

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN

51

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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HM LAUNCHES IDENTITY OF CIVIL DEFENCE AND AMBULANCE AUTHORITY



The launch reflects Oman's commitment to public safety, civil protection and emergency response development

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, inaugurated the identity of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, in reflection of the care and attention accorded by His Majesty to the safety and civil protection system. It also reflects the priority attached by the Authority to enhancing its role in serving citizens and residents.

At the behest of His Majesty the Sultan, Gen. Sultan Mohamed

Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Head of the Office of the Supreme Commander, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, patronised on Wednesday the launching ceremony, in the presence of a number of Ministers, Undersecretaries, and commanders of the military and security apparatuses.

The launch of the identity embodies a renewed stage in the Authority's journey and the development of its ecosystem, in keeping pace with the rapid transformations in this sector. -ONA

Omani women
shape the
economic growth

A4

Oman, Pakistan sign agreement, MoUs

ISLAMABAD: The Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed yesterday an agreement and four memorandums of understanding in Islamabad.

The agreement and MoUs were signed in the presence of Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, within the framework of the official visit paid by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman.

The documents were signed on behalf of the Omani side by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and on behalf of the Pakistani side by Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The documents included an agreement on visa exemption for official, diplomatic, special, and service passports, alongside memorandums of understanding for cooperation in the fields of telecommunications and information technology,



radio and television, news and information exchange, and cooperation between the National Records and Archives Authority and the National Archives of Pakistan. This agreement and MoUs represent a practical step toward strengthening institutional cooperation frame-

works between the two countries, solidifying coordination and experience sharing among relevant entities, and expanding partnerships across the covered domains, serving common interests and embodying the aspirations of both countries' leaderships and peoples. -ONA

OMAN Mudhaibi Health Polyclinic opens

1 The Mudhaibi Health Polyclinic opened yesterday, marking a significant step in the ongoing development of Oman's healthcare system. >**A5**

SPORTS Stage is set for Mussanah Race Week

2 The stage is set for world-class competition as Oman Sail raises the curtain on 15 Mussanah Race Week. >**A8**

MARKET Inspire Oman Summit for investors held

3 The Inspire Oman Summit 2026 for investors was held in strategic partnership with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. >**B1**

COMMENTARY

Never Underestimate Your Contribution: A Call to Omani Women

The shy and timid 11-year-old girl who participated in anchoring the news on Oman Television could never have imagined that destiny would repeatedly take her to the front lines of community service and leadership. She credits her mother and father for empowering and helping her unleash the leadership qualities that were within her.

She recalls rehearsing with her mother and how her father's inspiring talks uplifted her spirit. After graduating from high school, she joined the American University in Cairo, where she spent six years and graduated in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Psychology. Her Highness credits those formative years with shaping her personality and broadening her outlook on life. It was also during this period that she joined the Friends in Need group, through which she began serving people with disabilities, orphans, and those afflicted with cancer.

Her Highness Sayyida Hujaija bint Jaifer Al Said is an Omani social entrepreneur, community leader, and advocate for social responsibility, women's empowerment, and the inclusion of children with disabilities. Over the years, she has served in various roles, including Chairperson of the Association for Children with Disabilities, International Ambassador for Social Responsibility, and Deputy Chairperson of the Omani-Bahraini Entrepreneurship Society, alongside many other social and community leadership initiatives. Her transparency, humility, and passionate servant-leadership style have enabled her to win the



hearts of those who know her and earn their genuine affection and respect. Behind the titles and positions is a woman whose leadership seems to be rooted not in authority, but in service; not in seeking the spotlight, but in creating opportunities for others to shine. I approached Her Highness to talk about Omani women and their role in Oman's development. The conversation was particularly timely, as Oman celebrates Omani Women's Day on the 17th of October each year.



Our talk led to a number of reflections and insights about women, leadership, social responsibility, inclusion, and the contribution they can make to shaping Oman's future, as captured in the following lines:

How would you describe the journey and achievements of Omani women?

The journey of Omani women is a story of determination, opportunity and love for our country. We honor the women who came before us, whose dedication to their families and communities laid the foundations for what we see today. Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, we look ahead with confidence and gratitude. Her Highness the Honorable Lady Sayyida Ahad is a cherished source of inspiration to us. As an Omani woman, I feel proud of our achievements and deeply responsible for helping the next generation go further.

What has been the role of Omani women in our national development?

Omani women contribute wherever our nation is being built: in

education, healthcare, business and within our homes. Raising a generation with strong values is by itself an important contribution to Oman's future. Through my work in social initiatives, I have seen women turn compassion into actions supporting families, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and helping persons with disabilities participate more fully in society. Their contribution is measured both in professional achievements and in the lives they improve.

What does meaningful empowerment of women look like in Oman today?

To me, meaningful empowerment means a woman has the education, confidence and opportunity to make decisions. It means listening to her ideas, trusting her with responsibility and giving her the support to succeed. It must also reach women in different circumstances, including women with disabilities and those who need greater access to training or employment. I deeply value the encouragement of His Majesty and the Honorable Lady. We honor that encouragement by

opening doors for other women and helping them walk through with confidence.

What qualities and skills will tomorrow's Omani women need to succeed and lead?

They will need knowledge and digital skills. Most of all, they will need the willingness to keep learning. But leadership also requires compassion and courage. A successful woman should be able to listen, work with others and make thoughtful decisions.

How can young Omani women balance ambition with values, identity and heritage?

I believe our identity gives our ambition direction. Our faith, heritage and Omani values teach us dignity, respect, generosity and responsibility. These qualities can guide us wherever our ambitions take us. A young woman can study abroad, build a business or enter a new field while remaining deeply connected to her country and family. I would encourage her to learn from the world and bring that knowledge home, carrying Oman's values proudly in her work.

What advice would you give to young Omani women who aspire to lead and make a difference?

Start where you are, with what you can offer. Do not wait for a title before you begin serving others. Volunteer; take responsibility, seek mentors and learn from experience. My own involvement in volunteering began during my university years, and it taught me how much we grow when we work closely with people and understand their needs. Be

ambitious, but remain humble. When you succeed, extend your hand to another woman. That is how individual success becomes a lasting contribution to society.

What do you hope to see for Omani women in the next decade?

I hope to see more Omani women leading businesses, contributing to research and innovation, shaping decisions and representing Oman internationally. I also hope that more women, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances, will have the opportunity to develop their talents. With deep love and gratitude for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Her Highness the Honorable Lady Sayyida Ahad, I look to the future with hope. My wish is that we respond to their encouragement through dedication, excellence and service to our beloved Oman.

Time has slipped away unnoticeably. At this point, I asked Her Highness to share one message for every young Omani woman about her potential and her responsibility toward Oman. With her characteristic optimism, she said: I would stress to them to never underestimate what you can contribute. Your ideas, your kindness and your determination can change lives. Develop your talents, stay true to your values and use your success to lift others. Our love for His Majesty and for Oman should be reflected in what we give, how we serve and the future we help build.

