, expand research, give doctors and parents better information, and restore informed consent and parental choice to their rightful place in American medicine," he said.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Jay Bhattacharya said the move would restore the autonomy of families and parents to make decisions for their children while continuing to emphasise the role of science in vaccine recommendations.

"This restores a healthy relationship between public health and parents," Bhattacharya said.

White House adviser Stephen Miller praised the decision, calling it a step that would restore patient and parental choice in medical decisions.

"This is an action that ensures the dignity of patients, the dignity of parents. It restores choice and says we are going to let the parent and doctor make a sound medical decision," Miller said.

Measles, a highly contagious airborne virus, can infect up to nine out of ten unvaccinated individuals exposed to it. While symptoms typically resolve within weeks in most cases, the disease poses serious risks, especially to young children, potentially leading to severe complications such as ear infections, pneumonia, lung inflammation, or encephalitis, a brain swelling that may result in long-term issues including seizures and memory impairment.

The only effective prevention

against measles is vaccination, commonly delivered through the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) combination vaccine. Health authorities recommend the first dose for children before 15 months of age, with the second dose administered before age six.

Although the MMR vaccine is widely regarded as safe and provides lifelong protection, vaccination coverage has declined in some countries, including the United States, partly due to misinformation and unfounded claims.

In the US, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr has previously stated that the vaccine "waned very quickly" and suggested associated health risks, assertions contradicted by experts and agencies like the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which affirm that the vaccine is far safer than contracting measles itself. **ANI**

Afghanistan beat Ireland to book spot in the 2027 ODI World Cup

Rashid Khan's all-round display helped his team win by three wickets

BELFAST: Afghanistan clinched a thriller against host Ireland on Monday to seal their spot in the 2027 ODI World Cup in Southern Africa, courtesy of their global superstar, Rashid Khan.

At 176 for 7, Ireland were more than in with a sniff of defending 206. But Rashid held firm, making 37 of the most valuable runs to help his team cross the line. Rashid's batting efforts topped up a typically aggressive spell of leg-spin that fetched him 3 for 44 earlier in the afternoon, a spell that turned the tables on Ireland along with mystery spinner AM Ghazanfar.



Trailing 1-0 down in the five-match series, Ireland put up a spirited defence. From 97 for 2, Gavin Hoey bowled a terrific spell of leg-spin himself. His 4 for 34 through the middle overs - including the prized scalp of opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz for 71 - cracked the game open. At the other end, he was well complemented by seamer Mark Adair. But in having to go all out, Ireland eventually ran out of steam once Hoey bowled out by the

33rd over. That Ireland made a fist of this was down to a record ninth-wicket stand between Jai Moondra and Hoey. The pair added 76 for the ninth wicket after Ireland were in tatters at 128 for 8. Hoey top scored with 36, while Moondra made 31 enterprising runs in just his second ODI innings.

Having walloped a full toss first up, Moondra hit four more boundaries in his knock, before nicking behind to Gurbaz to give comeback



man Yamin Ahmadzai - playing his first ODI since 2022 - his second wicket. The innings ended in the 47th over when Hoey was bowled attempting a big hit down the ground off Azmatullah Omarzai. By then, Rashid and Ghazanfar, who ripped through the top order to pick up the wickets of Lorcan Tucker, Curtis Campher and Ben Calitz, had combined figures of 6 for 73. Gurbaz took the attack to the fast bowlers in the chase. He

was particularly aggressive against Moondra, the left-arm seamer, who didn't quite manage to extract the same movement as Adair.

Gurbaz waltzed to his eighth ODI fifty with a heave over deep midwicket, but then had to buckle down in the face of some quick wickets. Sediqullah Atal dragged a delivery from Hoey to long-on for 27, and Rahmat Shah, the captain, was bowled by Adair.

Hoey took a leaf out of the Af-

ghan spinners, varying his pace and largely bowling stump-to-stump. Even so, Hashmatullah Shahidi dragged a half-tracker straight to Moondra at deep square, while impatience got the better of Darwish Rasooli, as he swiped across the line to toe end one to midwicket to leave Afghanistan 154 for 6.

That wasn't the only brain fade of the innings. Omarzai attempted a lofted hit, only to be caught at cover to leave Ireland dreaming of an unlikely heist.

Then Rashid stood tall, playing a sedate but confident innings, resisting the urge to hit out until Afghanistan were within 15 runs of victory. Then he brought the target into single-figures with his wristy whip; he fittingly hit the winning runs to spark big celebrations.

Ahmadzai played no small part, facing 26 balls for his 4 not out, as Afghanistan secured entry into a fourth straight World Cup.

Brief scores: Afghanistan 207/7 (Gurbaz 71, Rashid 37*, Hoey 4-34) beat Ireland 206 (Hoey 36, Ghazanfar 3-29, Rashid 3-44). - Agencies

TWO-TIME CHAMPIONS

Windies left to play the ODI World Cup Qualifier

KINGSTON: Two-time men's ODI World Cup champions West Indies will have to go through a qualifying tournament to make it to the 2027 showpiece.

The top eight teams in the ICC ODI rankings on September 30 this year - excluding two of the hosts, South Africa and Zimbabwe - will gain automatic qualification to the World Cup.

Afghanistan secured themselves within that bracket after their thrilling win over Ireland in Belfast. They will join defending champions Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England, Bangladesh, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Although West Indies - ranked 10th - have two ODIs against India



inside the cut-off date, even two wins still wouldn't push them back into contention.

That means they once again have to go through the grind of the

Qualifier, being held in February next year, to have a shot at the title.

West Indies were unable to make the 2023 ODI World Cup via direct entry and had to play the Qualifier, where they finished fifth in the Super Six stage and ultimately lost out.

It was the first World Cup that they ever missed, which in turn led to their missing the 2025 Champions Trophy, a competition they haven't played since 2013.

The winner of the Qualifier, whose host is yet to be decided, will get direct entry to the second round of the 2027 World Cup, while the teams finishing second, third and fourth will play the first round called the Super Series.

The top team from that tri-series

will then proceed to the second round. This change has not been met well at the Associate level.

The Qualifier includes the two bottom-ranked, non-host Full Members in the ODI rankings as of September 30, 2026 (Ireland and West Indies); the top four teams from Cricket World Cup League 2 (Oman are currently fourth in the table); and the top four teams from a World Cup Qualifier Playoff.

This Playoff will be contested by the bottom four teams from CWC League 2 along with four teams from the Challenge League (essentially cricket's third division).

The format is yet to be decided but the top four from this eight-team Playoff will advance to the World Cup Qualifier. - Agencies

T20 WORLD CUP BID

Henriques to lead Portugal

LISBON: Moises Henriques, the 39-year-old veteran all-rounder, was on Monday named the captain of Portugal as they attempt to qualify for the ICC T20 World Cup for the first time.

Henriques played four Tests, 16 ODIs and 24 T20Is for Australia. Born in Madeira, the Portuguese island to the west of Morocco, which is also the birthplace of the footballer Cristiano Ronaldo, his family relocated to Australia when he was a young child and he enjoyed a long professional career with New South Wales and the Sydney Sixers. He also won 44 international caps, the most recent of which was five years ago.

He announced last month that he was retiring from Australian



domestic cricket but will continue to play overseas. Henriques has a contract with Glasgow Cosmic in the inaugural season of the European T20 Premier League, and on Monday, he was named captain for Portugal's upcoming T20 World Cup qualifying tournament in Finland. - Agencies

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OMAN OIL PRICE JUMPS
The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by October 2026 reaching \$89.12. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$8.13 from the price of Monday, which was \$80.99. -**ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 7466.53 points, up by 0.47% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.28% at 593.66 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 8.84%, was the top gainer while, Financial Corporation, down 3.00%, was the top loser.

First integrated Omani 50,000-tonne chromium ore shipment leaves Sohar

This move aims to expand the customer base and open new marketing channels for Omani chromium ore in global markets by Oman Minerals Trading Company



MUSCAT: The Oman Minerals Trading Company announced the launch of its first integrated shipment of Omani chromium ore, exceeding 50,000 tonnes, via Sohar Port. This achievement marks a new chapter in the marketing and export of Omani chromium. Meanwhile, the average selling price of gypsum exports increased by 8 percent compared to the same period last year.

The chromium shipment included several types of Omani ore in a single consignment, allowing the company to meet the needs of a larger number of buyers and factories. This move aims to expand the

customer base and open new marketing channels for Omani chromium ore in global markets.

Marketing efforts included Asian and European markets, as well as direct engagement with factories using Omani chromium ore for the first time. This supports market diversification, direct access to end consumers, and paves the way for building long-term business relationships.