An Omani writer focusing on youth development and cultural issues. Can be reached through youthinmind2040@gmail.com

Dr Al Sabti emphasises importance of investments in health systems

The session is hosted by Egypt in Cairo, featuring the participation of health leaders and decision-makers from the region's countries

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Health, participated on Wednesday in the proceedings of the 73rd session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (RC73).

The session is hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo, featuring the participation of health leaders and decision-makers from the region's countries.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman was headed by Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health and Vice-Chairman of the Bureau



of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The session, held under the theme "Together for a Healthier Future: Action, Access, Equity," brings together health leaders and decision-makers from across the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. It provides an opportunity to convene and reflect on shared public health challenges and align efforts towards building a healthier future for all.

In Oman's statement, Dr Hilal Al Sabti, Minister of Health, emphasised the importance of continued investment in resilient health systems built on primary healthcare and universal health coverage, ensuring continuity of services and equitable access, particularly for the most vulnerable populations and those affected by crises.

He added that the Sultanate of Oman continues to translate these priorities into tangible national action. In the field of prevention and health security, Oman has maintained high polio immunization coverage, exceeding 99%, while strengthening its surveillance, preparedness and response systems. Oman also continues its efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), guided by the commitments set out in the 2022 Muscat Ministerial Declaration and reinforced through the One Health approach and multisectoral collaboration.

The Minister of Health emphasised that digital transformation, data, and artificial intelligence offer a strategic opportunity to advance health systems across the Region.

He underscored the need to

develop clear governance frameworks, enhance interoperability, and ensure the responsible, trustworthy use of technology to improve the quality of healthcare services and support evidence-based decision-making. These efforts align with the report's priorities to expand the use of digital technologies, promote knowledge exchange, and strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

He further noted that the challenges facing the Region call for greater solidarity and collective regional action, increased exchange of expertise and data, and capacity-building, alongside support for countries affected by conflicts and emergencies.

He also underscored the importance of protecting health workers and healthcare facilities and ensuring the continuity of essential health services for affected populations.

In concluding his remarks, Dr Hilal Al Sabti reaffirmed the Sultanate of Oman's support for the efforts of the Regional Office and its commitment to continued cooperation with the World Health Organization and Member States to translate the priorities outlined in the report into tangible, sustainable outcomes that positively impact the health of people across the Region. The meeting's agenda

includes a series of deliberations on health issues across the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, particularly the key health challenges facing the region. The meetings will explore new strategies to inform decisions aimed at improving the future of health across the region. They will also review a number of health-related papers, facilitate the exchange of information, views and expertise on health issues of concern to participating countries, and adopt decisions to strengthen healthcare and improve the quality of health services throughout the region.

The meetings will address routine procedural matters, including the election of the Committee's Bureau, adoption of the agenda and appointment of a Credentials Committee. The WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean also presented the Annual Report for 2025/2026.

Moreover, participants will discuss several key topics, including advancing health financing to strengthen financial protection in the Eastern Mediterranean Region; a multi-communicable disease elimination approach for the Eastern Mediterranean Region; health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region; and the importance of polio eradication in the region.

The closed meeting on the second day focuses on the State of Kuwait Foundation Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, as well as the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize. Discussions will also address the proposed change to the frequency of the awards.

Furthermore, participants will review technical resolutions and governance matters, the proposed Programme Budget for 2028-2029, and regionally relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 158th and 159th sessions. The provisional agenda for the 160th session of the WHO Executive Board will also be reviewed.

On the final day, a panel discussion will be held under the title "Artificial Intelligence for Health in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region: Priorities and Considerations."

Oman's participation in these meetings underscores its commitment to supporting global health efforts and strengthening its partnerships with international organizations, particularly the World Health Organization, in pursuit of a more sustainable health future for the region and the world. -ONA

YEAR 2025/2026

Defence Ministry research contest spreads a culture of creativity

MUSCAT: The Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies concluded on Wednesday the Ministry of Defence Research Paper Competition for the year 2025/2026 in its second edition.

The concluding ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Minister of Economy, and in the presence of Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, and Rear Admiral Hamed Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

Air Commodore Ali Rashid Al Abri, Director General of Studies and Academic Affairs and Chairman of the Competition Commit-



tee, delivered a speech explaining the objectives, stages, and evaluation criteria of the competition, emphasising that the research

paper contributes to analysing and understanding contemporary challenges.

The ceremony also included

a visual presentation on the key participating research papers, followed by the announcement of results and the honouring of top-place winners.

Major Ahmed Khalifa Al Amri from the Royal Army of Oman secured first place with a research paper titled "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Elevating the Efficiency of Military Media in Monitoring and Strategic Analysis in the Sultanate of Oman - A Semiotic Approach."

The competition aims to encourage strategic and defence scientific research, empower researchers, support decision-makers, and spread a culture of creativity and innovation. -ONA

4TH EDITION

Leadership training programme launched

NIZWA: The Directorate General of Health Services in AlDakhiliyah Governorate today launched the 4th edition of the "Leadership Training Programme".

The ceremony included a video presentation about the components of the programme, the participants' reading of the Training Charter and an exhibition show-

casing the Digital Transformation Initiative for advancing the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) programmes in the governorate. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Administrative and Financial Affairs, felicitated the CPR instructors, sponsors and parties that supported the event. -ONA





Sayyid Badr lauds Pakistan role in supporting talks and diplomacy

Mohammad Ishaq Dar praised Oman for solidifying good-neighbourly relations and enhancing cooperation among countries in the region



pirations of both leaderships and friendly peoples.

In his speech, the Foreign Minister emphasised that Omani-Pakistani relations rest upon extended historical, geographical, commercial, maritime, and human ties, noting that convening the commission offers an opportunity to expand areas of cooperation and transform the abundant opportunities in both countries into practical outcomes.

Sayyid Badr lauded the constructive role undertaken by Pakistan in supporting dialogue and diplomacy in the region, praising its efforts in creating space for dialogue between Iran and the United States, and emphasising that endeavors reinforcing communication and understanding gain special importance amidst regional developments.

For his part, Mohammad Ishaq Dar praised the prestigious standing enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman in its regional surround-

ings and its balanced approach to solidifying good-neighbourly relations and enhancing cooperation among countries in the region, under the leadership of His Majesty the Sultan.

He emphasised the importance of building upon the solidity of relations between both countries and maintaining institutional follow-up on the commission's work and outcomes to translate understandings into practical steps.

The commission's proceedings addressed ways to develop cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, industry, agriculture, the financial sector, energy, oil and gas, logistics, ports, food security, technology, and tourism, alongside labour, consular affairs, security, defence, climate change, civil aviation, education, media, and culture, as well as examining the enhancement of partnerships between both countries' institutions and the private sector. **-ONA**

Sayyid Badr, Ishaq Dar hold discussion on bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister held a bilateral meeting on Wednesday in Islamabad with Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, within the framework of the official visit paid by the Foreign Minister to Pakistan.