In the gypsum sector, the company marketed and exported more

than 1.8 million tons to 11 countries via over 32 ships departing from the Port of Salalah, coinciding with an 8 percent increase in the average selling price compared to the same period last year.

Gypsum export destinations included several Gulf markets, including Kuwait, in addition to expanding into new African markets and revitalizing exports to South Korea, as part of efforts to diversify destinations and reduce reliance on a limited number of markets.

Hussain bin Ali Al Lawati, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Minerals Trading Company, stated that the launch of the integrated shipment of chromium ore represents a significant step in developing Omani mineral markets.

He noted that market diversification and direct access to consumers are key pillars of the marketing strategy.

Al Lawati added that the results achieved in gypsum exports, in-

cluding the increase in the average selling price and the expansion of the market base, reflect the importance of managing marketing and export operations in a more integrated manner.

He emphasized that the priority is to achieve the best possible commercial value for Omani raw materials while continuing to meet the needs of the local market.

He noted that the company is working to support the growth of mineral-related downstream in-

dustries within the Sultanate of Oman by balancing exports with providing the necessary supplies for local industry. This contributes to increasing the added value of mineral resources and supporting related investments.

The Oman Minerals Trading Company (OMTC), a subsidiary of Oman Minerals Development Company, is responsible for marketing and exporting gypsum and chromium ores. It centrally manages export operations and negotiates with buyers in international markets.

The company commenced its commercial operations by exporting its first shipment of gypsum through the Port of Salalah, as part of its mandate to manage exports of gypsum and chromium ores from the Sultanate of Oman.

The company was established by Ministerial Decision No. (18/2025), which granted it the exclusive right to export gypsum and chromium ores starting in June 2026. Domestic sales remain outside its purview.

Through its centralized export model, the company aims to unify marketing and negotiation processes, improve market access and buyer engagement, and enhance transparency and competitiveness in export marketing. This will bolster the commercial value of Omani mineral resources in global markets. -**ONA**

SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY



India faces \$35bn annual renewable financing gap

NEW DELHI: India could face an annual renewable energy financing gap of nearly \$35 billion as it races to achieve its 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity target by 2030, creating a significant opportunity for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) to unlock capital from operational renewable assets and fund the next phase of capacity expansion, Knight Frank India said in a report on Tuesday.

According to Knight Frank India's latest research study, India's non-fossil fuel capacity has increased fivefold from 59 GW in 2016 to 300 GW as of July 2026. The country needs to add nearly 200 GW over the next four years, implying annual capacity additions of around 50 GW.

This would require annual investments of USD 48-54 billion, substantially higher than the current annual investment of USD 13-18 billion, the report said.

With private developers accounting for more than 90 per cent of India's renewable energy capacity, capital recycling is becoming increasingly important. InvITs could provide developers with a mechanism to monetise operational assets, release capital and redeploy it into new renewable generation, storage and transmission projects.

However, the opportunity remains largely untapped. Less than 2 per cent of India's operational renewable capacity has been monetised through InvIT structures, according to the report. Knight Frank noted that financing renewable energy projects in India remains nearly 80 per cent more expensive than in mature international markets, further strengthen-

ing the case for alternative financing mechanisms.

"India's renewable energy journey has now reached an inflection point where financing innovation will be as important as capacity addition," Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said.

Bajjal added that InvITs could unlock capital embedded in operational renewable assets, reduce the cost of capital over time and accelerate investment into the next generation of renewable energy, storage and transmission infrastructure.

Operational renewable assets could also offer an attractive income proposition to institutional investors. Backed by long-term power purchase agreements and predictable cash flows, successful renewable InvIT platforms have delivered cash distribution yields of around 10-10.5 per cent, the report said.

Solar assets represent a particularly large opportunity. India has around 165 GW of installed solar capacity, with only 3 GW, or 2.3 per cent of operational utility-scale solar assets, monetised through InvIT structures. Knight Frank estimates that operational utility-scale solar assets worth around Rs 3.1 lakh crore could be eligible for InvIT structures.

A deeper renewable InvIT market could diversify infrastructure financing beyond traditional bank lending and attract greater participation from pension funds, insurers and global infrastructure investors, while enabling developers to recycle capital into fresh capacity and supporting India's long-term energy transition. -**ANI**

COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

Business delegation from North Al Batinah explores investment opportunities in Egypt

CAIRO: A business delegation from Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) branch in North Al Batinah Governorate explored, during its visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, available investment opportunities and commercial cooperation between the two countries across several vital sectors.

The visit's programme included organising the Industrial Forum in Cairo through joint efforts between the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Cairo and the OCCI branch in North Al Batinah, with the participation of a number of Omani businesspeople and their Egyptian counterparts in the fields of food and pharmaceutical industries, aluminium, shipping and maritime transport, and real estate and industrial development.

The forum's activities were held under the auspices of Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League, in the presence of officials from the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones and the Commercial Representation Service in Egypt.

In his speech, the Ambassador emphasised the importance of direct meetings between business sectors in both countries, noting that the governorate delegation's visit about three years ago resulted in the launch of three investment projects in the Wilayat of Sohar. He expressed his hope that the current visit would lead to new economic partnerships that enhance investment integration, particularly in the fields of food and phar-



maceutical security and real estate development.

Eng. Said Ali Al Abri, Chairman of OCCI branch in North Al Batinah Governorate and head of the delegation, explained that the visit aims to mutually showcase investment opportunities and provide a platform for delegation members

to develop their businesses and expand the horizons of commercial and industrial cooperation.

The competent Egyptian entities presented a review of the facilities and incentives granted to investors.

The forum witnessed a visual presentation prepared by Moham-

med Qasim Al Shizawi, Head of the Investment Development Department at the Office of the Governor of North Al Batinah, in which he highlighted the comparative advantages and economic indicators of the Sultanate of Oman, the incentives available in economic zones and industrial cities, and investment opportunities in the industrial, agricultural, and real estate development sectors.

On the sidelines of the visit, the delegation held talks with the General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone to discuss investment cooperation prospects, and conducted a field tour that included Ein El Sokhna Port and several industrial projects in the area.

The delegation also visited the headquarters of the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce. The programme concluded with a visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo. -**ONA**

FUNDS FOR GENERAL CORPORATE PURPOSES

Intel raises stock offering to \$20 billion from \$15 billion announced earlier

NEW DELHI: Intel Corporation has increased the size of its previously announced public offering of common stock to \$20 billion from \$15 billion, as the chipmaker looks to raise funds for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditure and working capital.

Intel said it has priced the underwritten public offering at \$95 per share, with 210,526,315 shares of common stock being offered.

The offering is expected to close on August 12, subject to customary closing conditions.

Upsized
In an official statement on Tuesday, the company said, "The offering was upsized to \$20 billion from the previously announced offering size of \$15 billion". Intel said the offering is expected to generate approximately \$19.7 billion in net

proceeds, assuming the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional shares.

The net proceeds will be available for general corporate purposes, which may include capital expenditures and working capital.

The company has also granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to 31,578,947 additional shares at the public offering price of USD 95 per share, less

underwriting discounts.

If the additional share option is exercised, Intel could raise further funds beyond the base USD 20 billion offering.

Intel said the proceeds from the stock sale will provide funding for its broader corporate requirements. However, the company did not specify individual projects or capital expenditure plans that the proceeds will be allocated to. -**ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Cables Industry, up 8.84%, was the top gainer while, Financial Corporation, down 3.00%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,466.53 points, up by 0.47% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.28% at 593.66 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 8.84%, was the top gainer while, Financial Corporation, down 3.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 10271 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 50.75 million, with more than 168.79 million shares changing hands. Out of 77 traded securities, 22 advanced, 25 declined, and 30 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 878K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 513K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 366K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 13,034.72 points, down -0.48%. Prices of Muscat Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Ma-

dina Investments, Sohar International Bank were up by 3.18%, 3.08%, 1.75%, 1.08% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Al Madina Takaful, Oman United Insurance, Bank Dhofar, Al Sharqia Investment were down by 3.00%, 2.66%, 2.50%, 2.34%, 2.00% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 9,454.15 points, up 1.57%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, National Detergent, Oman Flour Mills, A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy were up by 8.84%, 4.67%, 3.57%, 3.29%, 1.74% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Chlorine were down by 0.78%, 0.71%, 0.61% respectively. Services Index was up by 0.52% before closing at 3,000.88 points. Prices of Oman Telecom, Abraj Energy, Al Jazeera Services, Al Jazeera Services, Musandam Power were up by 3.60%, 2.87%, 1.63%, 1.63%, 1.49% respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, Ooredoo, OQ Gas Networks were down by 0.73%, 0.62%, 0.47% respectively. – **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,481.33	7,419.23	7,466.53	7,431.63	34.90	0.47%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,134.36	12,952.41	13,034.72	13,097.37	-62.64	-0.48%
Industry Index	9,464.73	9,307.97	9,454.15	9,307.97	146.18	1.57%
Services Index	3,004.01	2,985.24	3,000.88	2,985.24	15.63	0.52%
MSX Shariah Index	594.79	586.18	593.66	586.18	7.49	1.28%
MSX TR INDEX	11,574.49	11,478.41	11,551.55	11,497.59	54.00	0.47%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,148.01	15,924.31	16,025.51	16,102.53	-77.02	-0.48%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,921.92	11,921.15	12,108.36	11,921.15	187.21	1.57%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,024.81	3,999.66	4,020.61	3,999.66	20.95	0.52%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,253.83	1,253.83	1,253.83	1,253.83	0.00	0.00%