The meeting covered the march of bilateral relations and discussed ways to develop cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, industry, agriculture, energy, and transportation, alongside labor, consular affairs, and education.

The two ministers discussed strengthening partnerships between private sector institutions and taking advantage of available opportunities to establish projects that serve the common interests of the two friendly countries.

On regional affairs, the two ministers exchanged views on current developments. Sayyid Badr commended Pakistani efforts in supporting dialogue and containing crises, while Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs appreciated the Omani role in facilitating communication and bringing views closer on various regional issues.

Both sides emphasised the importance of continued co-ordination and resorting to



the rules of international law, thereby contributing to de-escalation and supporting security and stability at both regional

and international levels.

The meeting was attended by a number of officials from both sides. -ONA

Oman and Pakistan call for dialogue to resolve disputes



ISLAMABAD: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, yesterday held a press conference in Islamabad with Mohammed Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

During the press conference, held after the 8th session of the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Sayyid Badr stressed the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and constructive engage-

ment in addressing regional challenges, de-escalating tensions and resolving disputes in a manner that prevents further escalation.

Sayid Badr commended the constructive role of Pakistan in supporting diplomatic efforts in the region. He pointed out that such efforts assume great significance in building confidence and advancing peaceful solutions to challenges.

For his part, Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that the two sides exchanged views about the war between the United States and Iran,

as well as regional and international developments.

He underscored the importance of rapprochement of the two countries' stands. He also underlined the importance of intensifying efforts to address these issues and restore peace and stability to the region.

Both sides underscored the need to continue diplomatic efforts and prioritise dialogue in order to resolve disputes and de-escalate tensions in a manner that supports regional peace and stability. **-ONA**



Recall

RECALL CAMPAIGN FOR MITSUBISHI XPANDER

Recall Date: 15 October 2026

Brand of Commodity	Year of Production	Number of Affected Commodities
Mitsubishi Xpander	2023	53

**Recall
consequence**

Reclining ratchets with cracks that reduced the structural strength of the parts were found to have been shipped. These ratchets are designed for installation on both the left-hand (LH) and right-hand (RH) sides of the vehicle.

Recall Action

Check the lot number of the 2nd-row LH and RH seat-back ratchets on the vehicle. Identify whether the lot number falls within the affected lot range.

1. If the lot number is not affected, no further action is required.
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OMAN





هي عُمان..

Omani Women's Day: A journey of giving and an active partnership in shaping the nation's future

Omani women enjoy care and attention that have contributed to enhancing their presence in the march of building and advancing the nation, as an extension of the Royal care accorded to women by the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman celebrates Omani Women's Day on 17 October each year, a national occasion on which it recalls the journey of Omani women and their contributions to building the nation. The occasion affirms the attention and care they enjoy under the Renewed Renaissance, and the active presence they have achieved across the various fields of development and national work, reflecting their standing as an essential partner in the march of progress and prosperity.

She is Oman, in all its manifestations, comes as an affirmation of her role in the march of national development, and a highlighting of her diverse contributions in vital sectors, and the competencies and capabilities she possesses that contribute to realising the Sultanate of Oman's aspirations towards a more sustainable and prosperous future. The slogan reflects a set of messages that underscore the standing of Omani women and their role in the present and the future; she is a national energy that contributes to economic diversification and shapes the features of the future. Her achievements reflect the diversity of her capabilities and the breadth of her ambitions, just as she is a partner in crafting solutions that support sustainable development. Her contributions in vital sectors affirm the evolution of the Sultanate of Oman's march, while her national competence shines in sustaining national wealth and preserving it for coming generations.

Omani women enjoy care and attention that have contributed to enhancing their presence in the march of building and advancing the nation, as an extension of the Royal care accorded to women by the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik — in belief in her role as a partner in shaping Oman's future. The Royal directives have affirmed women's standing in Omani society as a pillar of the Renaissance, a guardian of values and a nurturer of generations.

This year's celebration comes amid a prominent national milestone that affirms the extension of the Royal attention to the role

of Omani women and their participation in shaping Oman's present and future; for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, has directed the allocation of an additional seat for Omani women in the Shura Council from each governorate, totalling eleven seats, added to the general seats available for competition.

This directive comes as a continuation of the Royal attention to entrenching the principle of Shura, a completion of the march of development witnessed by the Shura Council, and an enhancement of the active participation of Omani women across various fields. The presence of Omani women in the march of development is not confined to a particular field, but extends to positions of participation and decision-making; for the allocation of these seats allows the enhancement of women's representation from the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman in the Shura Council, and contribution to the discussion of national issues and participation in shaping general orientations and policies, thereby enhancing their presence in the paths of national work.

This orientation acquires a dimension that transcends the local framework, in light of the Sultanate of Oman's affirmation during its participations in the United Nations in 2026 that women's empowerment represents one of the national constants tied to the Basic Law of the State and Oman Vision 2040, reflecting the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to continuing support for women's participation and enhancing their contributions across the various paths of development.

Within the framework of continuous attention to Omani women, the visits of Her Highness the Honourable Lady, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan during 2026 to a number of governorates of the Sultanate of Oman carried special attention to women's contributions in society. These visits were not confined to official meetings, but extended to close acquaintance with models of community initiatives and women's projects

that reflect Omani women's ability to employ heritage, experience and knowledge and transform them into initiatives of social and economic impact.

The visits of Her Highness the Honourable Lady to the Omani Women's Association in the Wilayat of Khasab in January 2026, and the Omani Women's Association in Salalah in August 2026, reflected belief in Omani women's ability to create impact in their community surroundings. The gesture from Her Highness the Honourable Lady is an affirmation of the role undertaken by Omani women's associations in supporting women's skills, particularly handicraft skills, and opening broader horizons for them to benefit from these skills by transforming them into products of community and economic value that benefit women, their families and their local surroundings.

These visits highlight the importance of community initiatives in empowering women and enhancing their participation in productive activities, alongside preserving handicraft heritage and transmitting it to coming generations, in a manner that contributes to creating new opportunities for Omani women to benefit from their potential, develop their projects and enhance their role in supporting the local economy.

Proceeding from this standing, Omani women today move towards new horizons, resting upon the achievements they have realised and continuing their contributions in the fields that shape the nation's future. In light of this, the celebration of Omani Women's Day for 2026 sheds light on their presence in the fields of energy, environment and minerals, and their role in supporting economic diversification, sustainability and investment in the nation's resources, alongside their enduring roles in nurturing generations and preserving the Omani family and society.

In the energy sector, Omani women continue their presence in one of the vital sectors of the national economy, which encompasses oil, gas, electricity, renew-



able energy, hydrogen and clean energy. Their participation in these fields contributes to supporting economic diversification orientations, enhancing sustainability and keeping pace with the transformations witnessed by the energy sector, in service of national aspirations towards building a diversified and sustainable economy.