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
168,792,049	50,748,629	10,271	38,080,463,772	22	25	30	77

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUB VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,400	4,620	2	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,032	0.268	8.839	3,300	3,033	3,300	0.100	296,010,000
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	7,180,277	10,405,112	550	1,420	1,470	1,420	1,469	1,418	0.051	3.689	1,469	1,469	1,469	0.100	1,101,750,000
OM0000002804 ASAFFA FOODS	1,490	1,091	3	0.750	0.754	0.750	0.754	0.750	0.004	0.534	0.754	0.754	0.754	0.100	90,480,000
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	3,400	464	3	0.138	0.138	0.134	0.134	0.130	0.004	3.077	0.134	0.122	0.134	0.100	17,147,813
OM0000008934 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	3,033,268	1,187,612	1,096	0.384	0.395	0.384	0.395	0.384	0.011	2.865	0.395	0.395	0.395	0.100	304,223,000
OM0000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	188,702	32,843	26	0.173	0.175	0.173	0.175	0.172	0.003	1.744	0.174	0.175	0.175	0.010	175,000,000
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	8,000	2,000	3	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.246	0.004	1.626	0.250	0.250	0.255	0.100	10,710,748
OM0000000781 MUSANDAM POWER	2,800	852	1	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.335	0.005	1.493	0.340	0.335	0.360	0.100	23,932,600
OM0000009759 OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	19,771,495	9,189,569	1,051	0.458	0.469	0.458	0.464	0.458	0.006	1.310	0.464	0.464	0.464	0.010	3,712,000,000
OM0000003398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	69,490,689	12,925,111	1,928	0.186	0.188	0.184	0.187	0.185	0.002	1.081	0.187	0.179	0.187	0.100	1,438,413,061
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,530	9,014	2	0.856	0.856	0.856	0.856	0.852	0.004	0.469	0.856	0.850	0.937	0.100	166,912,564
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	4,540	2,625	4	0.578	0.579	0.578	0.578	0.578	0.000	0.000	0.579	0.579	0.579	0.100	191,244,426
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	600	53	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.096	0.100	31,695,330
OM0000002572 OMAN OIL MARKETING	50	60	1	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.211	1.220	0.100	73,530,000
OM0000003141 BARKA WATER AND POWER	2,000	316	1	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.000	0.000	0.158	0.157	0.158	0.100	25,280,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	8,400	2,335	3	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.000	0.000	0.278	0.277	0.278	0.100	65,721,900
OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	6,252	1,229	4	0.195	0.200	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.000	0.000	0.192	0.192	0.206	0.100	38,330,035
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	2,636,045	363,412	68	0.137	0.140	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.000	0.000	0.137	0.137	0.140	0.100	308,462,565
OM0000004735 SEMGROP SALALAH	51,469	13,106	18	0.254	0.255	0.254	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.100	243,415,947
OM0000004925 ALBATTINAH POWER	102,730	18,988	9	0.185	0.185	0.184	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.183	0.188	0.100	124,854,175
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	86,169	15,646	21	0.184	0.184	0.183	0.184	0.184	0.000	0.000	0.184	0.180	0.184	0.100	131,450,767
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	10,870,337	4,323,493	1,092	0.399	0.400	0.395	0.397	0.398	-0.001	-0.251	0.397	0.394	0.397	0.100	2,980,039,634
OM0000009908 OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SPZ)	18,698,852	4,637,515	1,354	0.250	0.251	0.247	0.249	0.250	-0.001	-0.400	0.249	0.225	0.249	0.040	861,413,222
OM0000009072 OQ GAS NETWORKS	11,958,632	2,516,435	1,441	0.214	0.214	0.209	0.212	0.213	0.001	0.469	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.100	918,062,271
OM0000001772 ALANWAH INVESTMENT	5,500	1,045	3	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.191	-0.001	-0.524	0.190	0.190	0.210	0.100	58,426,809
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	1,503,426	486,601	33	0.325	0.325	0.321	0.322	0.324	-0.002	-0.617	0.322	0.321	0.322	0.100	209,604,042
OM0000003125 GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	620,000	188,892	9	0.305	0.305	0.303	0.304	0.306	-0.002	-0.654	0.304	0.300	0.304	0.100	60,800,000
OM0000002287 GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	19,863	8,382	4	0.422	0.422	0.422	0.422	0.425	-0.003	-0.706	0.422	0.422	0.430	0.100	21,244,483
OM0000005983 PHOENIX POWER	297,530	80,982	35	0.275	0.275	0.270	0.274	0.276	-0.002	-0.725	0.274	0.274	0.276	0.100	400,752,800
OM0000001210 ASYAD SHIPPING	5,369,191	1,232,928	447	0.238	0.238	0.232	0.235	0.236	-0.003	-1.271	0.235	0.233	0.233	0.000	1,213,697,417
OM0000001509 DHOFAR INTL DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	28,063	6,866	8	0.283	0.287	0.281	0.284	0.288	-0.004	-1.493	0.284	0.264	0.264	0.100	130,958,821
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	23,460	2,313	7	0.100	0.100	0.098	0.098	0.100	-0.002	-2.000	0.098	0.098	0.099	0.100	8,820,000
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	464,500	96,609	42	0.215	0.215	0.207	0.209	0.214	-0.005	-2.336	0.209	0.209	0.210	0.100	635,317,893
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	7,750	2,434	4	0.320	0.320	0.312	0.312	0.320	-0.008	-2.500	0.312	0.312	0.325	0.100	32,760,000
OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	2,105,983	232,308	48	0.113	0.113	0.110	0.110	0.113	-0.003	-2.655	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.100	19,250,000
Total	35	154,467,375	47,993,162	9,322											

Parallel Market

OM0000003285	NATIONAL DETERGENT	500	325	1	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.621	0.029	4.670	0.650	0.000	0.655	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	150	87	1	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.560	0.020	3.571	0.580	0.567	0.579	0.100	100,713,375
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	31,330	1,943	5	0.062	0.065	0.062	0.065	0.063	0.002	3.175	0.065	0.057	0.065	0.100	19,964,511
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	48,150	4,317	13	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.090	0.086	0.090	0.100	13,999,536
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	30,778	1,813	9	0.057	0.060	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	2,499,800
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	900	65	2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.072	0.070	0.072	0.100	14,400,000
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	12,216,657	2,442,503	699	0.198	0.203	0.198	0.199	0.197	0.002	1.015	0.199	0.199	0.200	0.000	1,331,185,625
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	13,395	1,420	5	0.106	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.107	0.001	0.935	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.100	90,905,753
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENG & CONTRACTING	10,444	1,640	5	0.158	0.158	0.157	0.157	0.156	0.001	0.641	0.157	0.157	0.160	0.100	31,868,872
OM00000010823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	800	814	1	1.018	1.018	1.018	1.018	1.014	0.004	0.394	1.018	1.000	1.032	0.000	27,918,499
OM0000001111	GULF HOTELS (OM)	12,696	43,166	1	3.400	3.400	3.400	3.400	3.400	0.000	0.000	3.400	3.400	3.740	1.000	11,656,285
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	145,597	15,489	16	0.105	0.107	0.105	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	9,095,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	172	206	1	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.150	1.200	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	100	51	1	0.505	0.505	0.505	0.505	0.505	0.000	0.000	0.505	0.505	0.000	1.000	5,567,648
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	44,497	3,075	8	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.077	0.100	1,470,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	400	45	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.100	31,773,368
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	95	21	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.221	0.000	0.100	4,400,000
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALINATION	1,570	256	2	0.163	0.169	0.163	0.169	0.169	0.000	0.000	0.169	0.000	0.169	0.100	16,528,565
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	19,700	1,202	4	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.061	0.061	0.058	0.062	0.100	15,250,000
OM0000007407	DHOAFAR GENERATING	64,310	5,209	15	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.076	0.082	0.100	18,001,440
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	108,000	11,236	8	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.106	0.106	0.100	17,922,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	365,095	97,475	38	0.267	0.267	0.266	0.266	0.267	-0.001	-0.375	0.266	0.266	0.286	0.100	532,729,727
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	100,700	17,933	9	0.179	0.179	0.178	0.178	0.179	0.000	-0.559	0.178	0.178	0.181	0.100	105,275,765
OM0000002341	OMAN CHROMIC	1,000	562	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.163	-0.001	-0.613	0.162	0.000	0.162	0.100	11,584,432
OM0000002168	AL ANLWAR CERAMINE	426,564	14,834	43	0.129	0.130	0.128	0.128	0.129	-0.001	-0.775	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.100	28,160,000
OM0000002290	OMEL BANK	6,000	1,241	6	0.195	0.211	0.193	0.214	0.224	-0.001	-1.492	0.211	0.218	0.218	0.100	585,250,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	2,000	330	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.224	-0.004	-1.786	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	143,159,387
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,500	290	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.144	-0.004	-2.685	0.145	0.140	0.163	0.100	4,350,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	1,000	97	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	-0.003	-3.000	0.097	0.095	0.100	6,792,906
Total		39	13,655,000	2,707,252	895											



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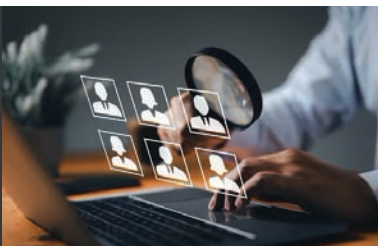
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Trump took secret flight out of Turkiye amid Iran threat: Report

While Trump boarded the old Air Force One jumbo jet in view of cameras, he was secretly shuttled out minutes later into a smaller plane- the Air Force C-32A via an airport catering truck used typically to load meals and other supplies pre-flight

WASHINGTON DC : Shortly after attending the NATO Summit in Turkiye on July 8, US President Donald Trump took a secret flight out of the country amid threats of an Iranian assassination attempt, according to a



report by the Washington Post. The clandestine mission, which was not reported earlier, was carried out unbeknownst to journalists and some White House staff members who believed they were on the same plane as President Trump, as per the material reviewed by the Washington Post, a US official familiar with the operation and another person with knowledge of the President's travel who spoke on the condition

of anonymity. According to corroborating material reviewed by the Washington Post and the US official, while Trump boarded the old Air Force One jumbo jet in view of cameras, he was secretly shuttled out minutes later into a smaller plane- the Air Force C-32A via an airport catering truck used typically to load meals and other supplies pre-flight. To exit that plane without be-

ing seen, Trump and several aides stepped aboard an airport catering truck, which was elevated plane-side using hydraulics and positioned at a door on the opposite side of Air Force One's entrance, according to the U.S. official and other corroborating material reviewed by the Washington Post. Hence, the Air Force One was a "decoy" with media and some members of the White House staff aboard, as per the official.

The blue-and-white C-32A, a modified Boeing 757 used to transport American government officials, had been flown to Turkiye along with the legacy Air Force One and the former Qatari jet to support the president's visit, the US official said. Defending the jet gifted by Qatar, White House Communications Director Steven Chueng said in a statement responding to a query by the Washington Post-- "The new Air Force One is a state-of-the-art aircraft that has been fitted with high-level security protocols that ensure the safety of the President and his staff," "As the President has said recently, there are many enemies of America who have their sights on him, and we use every tool at our disposal to address those threats," it added. It further mentioned that Secretary of War Pete Hegseth also boarded the C-32 A separately, using external stairs in order to make the flight appear typical. According to the Washington Post, while no flight tracker data could be found for the C-32 A, videos posted on Youtube showed the former Qatari jet landing which was followed by a C-32A hours later and the legacy Air Force One

several minutes later. It mentioned that while it was not clear how Trump moved from C-32 A to the legacy Air Force One after landing, the Washington Post said referring a media pool report that he exited the Air Force One at 10:56 PM. Trump was in Ankara to attend the NATO Summit with world leaders in July. The decoy has raised questions about how much information the US administration has disclosed about the operation since the President's actual location was concealed from several senior US officials and the American public. The Washington Post noted its in report that the Trump operation highlighted the depth of concerns US security officials had about POTUS leaving Turkiye-- a country that shares border with Iran. The US official said that a credible threat to Trump involving Iran set the "deception operation" into motion. There have been other times in the last 30 years when Air Force One served as a decoy for the president because of a serious threat or because he was flying to a dangerous location, another U.S. official said, declining to elaborate. -ANI

PAY REPARATIONS

Donald Trump claims '100% control' over Strait of Hormuz

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump on Monday said Iran should pay reparations for the damage he claimed it had caused over the past 50 years, while asserting that the United States Navy has "100 per cent control" over the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking to reporters at the Oval Office, Trump said, "The only one that has control of the Strait of Hormuz right now is the United States Navy. We have a blockade that's been infallible. It's a steel wall. And we let people in that we want to let in, and those people come in, and they've been coming in, and they're going out. We do not let them go into Iran. They're not admitted into the Strait to go to Iran. We control the Strait of Hormuz 100%."

Speaking about the next steps with Iran, Trump said Tehran had sought reparations and money for damages caused by US actions, adding that Washington would also demand compensation from Iran.

"They asked for reparations, they asked for money for the damage that we've done. And I said, that's a good idea. Well, we're to ask for money for the damage they've done over a 50-year period. So if there's damages to be paid, I think Iran should pay those damages," he added.

Earlier, Trump rejected Iran's demand for financial compensation over damages incurred during the US-Israeli military operations



in the country, asserting that Tehran must instead be held accountable for casualties resulting from its own actions.

Taking to Truth Social, the US president noted that Iranian representatives were seeking compensation for damage caused during the "last five months Military Conflict", which he stated erupted after Iran refused to give up its nuclear weapons ambition.

Describing Iran's demand for compensation as an "interesting idea", Trump indicated that he would present a counter-demand during future diplomatic negotiations.

The US president stated that Tehran must face claims for financial restitution over casualties and injuries caused by attacks linked to Iran, including the 2000 USS Cole bombing and several other region-

al incidents. "I am likewise demanding compensation from Iran, for all of the people that they have killed and gravely wounded," Trump posted on Truth Social.

Trump made specific reference to Iran's late military commander Qassem Soleimani, alleging that Tehran's leadership was involved in conflicts that led to thousands of fatalities. Soleimani was killed in a targeted drone strike authorised by Trump in 2020 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Extending the scope of his counter-claim, Trump also demanded compensation for the families of protesters who, he alleged, were killed by the Iranian regime over the past five decades. He further claimed that 52,000 people had lost their lives over the course of the last five months. -ANI

BLOCKADE

Iran wants US concessions before opening Hormuz

TEHRAN: An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Iran would not reopen the Strait of Hormuz until the United States meets its conditions. "It is up to the US side to stop and make amends for its illegal and destructive actions," Esmail Baghaei said Monday.

What are Iran's demands on the US?

In a statement over the weekend, a member of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and Revolutionary Guards commander said Tehran had the following demands of the US:

Pay compensation for months of war damage

Permanently end its war against Iran and its allies in the region, namely Lebanese militants Hezbollah; Houthi rebels in Yemen; and Hamas in the Gaza Strip

Lift its blockade of Iranian ports and ships in the Strait of Hormuz and pull its military out of the area

The impasse over the Strait of Hormuz has led to a global jump in fuel prices.

Iran is holding talks with Oman over transit through the strait, including a possible temporary shipping corridor, but it has said any actual reopening depends on negotiations with the United States.



Iran's Khamenei appoints new military leadership

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei has replaced six top Iranian military figures according to decrees made public on Telegram late Monday evening.

The move represents Khamenei's first senior military appointments since being chosen to replace his father, who was killed in the early hours of the war.

Khamenei appointed Revolutionary Guards General Ali Abdollahi head of Iran's armed forces and confirmed Ahmad Vahidi as commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Abdollahi previously led the

Khatam al-Anbiya, Iran's military operations coordinating command. Earlier this month, he warned regional neighbors that "any country serving as a defensive shield for criminal and aggressive America will be engulfed by the flames of war."