In the environmental sector, the contributions of Omani women stand out in the fields of sustainability, the protection of natural resources, the preservation of biodiversity, and environmental research and innovation, thereby enhancing national efforts aimed at building a sustainable environment and preserving natural resources for coming generations. Their presence in this field also reflects the importance of the role of national competencies in addressing environmental challenges, and developing solutions

and practices that contribute to achieving a balance between the requirements of development and environmental protection.

As for the minerals sector, it represents a growing field for the presence of Omani women, given the national wealth it represents and the promising opportunities for economic diversification and the investment of mineral resources. Women's contributions in this sector are directed towards the fields of exploration, mining, manufacturing linked to minerals, and the development of value-added industries, in support of benefiting from national resources and enhancing opportunities for developing promising economic sectors.

These three fields embody an aspect of the growing transformation in the march of Omani women's participation, through their presence in sectors linked to the energy of the future, environ-

mental protection and resource sustainability, and the investment of national wealth. They also affirm that Omani women are an active partner in the various paths of development, with the competencies, expertise and ability they possess to contribute to developing vital sectors and shaping the future.

The celebration of Omani Women's Day each year comes as a reinforcement of the culture of appreciation and recognition of the pivotal role women undertake in the stability and cohesion of society, and a highlighting of their success stories that begin from their families and extend to the fields of work, creativity, production and community participation. The celebration also represents an occasion to shed light on the achievements Omani women have realised across various fields, and the contributions they continue to make in support of the march of national development.

The celebration carries an inspiring message to coming generations of women and girls, affirming that Omani women have been and remain an active partner in development, a model of perseverance and giving, and capable of continuing achievement and participation across various sectors. This reflects their growing presence in the nation's march, and reinforces their position as a fundamental pillar in the march of the Renewed Renaissance, contributing to the realisation of the targets of the Oman Vision 2040 and the building of a future founded upon the integration of national efforts and the benefit derived from the capabilities of all members of society.

Omani women remain, with the values of giving and responsibility they carry and the competencies and ambitions they possess, an essential element in the march of construction and development, and a partner in preserving the nation's gains and the sustainability of its resources, and continuing the march of achievement across various fields, embodying their presence in the nation's identity, march and future.

Mudhaibi Health Polyclinic to boost service quality to citizens, residents

The polyclinic is also equipped with essential medical and administrative facilities, including a fully equipped medical laboratory, a physiotherapy unit, an X-ray room



AL MUDHAIBI: The Mudhaibi Health Polyclinic opened yesterday in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, marking a significant step in the ongoing development of Oman's healthcare system. The opening reflects the continued focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and enhancing

the quality of services provided to citizens and residents across the governorate. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Zaher Salim Al Salmi, Deputy Chairman of the State Financial and Administrative Audit Authority.

The polyclinic represents a significant addition to the governorate's healthcare system, serving a population of approximately 34,229 people across 26 villages. It is expected to improve access to healthcare services and bring them closer to the community,

within a care environment that upholds standards of quality, safety and efficiency. The polyclinic houses an integrated range of healthcare services and facilities, including 16 specialised and general clinics, general medical services, laboratory and



radiology services, pharmacy, oral and dental health, antenatal care and birth spacing services, child healthcare and immunisation, chronic disease programmes, and health promotion services. It also provides physiotherapy, elderly care and home healthcare services. The polyclinic is also equipped with essential medical and administrative facilities, including a fully equipped medical laboratory, a physiotherapy unit, an X-ray room, a pharmacy, a meeting hall and administrative offices. These facilities provide an integrated working environment for healthcare pro-

fessionals, help streamline service delivery and enhance the experience of service users. The project holds particular significance in light of the development of healthcare services in the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi. Healthcare services in the wilayat date back to 1978, while construction of the modern polyclinic began in 2024, culminating in its official opening in 2026. The project marks a further milestone in the continued development and modernisation of the healthcare sector in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate. **-ANI**

DIVERSIFICATION TARGETS

Oman's Embassy in Tokyo organises food sector investment forum to enhance economic relations

TOKYO: The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Japan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, organised the Omani-Japanese Food Sector Investment Forum, within the framework of efforts to enhance economic and investment relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan. The event also aims to open broader horizons for cooperation in the food sector.

The forum was held in the presence of Aseela Nasser Al Kiyumi, Ambassador-Designate of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, to highlight the investment capabilities and promising opportunities abundant in the Sultanate of Oman, contributing to attracting Japanese investments and supporting food security and economic diversification targets. A number of members of the Omani delegation and nearly 60 investors and representatives from several Japanese companies interested in investing in agriculture, food industries, and associated services participated in the forum.



In his speech, Eng. Rashid Said Al Ghafri, Director General of the Directorate General of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources in Dhofar Governorate, emphasised the importance of strengthening the Omani-Japanese partnership, expanding areas of cooperation in the agricultural sector, and leveraging advanced Japanese expertise and technologies to support sustain-

able agricultural development and create new opportunities for investment partnerships between the two countries. The forum included visual presentations from the Omani side. Eng. Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Shukaili, Director of the Investment Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, reviewed the prominent investment capa-

bilities of the Sultanate of Oman and its attractive business and investment environment. He also highlighted opportunities available in agricultural production, food processing, marketing, logistics, and the deployment of modern technologies to develop the agricultural sector and boost its productive efficiency. Furthermore, Eng. Said Mo-

ammed Al Wahshi, Director of the Al Najd Agricultural Area Department, delivered a presentation addressing the promising potential of the Al Najd Agricultural Area in Dhofar Governorate as a strategic destination for agricultural investment in the Sultanate of Oman, given its vast areas, productive assets, and diverse investment opportunities across agricultural, industrial, and logistical fields. The presentation highlighted the strategic orientation to develop the Al Najd Agricultural Area and transform it into an integrated agricultural economic cluster based on linking agricultural production, food manufacturing, marketing, and logistics. This approach enhances the added value of agricultural products, supports food supply chains, contributes to attracting local and foreign investments, creates job opportunities, and boosts the agricultural sector's contribution to the national economy. Opportunities available for Japanese investors to participate

in developing agricultural projects and related industries were also reviewed, along with ways to utilise modern technologies and Japanese expertise in this field. During the forum, bilateral meetings took place between members of the Omani delegation and Japanese investors and company representatives. Views were exchanged, cooperation and investment partnership opportunities discussed, and joint fields of work explored across agricultural projects, food manufacturing, logistics, and modern agricultural technologies, paving the way for establishing practical partnerships and developing joint investment projects in the coming phase. This forum serves as the culmination of technical cooperation efforts between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan in the agricultural domain, marking an important step toward expanding the investment partnership between the two countries and drawing upon the Japanese experience in agricultural innovation and technology. **-OMA**



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2026/097	EXTENSION OF WATER NETWORK AT RAZAT - SALALAH	29-October -2026	12-November-2026	262.500
DISC/2026/098	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION (OPTIONAL) OF THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION NETWORK AND STP EXTENSION IN WILAYAT THUMRAIT	29-October -2026	12-November-2026	262.500
DISC/2026/099	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER NETWORK AT JARZIZ AREA - SALALAH	29-October -2026	12-November-2026	262.500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below: https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



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Sultanate of Oman
The Supreme Judicial Council



Sultanate of Oman
The Supreme Judicial Council

Tender Announcement

The Supreme Judicial Council announces its desire to submit the following tender:

Tender no	Tender Title	Tender Document Sales End Date	Bid Submission Closing	Vendor Grade	Tender Document Fee
2026/34	Providing a risk Management Expert	2026/10/15	2026/11/09	Second, Third	RO 25/-

- Where you can buy the more detailed tender documents electronically via the link below website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- Bidders must submit a letter of commitment to the bid, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tenders Committee of the Supreme Judicial Council, based on directives from the General Secretariat of the Tenders Council and the latest updates to the electronic bidding system. Based on Circular No. (1/2024) issued by the General Secretariat of the Tender Board.