Hossein Taeb, a long-serving intelligence officer, was appointed head of the paramilitary Basij militias and Brigadier Ali Asmai was appointed commander of the IRGC's naval forces.

The shake-up comes after Khamenei appointed former IRGC commander Mohsen Rezaee chairman of Iran's National Security Council on Sunday. -ANI

ONGOING PROBE

Airline cannot comment on any findings, says Air India amid Phuket-Delhi incident investigation

NEW DELHI: Air India on Monday said it cannot comment on any findings or observations related to the investigation into the Phuket-Delhi flight incident that took place earlier this month, as the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) continues its probe under the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 13.

According to a statement by a spokesperson from the airline, the carrier said that it would continue to provide all necessary cooperation to the concerned authorities as required for the probe.

"The investigation into the incident is being conducted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) under the provisions of ICAO Annex 13. As the investigative process is ongoing, Air India cannot comment on any findings or observations related to the investigation. We will continue to extend our full cooperation to relevant authorities as required," the spokesperson said.



Airbus also issued a statement amid the probe, stating that it is providing technical assistance to the relevant investigating authorities in accordance with ICAO Annex 13. "In accordance with ICAO Annex 13, Airbus is providing technical assistance to the relevant investigating authorities. We are actively supporting the airline and will provide further information

as it becomes available. A team of specialists is being dispatched to assist with the investigation," Airbus said in a statement.

This comes as AAIB is investigating an Air India flight from Phuket to Delhi after the aircraft experienced a sudden loss of altitude of approximately 300 feet during cruise on August 4. The aircraft subsequently stabilised and

landed safely in Delhi.

"The occurrence has been classified as a Serious Incident and is under investigation by the AAIB," the Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement on Sunday.

During the occurrence, injuries were reported to a few passengers and cabin crew members. The aircraft was carrying 137 passengers, including three infants, and eight

crew members comprising two pilots and six cabin crew.

As part of the standard operating procedures following such an occurrence, both flight crew members underwent the prescribed psycho-active substance screening test.

The screening test of the Pilot-in-Command indicated a result requiring confirmatory testing.

"Samples have accordingly been sent to the designated laboratory for confirmatory analysis, and the final report is awaited," the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

Pending the investigation and completion of the prescribed process, both flight crew members have been taken off the roster by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the ministry added.

Further action, as appropriate, will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation and the confirmatory test result, it added.

Under ICAO Annex 13, accidents and serious incidents involving aircraft are subject to investigation to establish relevant facts

and prevent future accidents and incidents.

The framework lays down provisions concerning the conduct of investigations, the participation of relevant States and authorities, and the preparation of preliminary and final reports.

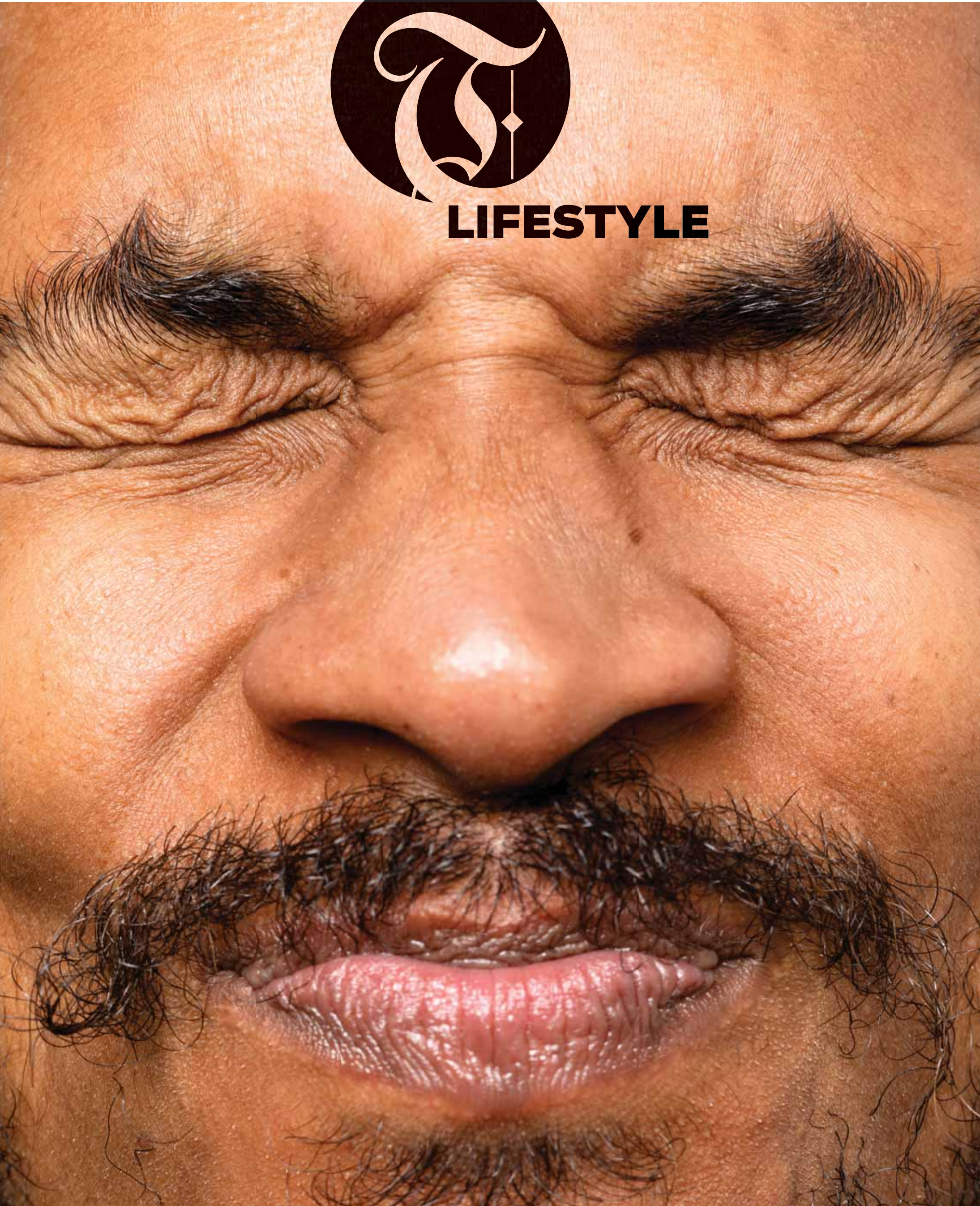
The objective of an accident or incident investigation under Annex 13 is to prevent future accidents and incidents and not to apportion blame or liability.

The framework also provides for the issuance of a preliminary report within 30 days of an event and a final report as soon as possible or within 12 months, following completion of the investigation. Final reports provide official information on the findings, causes or contributing factors and may include safety recommendations.

The incident remains under investigation by the AAIB, with Air India and Airbus continuing to provide cooperation and technical assistance to the relevant authorities. -ANI



LIFESTYLE



I’ve been having trouble sleeping — for as long as forever. Sometimes it’s just a feeling. Other times, it’s a fact (I know because my watch tells me). But then my watch may be part of the problem. It’s constantly reminding me to get to bed on time and accost-ing me with poor sleep scores. It drives my anxiety through the roof, my heart races and I feel like I can’t sleep. But then I still feel fine the next day. Weird.

“When you’re sleep deprived, you have poor judgment,” said Catia Reis, a sleep researcher at the University of Lisbon, when we spoke.

That might explain my predicament. Because even when I feel fine during the week, I oversleep at the weekend, which is a sure sign of sleep debt, she said.

Reis has studied a variety of sleep-related conditions, including the effects of jet lag and sleep deprivation among athletes.

One investigation compared levels of sleepiness among patients with sleep apnea — a condition where you stop breathing intermittently through the night — and shift workers, who work against their natural, circadian rhythm. That’s our inner clock that tells us when we’re awakeful or sleepy.

She compared the results from both subjective assessments made by participants and objective, clinical tests, and found a “mis-match” in people’s ability to assess their own levels of sleepiness the more they were exposed to that very thing: sleepiness.

Basically, the brain stops working. And that should be concerning, given that the brain plays a central role in sleep.

Sleep or die

When we sleep, the body performs several restorative functions: It removes toxins we have ingested through food or the atmosphere, generates new energy, and is essential for our learning and memory.

“Sleep involves many parts of the brain,” said Ying-Hui Fu, a sleep researcher at the University of California San Francisco. “Almost every disease of the brain, including neurological and psychiatric, [can be linked to] sleep problems.”