1- For inquiries and clarifications on the tender:
Submit inquiries related to the project electronically through the website of the electronic tender system (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>).

2- For inquiries and clarifications on the electronic bidding system:
Submit inquiries regarding technical support for the electronic bidding system via e-mail and the phone number shown below:
Phone: +968 24402200 Email: etenderhd@gtsb.gov.om

IN DUQM

Contract awarded to build roads and boost infrastructure at Fisheries Industries Zone

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has awarded a contract for a project to build roads and set up infrastructure at the Fisheries Industries Zone in Duqm.

The initiative seeks to enhance the zone's readiness to attract industrial investments and provide road networks and services for supporting the existing facilities and future expansions in a manner that contributes to developing food industries and raising fisheries value-added resources.

The project includes the establishment of an internal road network (covering an area of 8.7 kilometres), building single-lane roads (7.3 kilometres), dual-lane roads (1.4 kilometres), constructing two roundabouts and installing traffic signals and road markings. The roads aim to ease access to industrial and service sites.



The project also covers the construction of sewerage networks, potable water networks, irrigation channels, high-voltage and low-voltage electrical networks, street lighting systems and telecommunications channels—all with the prime of objective of establishing an infrastructure that would cope with the needs of investment projects and facilities in the industrial zone. — ONA

SOUTH AL SHARQIYAH

Integrated initiatives to enhance marine environment protection

SUR: During the month of September 2026, specialised teams from the Environment Department in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate conducted a campaign during which the participants saved the lives of 201 adult turtles that went stray from their natural habitat.

They also brought a total of 57,744 hatchlings of turtles back to the sea during the campaign.



Raise public awareness

The Environment Department in South Al Sharqiyah undertake constant efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving marine ecosystems.

These efforts involve educational programmes that combine fieldwork with community outreach. The drive includes initiatives to protect nesting sites, monitor turtles and their hatchlings and handle emergency cases.

The drive, which lays emphasis on community engagement, is supported by Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO).

The recent activities took place at Ras Al Hadd Turtle Reserve—a prime nesting site for sea turtles. During such campaigns, specialists and environment activists

patrol the beach, track egg-laying sites and assist hatchlings when necessary. They also facilitate visitor access to the sites and address behaviours that could endanger the turtles or spoil their habitat. — ONA

of emerging judicial systems, and the annual report on judicial experiences presented within the interactive program for affiliates of the Supreme and Cassation courts. The participants are discussing ways to enhance the exchange of newly established and distinguished judicial rulings and principles, and rulings based on laws issued by the Supreme and Cassation courts in the GCC countries.

MANAMA: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the proceedings of the 12th periodic meeting of the heads of the Supreme and Cassation Courts of the GCC, which convened in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

This comes within the framework of enhancing Gulf judicial cooperation and the exchange of expertise and experiences among judicial institutions in the GCC countries.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman was headed by Khalid Rashid Al Manwari, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court.

The meeting discussed a number of topics listed on its agenda, most notably the electronic Gulf judicial magazine, and reviewed the efforts of judicial authorities in the GCC countries in combating money laundering and human trafficking crimes, alongside selecting the topic for the 2027 annual report.

The meeting also addressed a proposal to introduce the GCC Award for Research and Studies in Judicial Fields, the recommendations of the first annual conference concerned with judicial experiences and the review

This is in addition to reviewing the latest developments of the electronic platform for Gulf judicial rulings and principles, the Gulf bilateral visits program, and the Administrative Excellence Award in the Supreme and Cassation courts. The participation of the Supreme Judicial Council comes in affirmation of the Council's commitment to enhancing the paths of Gulf judicial cooperation and integration, and the exchange of knowledge and institutional experiences. This contributes to developing the judicial system, upgrading performance efficiency, and keeping pace with developments in judicial work, in support of the march of joint Gulf action. — ONA

4TH EDITION



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

26th OCTOBER 2026

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL MUSCAT

Marking its 4th edition, the **Times Business Leadership Summit** brings together senior government officials, business owners, C-level executives, SMEs and industry experts. Under the theme **Business Leadership in an Era of Unprecedented Change**, the Summit will examine how organisations can navigate a shifting geopolitical and economic landscape, build resilience, adapt strategies and turn emerging challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth.

TIMES BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Celebrating exceptional achievers in Oman's business landscape, the Times Business Leadership Awards recognise outstanding individuals and companies.

Award Categories:

• Business Leader of the Year

• Entrepreneur of the Year

• Young Business Leader of the Year

• Woman Business Leader of the Year

• Lifetime Achievement Award

• SME of the Year

• Company of the Year...and more



FOR AWARDS, PARTNERSHIPS AND SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:

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Sanjeev Rana: sanjeev@tevents.om | +968 97221630

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Pakistan Prime Minister receives Sayyid Badr



ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, received in Islamabad on Wednesday Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

The Foreign Minister conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Prime Minister, alongside His Majesty's wishes of further progress and prosperity for Pakistan and its people. For his part, the Prime Minister conveyed his warm greetings to His Majesty the Sultan, wishing the Sultanate of Oman and its people continued progress and growth.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister emphasised the historical relations and deep-rooted ties existing between the two countries, as well as the importance of promising economic and investment opportunities that both countries are working to develop within the context of strong cultural bonds, human communication, and political and diplomatic cooperation.

On the political front, the meeting touched upon several regional affairs and endeavors exerted to contain crises and their repercussions on security and stability in the region, stressing the necessity of maintaining channels of communication and dialogue among all concerned parties.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan commended the pivotal and wise role undertaken by the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of His Majesty the Sultan, toward bringing views closer together and utilizing supporting means and capabilities for peaceful solutions. -ONA

Electricity projects worth OMR3 million underway

AL BURAIMI: Nama Electricity Distribution Company is implementing a number of electricity development projects in Al Buraimi Governorate to the tune of about OMR3 million.

The projects, which are scheduled to be carried out during 2026, include investments in a 33kV network (valued at OMR 1.26 million), the construction of new 11kV/415V networks (OMR 960,000) and network reinforcement projects (OMR860,000).

The initiatives will help enhance grid stability, consolidate operational flexibility, improve efficiency, minimise losses and ensure compliance with grid safety standards across the governorate.