On average, people need about 7.5-8.5 hours’ sleep per night.

But every so often we hear about people in demanding jobs, usually politicians, boasting — or claiming credibility — by saying they rarely sleep more than a few hours; like they’re ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE.

Most recently, it was Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi who reminded us she’s slept between zero and three hours per night while in office.

As a former heavy metal drummer, you might expect a certain level of stamina from the Japanese PM. But while voluntary, habitual (or trained) sleep deprivation — if that’s what it is in Takaichi’s case — may be an impressive sleep-work-no-life-balance ethic, it’s not a good, long-term strategy.

In the best-case scenario, a long-term “sleep debt” can cause your

SLEEP:

DO YOU REALLY NEED EIGHT HOURS OF SHUTEYE?

Every so often we hear of high-ranking politicians or CEOs claiming to get by on very little sleep — some as little as three hours a night. If they’re not natural short sleepers, chances are they’re heading for trouble

body to accumulate toxins, risking heart or brain disease. In the worst-case scenario, it can be fatal.

“There are only two things more important than sleep for our total health,” Fu told DW. “One is air. If we don’t have air, we die in a few minutes. The other is water. If we don’t have water, we die in a few days. If you don’t eat, you can live a

couple of months. But if you don’t sleep, you can probably only live for a couple of weeks.”

And that goes for all animals — “if we don’t sleep, we die,” she said.

The exception: natural short sleepers

Natural short sleepers are the exception to the rule. They can sleep

fewer than six hours per night and not only feel fine, but also actually are fine — healthy, happy and energetic. They appear to have genetic variations that allow them to thrive. Fu cited an 80-year-old natural short sleeper who competed in triathlons.

Fu and her lab found the first of these variations in the gene DEC2 and published their findings in 2009. Ten years later, they published a paper suggesting that the gene ADRB1 was also linked to Natural Short Sleeper Syndrome. Findings into the genes NPSR1, GRM1, SIK3 followed, and there are others in the pipeline.

We’re calling them gene “variations” rather than “mutations” because mutations are often associated with negative health effects. But it appears that Natural Short Sleep does not risk the health issues that habitual short sleepers or sleep deprived people face.

The genes show a range of functions that sleep effects:

- DEC2: helps regulate sleep/wake duration
- ADRB1: mediates cardiac and neuronal signaling
- NPSR1: helps modulate arousal and anxiety
- GRM1: involved in brain function; may be linked to depression
- SIK3: plays a role in cell cycle-, metabolic and inflammatory- regulation

Each has taken years of painstaking basic — foundational — research to find and test.

“Every one of us has between 500 to 1,000 unique mutations in our genome. To know which one is causal is very difficult,” said Fu.

The impact of better sleep on humanity

The number of known natural short sleepers is small, but Fu says the condition is likely to be more common than research currently suggests.

Most of Fu’s findings are limited families that share a gene variation. That’s been for a practical, methodological reason: If three members of a family have the same variation and they all appear to be healthy on only four to six hours’ sleep, then that gene variation may well be responsible, especially if it’s in a gene that is known to be important for healthy sleep function. But it’s early days.

“We just know that they perform better and they’re healthier. And the most logical explanation for me is that their sleep function is better,” said Fu.

Reis is also cautious about the state of research in this area, saying there are still too few studies into natural short sleepers.

“When we objectively test [habitual short sleepers] and we expand their sleep, we know they improve,” said Reis. “But the problem is we don’t have enough longitudinal studies with [natural short sleepers].”

Fu would agree. But she said it was a struggle to get the research financed.

“My goal is to help everybody get good sleep. Because if we can help everybody get good sleep, all diseases will drop,” said Fu. “The entire spectrum of disease incidence would drop. Can you imagine the impact on humanity? -nw

Swiatek sets up semi-final clash with Svitolina in Canadian Open



Swiatek reached her first WTA 1000 semi-final of inconsistent season after the seventh seed beat Shnaider while Svitolina rallied past Alexandrova

TORONTO: Iga Swiatek breezed past Diana Shnaider 6-2 6-1 on Monday to reach the Canadian Open semi-finals, where the Pole will face Elina Svitolina after the Ukrainian rallied past Ekaterina Alexandrova in Toronto. It was a confidence-boosting

display ahead of the US Open for former world No.1 Swiatek, who won one of her six Grand Slam titles in Flushing Meadows in 2022. Swiatek was in complete control against Shnaider, combining crisp ball striking with strong court coverage to overwhelm her Russian opponent in 68 minutes. She broke twice in the opening set, capitalising on a string of mistakes from Shnaider, who committed 12 unforced errors in the set. Swiatek moved 5-2 ahead when Shnaider sent a forehand into the net and secured the set after another error from the Russian.

There was little respite for Shnaider in the second set as seventh seed Swiatek continued to dictate play from the baseline and never faced a break point. The Pole sealed a second break of the set for a 5-1 lead with a sharply angled crosscourt winner that clipped the line, before wrapping up the contest when Shnaider sent a forehand long on match point. The win puts Swiatek into her first WTA 1000 semi-final of an inconsistent season in which she has failed to advance beyond the quarters at a Grand Slam and suffered a surprise second-round defeat by compatriot Magda Linette in Miami. That loss led Swiatek to make a coaching change, replacing Wim Fissette with Francisco Roig. Swiatek was also beaten in straight sets by Alexandra Eala in the third round at Wimbledon, where she was defending champion. **Comeback victory** Svitolina leapt into the air and pumped her fist in triumph after completing a 3-6, 6-0, 6-3 comeback win against her Russian opponent to set up a Wednesday meeting with Swiatek, who she

beat in the Rome semi-finals in May. Alexandrova was untouchable in the first set, picking up where she left off after beating world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka in the previous round. But the veteran Ukrainian stormed back to level the match in the second set and grabbed a 4-1 lead in the third when she pounced on a net cord and hammered home a backhand for another service break. Svitolina dropped two games while leading 5-1 but regrouped to break serve and set up the meeting with Swiatek. - Agencies

MIDDLE-DISTANCE RUNNER



US 1,500m champion Koech gets three-year ban for blood doping

LOS ANGELES: American middle-distance runner Jonah Koech has been banned from the sport for three years for blood doping. The US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) said Koech's doping violation was identified after "highly atypical blood values in his athlete biological passport (ABP)". An ABP tracks an athlete's blood values over time to identify signs of doping even without a positive drug test. Koech had emerged as the surprise winner in men's 1500m at the US Outdoor Championships last year, finishing ahead of Ethan Strand and 2024 Olympic gold medalist Cole Hocker in a meet record three minutes 30.17 seconds. His title has now been stripped after the 29-year-old accepted

the ban "for the use of a prohibited substance and/or method", USADA said. It added: "Koech has been disqualified from all competitive results obtained on and subsequent to 30 July 2025, the date of his first abnormal blood sample, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes." Koech's blood samples were collected before and after the US Outdoor Championships on 30 July and 8 August last year. He has not raced since finishing 13th in the 1500m final at the World Championships in Tokyo last September. Born in Kenya, Koech competed collegiately in the United States from 2015 to 2019 before becoming eligible to represent the country in June 2021. - Agencies

CANADIAN OPEN TENNIS

PTPA cites player workload concerns after withdrawals hit Canada events

TORONTO: The Professional Tennis Players Association (PTPA) said on Monday that a string of withdrawals from the Canadian Open underscored concerns that professional tennis's lengthy calendar and expanded top-level events are increasing injury risks. The players' advocacy group said it was saddened but not surprised by the absences from the tournament, arguing that reduced recovery time between tournaments was contributing to injuries occurring earlier in the season and becoming more serious. The Canadian Open's men's event in Montreal was hit by the withdrawals of world No.1 Jannik Sinner and 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic, while Carlos Alcaraz was also sidelined with a wrist injury. Hometown favourite Felix Auger-Aliassime also pulled out due to a back injury before his opening match. On the women's side, defending champion Victoria Mboko, Wimbledon finalist Karolina Muchova, Emma Raducanu and Jasmine Paolini are also missing the tournament with injuries. Tournament organisers said last month that recurring late withdrawals from Masters 1000 events had become a wider issue for the sport. **Injury data** The PTPA said it had collected and analysed injury data from more than 30,000 professional matches



across all levels of the game over the past eight years in a project launched three years ago with its medical director, Dr. Robby Sikka. "The evidence is clear: The season is too long, recovery time is shrinking, and injuries are occurring earlier and becoming more severe," the PTPA said in a statement posted on social media. The group said upper-body injuries were up 42% in the first quarter of 2026 compared with the same period in 2025, according to its analysis. Arm injuries were up 112% this year compared with the 2025 average, it added. The ATP expanded seven of its nine Masters 1000 tournaments to 12-day events under its OneVision strategic plan, with 2025 the first season in which the longer format was used across those events. The PTPA said the change had cut into the time players have to rest, train and travel between tournaments, despite players having voiced concerns about the demands of the schedule for years. "Short-term commercial interests cannot come at the expense of player health," the association said. "Protecting players isn't just about today's competitors, it is about protecting the future of tennis." **Player choice** The ATP has previously said players retain choices over their schedules and that it is working to create incentives for an appropriate number of matches to be played during the season. The PTPA called for the sport to take a player-health and data-