Eng. Said bin Mohammed Al Maamari, Projects Manager at Nama Electricity Distribution Company, said that the projects being implemented in the governorate keep pace with the growing demand for electricity that recently emerged from development projects in the wilayats. -ONA

Royal Cavalry participates in El Jadida Horse Show

RABAT: Represented by the Royal Cavalry, the Royal Court Affairs is taking part in the 17th edition of the El Jadida Horse Show.

The horse show is held at Mohammed VI Exhibition Centre in El Jadida, Morocco, from 13 to 18 October 2026 under the theme "The Horse in Service of Humanity". The event seeks to highlight the deep historical bond between human beings and horses.

Through this participation, the Royal Cavalry aims to showcase its commitment to traditional equestrian sports that mark the history of Oman, besides highlighting the role of such sports in preserving the country's intangible cultural heritage associated with horses and horsemanship.

The event is attended by 700 riders, 100 exhibitors and 1,100 horses of various breeds representing 50 countries from around the world.

The opening ceremony was attended by Khalid bin Salim Bama-khalif, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Morocco, and Brigadier Ahmed bin Khalfan Al Lamki, Director-General of the Royal Cavalry. -ONA



tended by Khalid bin Salim Bama-khalif, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Morocco, and Brigadier Ahmed bin Khalfan Al Lamki, Director-General of the Royal Cavalry. -ONA



Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma



Social Impact Awards 2026



Shell Oman Marketing Wins CSR Initiative of the Year Award at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026



Shell Oman Marketing was felicitated with the 'CSR Initiative of the Year Award' at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma Social Impact Awards 2026. Organised by Muscat Media Group, publisher of Times of Oman and Al Shabiba, and managed by TEvents, the awards recognised organisations, initiatives and individuals creating meaningful social, environmental and economic impact across Oman. The evening culminated in the presentation of 22 awards across diverse areas of community and social impact.

Shell Oman Marketing was recognised for its commitment to community development, youth empowerment and sustainable social impact through its longstanding partnership with Outward Bound Oman (OBO). Since 2023, the company has served as OBO's Official Journey Partner, providing essential operational support to extend experiential learning and personal development programmes to communities across the Sultanate.

Through this partnership, Shell Oman Marketing has provided 300 fuel cards over three years, including 60 Shell V-Power cards, supporting the movement of participants, trainers and equipment across programme locations. This contribution has helped facilitate more than 1.23 million kilometres of programme journeys, enabling Outward Bound Oman to deliver 658 programmes across all 11 governorates, reaching 11,511 individuals. Notably, 90% of beneficiaries were Omani and 43% were female, reflecting the initiative's broad and inclusive reach. The programmes have supported students, job seekers, entrepreneurs, employees and individuals with special needs, focusing on leadership, employability, entrepreneurship, resilience, sustainability, women's empowerment and personal development. Beyond logistical support, the partnership has also encouraged knowledge sharing and collaboration in safety, leadership and learning.

Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026, organised by Muscat Media Group and managed by TEvents, celebrates organisations and individuals whose initiatives contribute to community development, healthcare, education, youth empowerment, sustainability, inclusion and social progress across the Sultanate.

Voltamp Energy Wins Community Development Empowerment Initiative Award at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026



Voltamp Energy was felicitated with the 'Community Development Empowerment Initiative Award' at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma Social Impact Awards 2026. Organised by Muscat Media Group, publisher of Times of Oman and Al Shabiba, and managed by TEvents, the awards recognised organisations, initiatives and individuals creating meaningful social, environmental and economic impact across Oman. The evening culminated in the presentation of 22 awards across diverse areas of community and social impact.

Voltamp Energy was recognised for its commitment to community empowerment, digital inclusion and youth development through an initiative aimed at equipping students with essential digital learning tools. In collaboration with Siraj, the company supported the distribution of 100 digital notebooks to 100 students, encouraging the adoption of technology in education and helping young learners develop practical digital skills.

The initiative was designed to introduce students to digital note-taking, organisation and technology-enabled learning, promoting a shift towards more efficient and paperless educational practices. By providing access to digital tools at an early stage, the programme helps students become more comfortable with technology while developing skills that are increasingly important in today's digital world.

Beyond the provision of devices, the initiative reflects a broader commitment to bridging digital learning gaps and preparing young people for a technology-driven future. By encouraging digital literacy and responsible technology adoption, Voltamp Energy is contributing to the development of a generation better equipped to participate in an evolving digital economy.

Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026, organised by Muscat Media Group and managed by TEvents, celebrates organisations and individuals whose initiatives contribute to community development, healthcare, education, youth empowerment, sustainability, inclusion and social progress across the Sultanate.

Mussanah Race Week ready to set sail with dual championships



Running from 15-21 October 2026 at the Barceló Mussanah Resort, this landmark edition brings together over 100 young sailors from across the region

MUSCAT: The stage is set for a monumental week of world-class competition as Oman Sail officially raises the curtain on the 15th Mussanah Race Week, presented by Renaissance Services. Running from 15-21 October 2026 at the Barceló Mussanah Resort, this landmark edition brings

together over 100 young sailors from across the region. This year's milestone event carries extra prestige as it simultaneously hosts the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship, organised in cooperation with the Oman Maritime Sports Committee and the Arab Sailing Federation, which

will feature 30 female competitors across the Optimist, ILCA 4, and ILCA 6 classes, underscoring a powerful shared commitment to inclusive sports development, grassroots progression, and high-performance excellence. Hosted at the Mussanah Sailing School, a recognised Category A High Performance Centre by the Asian Sailing Federation (ASAF), the event provides a proven international pathway for young athletes to hone their talents. Proceedings begin with registration and measurement on 15-16 October, followed by briefings, practice runs, and the official start of racing on 18 October. Sailors competing across the Optimist, Optimist Juniors, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, and Para Inclu-

sive Hansa 303 and RS Venture Connect classes will compete in up to four races per day ahead of the closing prize-giving ceremony on 21 October. Aligned with Oman Sail's strict environmental standards, Mussanah Race Week 2026 will operate as a certified Clean Regatta, featuring a ban on single-use plastics, comprehensive recycling initiatives, and a community beach clean-up. Abdulaziz Salim Al Shidi, Acting Director of Sailing at Oman Sail, spoke on the developmental importance of the dual championships. He said, "Mussanah Race Week plays a vital role in our regional talent development strategy, bridging grassroots discovery with elite

international competition. To celebrate our 15th edition alongside the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship illustrates the incredible progress of the sport in Oman and across the region. "Providing an equal, world-class platform for youth and female athletes allows us to raise the standard of sailing in Oman, inspire the next generation, and continue positioning our nation as a world-class hub for maritime sports." His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Arab Sailing Federation, emphasised the regional significance of the women's championship. He added, "The 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship represents a monumental step forward for maritime sports across the

Arab world. By uniting talented female athletes from across the region on this prestigious stage in Oman, we are fostering elite competition while building a sustainable, inclusive future for the sport." As a catalyst for social change and youth empowerment, the event contributes directly to multiple pillars of Oman Vision 2040. Mussanah Race Week presented by Renaissance Services is proudly supported by Strategic Partner the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and Experience Oman, Bronze Partner the Barceló Mussanah Resort, and Official Supporter Partners the National Mineral Water Company SAOG (Tanuf) and the Oman Maritime Sports Committee.

LEVEL TWO COMPETITION

Oman suffer 113-run defeat to Nepal in World League



AMERAT: Oman's national cricket team suffered a 113-run defeat against Nepal in their second match of the Men's World League - Level Two competition at the Oman Cricket Academy Stadium in Al Amerat. Nepal dominated with both bat and ball to secure their second consecutive victory in the tournament. Batting first, Nepal scored 263 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 50 overs. In reply,

Oman were bowled out for 150 runs in 40 overs while chasing a target of 264. Oman had opened their campaign with a 41-run victory over Canada but were unable to maintain their winning momentum against Nepal. The national team will look to bounce back when they face Canada on Thursday before taking on Nepal again next Monday as the competition continues.

FORMER SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKETER

Gibbs calls for major shake-ups in line-up ahead of SA's 2nd Test against Australia

JOHANNESBURG: Former South African cricketer Herschelle Gibbs revealed the changes he would make for the second home Test against Australia in Gqeberha, with Kagiso Rabada coming in and Ryan Rickelton shifting down the order and keeping wickets. Proteas' World Test Championship (WTC) winning skipper Temba Bavuma suffered his first defeat after a run of 12 Tests unbeaten when South Africa failed to chase down a gigantic total of 421 runs at Durban. Not only did Matt Renshaw tire out the Proteas bowlers with his stubborn determination and ability at the crease, but Proteas batting stood exposed in front of the Aussie pace trio of skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood. Also, SA felt the absence of Rabada, who continues to strive towards full fitness and recovery from the hamstring injury which ruled him out of competitive cricket after the Indian Premier League (IPL). Posting on X, Gibbs called for Kagiso replacing spinner Simon Harmer, so as to form a pace trio



with Marco Jansen and Anrich Nortje, with all-rounder Wiaan Mulder (a pace option) and spinner Keshav Maharaj being the other two bowlers. He also called for Rickelton, who posted single-digit scores at Durban, to be shifted down the order and to be made the wicketkeeper. The explosive hitter also called

for wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne to be dropped in favour of Marques Ackerman, the uncapped middle-order batter. "Kg comes in harmer, so 3 quicks plus mulder and Maharaj. Ackerman in for Verreynner and ricks shifts down and keeps. No dramas," he posted on X. Verreynne is facing a tough

run in Test cricket, having not slammed a fifty-plus score in his eight Tests after a century against Pakistan in Cape Town way back in January last year. Since then, he has managed just 220 runs in 13 innings, averaging just 20. In first-class cricket, Marques has made 5,986 runs in 85 matches at an average of 48.66, including 16 centuries and 31 fifties in 134 innings, with best score of 256. Rickelton has also not managed a score of fifty-plus since his 71 against Pakistan in Lahore in October last year. His knocks of 259 against Pakistan at Cape Town and this 71-run knock at Lahore have done the heavy lifting for Rickelton being the only fifty-plus scores for him as an opener across 12 Tests. During the chase of 421 runs, Aiden Markram (75) was the lone fighter as Proteas got skittled out for 206 runs with Josh Hazlewood running riot on the line-up with a six-wicket haul. Australia elected to bat first, reaching 390 courtesy of a marathon 397-ball 190 from Matt Renshaw.

SINCE 1993

Formula 1 to return to Africa with 10-year deal in Rwanda

KIGALI: Formula 1 will return to Africa for the first time in the coming years since 1993, after it was confirmed Tuesday that Rwanda will host races from the early 2030s under a 10-year agreement. Rwandan President Paul Kagame announced the deal for the Formula 1 African Grand Prix at an event in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, attended by senior F1 officials. "Today belongs to Africa. For more than three decades, the world's premier motorsport championship has raced without this continent, and that changes with this agreement," Kagame said. He added that Rwanda is proud to host the African Grand Prix, and

to share the "moment with more than 100 million fans across Africa, many of them young people who deserve to see the sport at home and to see themselves in it: as engineers, technicians, entrepreneurs and, one day, drivers." The long-term agreement will see the first race in the country take place once a new purpose-built circuit in eastern Rwanda's Bugesera District has been completed. The circuit is expected to be completed early in the next decade. Kagame said the partnership is also an investment in Rwanda's future as the circuit in Bugesera will bring jobs, skills, tourism and new



business to the country and region for decades. In a statement, Formula 1 said the agreement marks a defining

moment in F1's history. "Today is a landmark moment for Formula 1," Stefano Domenicali, Chief Executive Officer of

F1, said. "With Rwanda joining the calendar from the next decade, our sport will race in every inhabited continent, bringing the World Championship closer than ever to fans around the globe," he added. Africa first hosted an F1 World Championship race in 1958, when Morocco staged the season finale at the Ain-Diab circuit in Casablanca. South Africa subsequently became the continent's main F1 venue, hosting its first World Championship race in 1962 at East London. The event remained there until 1965 before moving to Kyalami, near Johannesburg, in 1967.

The South African Grand Prix continued at Kyalami during the apartheid era, although the race was dropped from the calendar after 1985 amid growing international opposition to the country's system of racial segregation. F1 returned to Kyalami for two races in 1992 and 1993 as South Africa transitioned away from apartheid, but the championship has not raced anywhere on the continent since. In recent years, South Africa has sought to bring F1 back, with proposals involving both Kyalami and a potential street circuit in Cape Town, though a deal is yet to materialize. -Xinhua

OMAN OIL PRICE DROPS

MUSCAT: The official price of Oman crude oil for December delivery fell by three cents and reached \$108.86 per barrel on Wednesday. The monthly average price of Oman crude oil for October delivery stood at \$87.84 per barrel, up by \$11.48 compared with the September delivery price. — **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7755.30 points, up by 0.35% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.29% at 635.96 points. National Aluminium, up 13.68%, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 4.94%, was the top loser. **>B2**

Summit underscores Oman's huge attractiveness for new investments

The summit discussed the importance of enhancing Oman's standing as an investment destination and transforming economic assets and promising opportunities into qualitative projects and partnerships

MUSCAT: The Inspire Oman Summit 2026 for investors was held on Wednesday in strategic partnership with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and organised by Mefriend under the theme "Where Vision Meets Investment."

The summit was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Mohammed Salim Al Said, in the presence of Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

The Inspire Oman summit aimed to highlight the successes of foreign investors in the Sultanate of Oman, as several investors who achieved success in the Sultanate of Oman and those who promote investment opportunities for the Sultanate of Oman were honoured.

The summit discussed the importance of enhancing the Sultanate of Oman's standing as an investment destination and transforming economic assets and



promising opportunities into qualitative projects and partnerships that support economic diversification and raise the private sector's contribution to development.