Rain in Montreal forces reschedule of quarters

MONTREAL: Rain forced the cancellation of two Canadian Open men's quarter-finals scheduled for Monday in Montreal, tournament organisers said. All four quarter-finals of the Masters 1000 tournament will now take place on Tuesday, with the semis on Wednesday and the final on Thursday. Spain's Rafael Nadal and American Ben Shelton are among the quarter-finalists. - Agencies

driven approach to restructuring the calendar. It said players should have a meaningful role in shaping the schedule, while mandatory tournament commitments should be reduced to allow adequate recovery. It also urged the ATP to consider reversing the 12-day Masters 1000 format. - Agencies

EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ingebrigtsen clinches 5,000m gold on injury return

BIRMINGHAM: Jakob Ingebrigtsen pulled off a comeback for the ages to retain the 5,000 metres title at the European Athletics Championships on Monday, winning his first race in nearly a year in 13 minutes and 15.29 seconds. He got past German Florian Bremm (13:15.60) in a thrilling sprint finish down the final straight to collect his seventh gold in the continental championship. Frenchman Etienne Daguinos was third in 13:16.09. The Norwegian has never lost a race at the continental championships but seemingly faced long odds after he had surgery on his left Achilles in February and only had six weeks of decent training before lining up at Birmingham. "I doubted myself every day coming in to this and every minute leading up to the last lap today, but I'm always hoping to do my best," said Ingebrigtsen, who finished a humbling 10th in his last race at the world championships in Tokyo last year. "Coming from the lowest of lows to be European champion again means the world to me. Not even I believed it could happen coming here. Only with 600 metres to go, I knew I would win." While he may have had doubts, the Olympic champion did not show it. He casually glanced at his watch



as the gun went off before settling into the middle of the pack, biding his time through a sleepy start as the field kept it to a slow 2:45 over the opening kilometre. With about four laps to go, he began creeping up around the out-

side of the pack but appeared to be jammed up at the start of the penultimate lap as he was stuck behind Frenchman Jimmy Gressier. However, the 25-year-old Ingebrigtsen was in no mood to allow a blemish on his pristine Euro-

pean Championships record and slammed his foot on the gas around the last turn. He wove around Bremm on the outside before sprinting through the final metres, adding lustre to the opening night of the meet as

the crowd urged him on and broadcasters struggled to find words. Ingebrigtsen's seventh individual European gold extended his record as the most successful male athlete ever at the continental championship. **Hunt takes gold** Amy Hunt had her coming of age moment as she stormed to 100m glory to claim her first senior international title and deliver Britain's first gold medal of the European Athletics Championships. Hunt announced herself on the sport's global stage last year with world 200m silver in Tokyo - the first individual international medal of her senior career. - Agencies

European season begins with Salzburg Super Cup showdown

Barely three weeks after the World Cup final, the European club season bursts into life on Wednesday as Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Aston Villa battle for the first major trophy of the new campaign in Salzburg

LONDON: Barely three weeks after the World Cup final, European football returns to the spotlight on Wednesday with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Aston Villa going head-to-head for the first trophy of the new club season in Salzburg.

The annual match between the most recent winners of the Champions League and Europa League also offers another chance for more grandstanding by UEFA at the expense of FIFA at a time of a growing disconnect between the two powerful football governing bodies in light of Gianni Infantino's recent conduct.

That's because Omar Artan, the Somali referee barred by the United States from officiating at the World Cup days before the tournament started due to vetting concerns, will referee the game.

US officials claimed Artan had connections to terror organisations, though they provided no proof.



UEFA responded by picking Artan—a referee judged the best in Africa last season—to take charge of the Super Cup, a move widely celebrated in the football community and regarded as a clever political ploy by the European association.

The disharmony between UEFA and FIFA has increased since, with UEFA leading the campaign to oust Infantino from the FIFA presidency over his recent — aborted — plan to sell an interest in the World Cup. The referee taking charge of the match is proving as interesting as the players involved, as PSG looks to become the second team in the modern era to retain the Super Cup, after Real Madrid (2016 and 2017).

PSG beat Tottenham in a penalty shootout in last year's match.

PSG's World Cup stars return

PSG's players returned to pre-season training in scattered order over the summer, largely depending on how long they played at the World Cup — or not at all in one noteworthy case.

Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé, who stood out for France with six goals and two assists, returned on Monday along with international team-mates Désiré Doué and Bradley Barcola. They were joined by Spain's World Cup-winning midfielder Fabián Ruiz, whose clinical performance was key to the semifinal victory against France.

Star winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia didn't play at the tournament because Georgia did not qualify, and he has been back training for considerably longer. He looks certain to start in his favored position on the left flank, with new signing Maghnes Akliouche possibly on the right wing.

Akliouche's arrival from Monaco could coincide with Barcola's departure, the fleet-footed winger—who scored three goals at the World Cup—is heavily linked with a move to Premier League giant Liverpool.

Coach Luis Enrique's team may also feature former Villa player Lucas Digne.



Back to the future

Villa sold Digne to PSG on Sunday for a reported fee of 10 million euros (\$11.6 million), returning the 33-year-old left back to one of his first clubs.

Digne was among the first signings when PSG began its new era after being bought by Qatari investors QSI.

He was born in the Paris suburbs and joined PSG in 2013 from Lille. He then represented Roma and Barcelona before spending eight



along with Digne. New signings include Swiss World Cup star Johan Manzambi and Brazilian midfielder Joao Gomes, who joined from relegated Wolverhampton. Manzambi is missing due to a knee injury.

Villa won the Europa League by beating Freiburg 3-0 and will be in the Champions League for the second time under Emery in the final.

'Very challenging time'

Artan, who oversaw the African Champions League final in 2025, is the first non-European to take charge of the Super Cup and said the honour comes after a "very tough period".

"A lot of people have sympathy for me," he told UEFA, "because when someone has worked for many years and is supposed to do something, and then can't do it, it's very challenging. I really appreciate the support I received throughout the world, though. I'm so grateful."

Artan said he had been undertaking extensive research on PSG and Villa for his first match in Europe.

"The standard in Europe is fantastic and the football they play is very, very good," he said. - Agencies

CHILEAN STAR

Former Arsenal forward Sanchez set to join Montreal

MONTREAL: CF Montreal are set to sign Alexis Sanchez, one of the most heralded Chilean football players of all time, The Athletic reported on Monday.

Sanchez, 37, would come to Major League Soccer after spending the 2025-26 season with Sevilla in Spain's La Liga, but is best known for his stints with Barcelona, Arsenal, Manchester United and Inter Milan.

Sanchez will occupy a Designated Player spot for Montreal, per the report. Financial terms were not yet known.

CF Montreal has all but confirmed the signing, posting a video to social media that teases the signing of a new attacking player, as the team's managing director Luca Saputo says on a phone call, "He wants Alexis, No. 10" on the jersey.

Sanchez won league titles in two of Europe's Big Five leagues: La Liga with Barcelona in 2013 and Serie A with Inter Milan in both 2021 and 2024.

On the international scene, he is Chile's all-time leader in both goals (51) and caps (168).



He recorded four goals and two assists across 28 appearances for Sevilla this past season.

Sanchez's signing would continue a trend of star players in the final stages of their careers coming to MLS. This summer transfer

window alone, Polish striker Robert Lewandowski signed with the Chicago Fire, French star Antoine Griezmann joined Orlando City and Brazil's Casemiro joined Lionel Messi and company at Inter Miami. - Agencies

FFE PROPOSAL

Trump: It would be 'terrible mistake' to remove Infantino

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump said on Monday that it would be a "terrible mistake" if under-pressure FIFA president Gianni Infantino was ousted from his position. Trump's backing followed UEFA, CONCACAF and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) issuing an open letter accusing Infantino of breaking trust "through deception" with his aborted Fifa Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal.

FFE would have meant creating a new company to manage commercial and ticketing rights of all FIFA competitions, including World Cups, with 21% sold off to a private investment company.

Trump's comments mark the first time he has come out in defence of Infantino since the FFE plans came to light on 28 July.

"FIFA would be making a terrible mistake if, for any reason, they even considered replacing president Gianni Infantino," Trump wrote on social media.

"He is fantastic, having just presided over the most successful World Cup ever presented, by four



times. If he is gone, it will never be as successful or profitable again."

The 2026 World Cup was co-hosted by the US, Canada and Mexico this summer, with Spain crowned champions after beating Argentina in the final.

When addressing the FFE proposals for the first time on July 31, Trump said he had not spoken to Infantino about the plans.

Thrive Eternal was expected to lead the proposed investor group for FFE.

Thrive is an American venture

capital firm founded by Joshua Kushner - the brother of Trump's son-in-law Jared.

Infantino has a close relationship with Trump and awarded him the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize in December 2025.

BBC Sport understands that there have been preliminary discussions between the three confederations over breakaway competitions, should Infantino remain in his position. However, substantive talks are yet to begin, according to others. - Agencies

BOOSTING DEFENCE

Liverpool sign Barcelona's Araujo on season-long loan

LONDON: Liverpool have signed Uruguayan defender Ronald Araujo from Spanish champions Barcelona on a season-long loan, the Premier League club announced on Monday, as they moved to strengthen an injury-ravaged defence.

British media reported that the deal includes an option to buy the 27-year-old for about £47 million (\$63.48 million).

Araujo arrives at a time when Liverpool are facing mounting defensive problems.

Joe Gomez suffered a muscle injury in the club's opening pre-season match, while teenage centre back Giovanni Leoni is recovering from an ACL injury.

Young centre back Jeremy Jacquet is also nursing an injury, leaving captain Virgil van Dijk, 35, as Liverpool's only fully fit senior

central defender. "I think it was the ideal move for me at this stage in my career. I think it was a move that was necessary for me to take," Araujo said in a statement.

"As soon as I heard that interest from Liverpool, everything went into action really, really quickly."

The club's options at right back have also been depleted. Conor Bradley is still recovering from a significant knee injury, while Jeremie Frimpong endured an injury-hit campaign last season and struggled for form.

Capable of playing both at centre back and right back, Araujo provides Liverpool with much-needed cover in two areas where they are currently short of options.

'Right move'

Araujo joined Barcelona B from Uruguayan side Boston River in



2018 and made his senior debut the following year. He has since won three LaLiga titles, including back-to-back championships in 2024-25 and 2025-26, as well as two Copa del Rey trophies and three Spanish Super Cup titles.

Araujo was named in the LaLiga Team of the Season in 2021-22 and 2023-24. However, he found opportunities harder to come by last season, making only 11 league starts as Pau Cubarsi and Gerard Martin established themselves as Hansi Flick's preferred central defensive pairing.

One of Barca's captains, Araujo also saw his involvement reduced after taking an indefinite leave of absence from the club at his request.

"I'm super-happy to be here and excited to get started. I'm glad about the interest and it was

the right move at the right time," Araujo added.

He is under contract with Barca until 2031.

Liverpool have signed Jacquet and forward Victor Munoz during the close season, but have also lost talisman Mohamed Salah, Andy Robertson and Ibrahima Konate. Forward Hugo Ekitike is among several players sidelined through injury.

Liverpool finished fifth in the Premier League last season despite spending about 446 million pounds on signings.

The club subsequently parted ways with manager Arne Slot and appointed former Bournemouth boss Andoni Iraola in a bid to revive their fortunes.

Liverpool open the Premier League season at Newcastle United on August 23. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Lexus: Crafted beyond measure, rewarded beyond expectations



Leading the range is the LX 700 HEV, a flagship SUV that pairs a twin-turbo 3.5L V6 engine with an advanced hybrid system to deliver a commanding 457 hp, while achieving efficiency of 10.8 km/l, proof that power and responsibility can coexist in a single vehicle. Alongside it, the LX 600 offers a more traditional take on power, with a 3.5L twin-turbocharged engine

MUSCAT: Lexus continues to elevate the ownership experience in Oman, Saud Bahwan Automotive announces the latest Lexus Benefits Campaign, inspired by the philosophy of “Crafted Beyond Measure...Rewarded Beyond Expectations.” Running until 7 October, the campaign offers customers enhanced benefits across the Lexus range, including a service package of 10-year/100,000 km or a 5-year / 50,000 km service package on selected Lexus models. Customers will also enjoy one year vehicle registration, along with NUKH-BAH Loyalty Points worth OMR 100, making the Lexus ownership experience even more rewarding.

(Terms & Conditions Apply.) Leading the range is the LX 700 HEV, a flagship SUV that pairs a twin-turbo 3.5L V6 engine with an advanced hybrid system to deliver a commanding 457 hp, while achieving efficiency of 10.8 km/l, proof that power and responsibility can coexist in a single vehicle. Alongside it, the LX 600 offers a more traditional take on power, with a 3.5L twin-turbocharged engine producing 409 hp, appealing to drivers who favour a classic, uncompromising drivetrain. Both models bring together rugged SUV capability and a refined, tech-forward cabin, giving drivers the confidence to move seamlessly between city streets and more

demanding terrain, all without sacrificing the comfort and craftsmanship expected of a true flagship Lexus. In the sedan range, the ES 350 remains one of the most sought-after names in Oman’s luxury segment, offering buyers the effortless pull of a V6 engine paired with a smooth 8-speed automatic transmission, delivering the kind of composed, refined handling that has made the ES a favorite among Oman’s discerning drivers. The IS brings a sportier character to the lineup, with the 311 hp turbocharged IS 350 offering spirited, engaging performance for daily drives, and the IS 350 F Sport sharpening that experience

further with a more focused chassis tune and driver-oriented setup, appealing to those who want their sedan to feel as dynamic as it looks. Rounding out the lineup, the UX HEV and NX HEV bring hybrid efficiency to a compact and mid-size SUV footprint respectively, the NX offers the same versatility with conventional power, and the RX 500h F Sport adds a sportier, electrified option to the range. Every model listed above is included in the current Lexus Benefits campaign. Customers are encouraged to visit their nearest Lexus showroom to explore the range and take advantage of these benefits before the campaign concludes on 7 October.

ACTIVE OMAN CHALLENGE 2

Bank Muscat brings interactive fun and valuable prizes to youth-focused sports and entertainment event



MUSCAT: In line with its vision “To serve you better, everyday” and its longstanding commitment to supporting youth, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced its participation as gold sponsor of Active Oman Challenge 2, taking place from 8 to 22 August at Active Oman. Active Oman Challenge 2 is a youth-focused sports and entertainment event expected to draw around 8,000 participants and visitors. The event combines sports, gaming, educational activities and interactive entertainment, offering a dynamic platform that brings together young people and families across a wide range of competitions, including Go-Karting, Jackaroo, Billiards, Chess, Bowling, Shooting, Virtual Golf, Card Games and E-Gaming. Visitors can learn about Floosi and Shababi, Bank Muscat’s specialized banking propositions designed for young people. Floosi is a dedicated banking

proposition tailored for youth aged 7 to 17, while Shababi is designed for youth aged 18 to 22. Both aim to instill healthy financial habits from an early age, helping young customers learn how to spend, save and manage their money independently while enjoying a range of benefits and offers. The booth also features an interactive screen where Floosi and Shababi card holders can play and enter a draw, with 5 winners to be chosen at the end of the event, each winner will receive a PS5. To make the experience more engaging, visitors will get a special passport at Bank Muscat’s booth, allowing them to collect stamps from participating businesses across the centre and enter a draw where 32 winners will receive valuable prizes. Visitors can also enjoy exclusive discounts offered by participating businesses across a variety of sectors, including food and beverage, automotive, retail and activity centres.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, General Manager – Personal Banking, Bank Muscat, said: “Our participation in Active Oman Challenge 2 reflects our continued commitment to engaging with the youth through platforms that speak to their interests and lifestyle. Floosi and Shababi were created to give young people the tools and confidence to manage their finances from an early age, and events like this allow us to connect with them in a fun, interactive setting while reinforcing the value of smart money habits from a young age.” Bank Muscat has a longstanding track record of supporting youth development and financial inclusion across the Sultanate through a wide range of services and community initiatives. Its participation in Active Oman Challenge 2 forms part of the Bank’s broader strategy to supporting youth by providing banking solutions that grow alongside them and support their aspirations for the future.





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