The summit witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between "Hotpack" company and "Sea Pride" company in the field of packaging. New investments were also announced across a number of economic sectors in the Sultanate of Oman, as "Premium Global" Group announced the establishment of a topping refinery and management and processing of oil waste in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm valued at \$10 million.

Meanwhile, "E. M. Badrudeen & Partners" company announced the establishment of a new engineering and manufacturing facility, "Avenzo Pharma" company announced its investment in pharmaceutical manufacturing in Khazaen Economic City, and "Al Faddan" company launched the "Bianca Luxury" project in Khazaen Economic City.

Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stated that the "Inspire Oman Investors Summit 2026" brings together investors and business leaders, reflecting the

importance of strengthening economic relations, exploring investment opportunities, and building mutually beneficial partnerships. He noted that rapid transformations in the global economy, accompanied by changes in supply chains, growing interest in energy and food security, and advancements in technology and industry, reinforce the importance of investment destinations that offer stability, competitiveness, and access to regional and international markets.

Al Rowas added that the attractiveness of investment in the Sultanate of Oman is enhanced through its commitment to economic diversification within the framework of "Oman Vision 2040," and its continued development of the legislative and regulatory framework, streamlining of procedures, and expansion of digital services, thereby creating an environment supportive of business growth and offering diverse opportunities for investors in productive and service sectors.

Shri Prashant Pise, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Sultanate of Oman, affirmed that Omani-Indian economic relations rest upon firmly established historical trade ties and common interests, as well as the significant capabilities

possessed by both countries to enhance cooperation in priority sectors.

He explained that the diversity of opportunities available in economic sectors provides broad scope for Indian and Omani companies to develop joint projects, leverage mutual expertise and capabilities, and enhance their presence in regional and international markets. The Ambassador also emphasised that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India represents an important opportunity to elevate commercial and investment relations between the two countries.

Abdul Latif Khunji, Board Member of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Foreign Investment Committee at the Chamber, said that the "Inspire Oman Investors Summit 2026" represents an important platform for exchanging expertise and successful investment experiences, reviewing promising opportunities in various economic sectors, and enhancing communication between investors and business owners.

He noted that the Sultanate of Oman possesses a set of capabilities that support its investment



attractiveness, including its strategic geographic location, infrastructure, transport and logistics networks, alongside the capabilities provided by economic and free zones that support business, production, and exports.

The summit featured a number of panel discussions that addressed entrepreneurial experiences, commercial and investment opportunities, investment prospects in the circular economy, energy efficiency, and converting environmental solutions into

scalable economic opportunities. It also discussed investment and commercial opportunities in the fisheries sector. The summit proceedings also covered artificial intelligence applications in business and innovation, their role in developing operating models, elevating efficiency, and enhancing competitiveness, alongside reviewing opportunities provided by modern technologies to develop institutions and open new avenues for growth.

— **ONA**

OVER FIVE YEARS



NVIDIA to invest \$250mn in UK AI safety research

NEW DELHI: NVIDIA has announced a \$250 million investment over five years to strengthen artificial intelligence (AI) safety and security research in the United Kingdom, according to a statement by the company.

Under the initiative, NVIDIA will provide \$50 million annually in computing resources to support research on agentic AI safety and security across the UK. Most of the funding will support the wider AI research community, while a portion will be allocated to the British Open-Ended Learning and Discovery Lab (BOLD), the Science of Fundamental AI Research Lab (SOFAIR) and Imperial College London.

The company said the computing resources would be dedicated to research aimed at improving the safety and security of agentic AI systems, which can perform tasks and take actions with a degree of autonomy.

"AI capability and safety must advance together," said Jensen Huang, founder and CEO of NVIDIA.

He added that the UK has strong scientific expertise in AI research and that the investment would help researchers develop, test and improve safeguards for increasingly powerful AI systems.

The initiative will bring together research institutions working on different aspects of AI safety and development.

BOLD, led by the University of Oxford, is developing approaches to help AI systems learn, adapt and work alongside people. The UCL-led SOFAIR is exploring new open-source AI architectures and ways to make AI development and deployment more accessible.

Meanwhile, Imperial College London will focus on safety engineering and robotics as part of the broader research effort.

UK AI Minister Kanishka Narayan welcomed the investment, describing it as a vote of confidence in the country's AI research capabilities, particularly in frontier AI safety.

— **ANI**

NORTH AL BATINAH GOVERNORATE

Investment opportunities in Al Suwaiq Industrial City highlighted

AL SUWAIQ: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) organised on Wednesday the second introductory meeting for a number of investors and business owners regarding investment opportunities in Al Suwaiq Industrial City.

The meeting aimed to highlight the city's capabilities as one of the modern industrial cities developed by Madayn in North Al Batinah Governorate to enhance the attractiveness of the investment environment in the Sultanate of Oman and support economic diversification efforts by providing integrated infrastructure that meets the needs of industrial, logistical, and service investments.

During the meeting, Munther Ali Al Nasri, Acting Director General of Al Suwaiq Industrial City, pointed out that the city succeeded during the current year in attracting new investment projects with investments exceeding OMR1.4 million, across leased areas exceeding 80,000 square metres, bringing the total cumulative investments in the city to over OMR2 million, while total leased areas exceeded 90,000 square metres.

He stated that the new projects encompass various industrial activities, including the production of polyethylene, refining of industrial oils, modification of polymers for bitumen, and manufacturing of ceramic tiles.

He explained that the city's management is currently evaluating a number of investment applications across diverse sectors, including the manufacturing of electric motors and generators, production of carbonated and soft drinks, and the manufacturing of cosmetics and hand and foot care



products, noting that these applications reflect growing investor interest in available opportunities within the city.

Eng. Abdullah Mohammed Al Farsi affirmed that Madayn is working in coordination with relevant authorities in both the public and private sectors to accelerate the provision of basic services for Al Suwaiq Industrial City and facilitate investment-related procedures, alongside intensifying promotional and awareness efforts regarding available investment opportunities and advantages. These

efforts fall within the city's direction toward attracting value-added industrial projects, diversifying its industrial activities, and boosting the industrial sector's contribution to the local economy, in addition to creating new opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and developing supply chains and supporting services for the industrial sector.

He added that Al Suwaiq Industrial City enjoys a strategic location in the Sultanate of Oman that provides easy access to main transportation networks, popu-

lation centres, regional markets, and export outlets, as its strategic location contributes to elevating supply chain efficiency, facilitating commercial operations, and supporting the growth of the industrial sector.

Al Suwaiq Industrial City, which covers a total allocated area of approximately 12.2 million square metres, represents a qualitative addition to the system of industrial cities in the Sultanate of Oman, where Madayn is undertaking the development of Phase One over an area estimated at nearly 1.3 million square metres.

The city is expected to contribute to attracting investments and boosting economic opportunities through its competitive incentives and advanced infrastructure, supporting the creation of direct and indirect job opportunities for citizens and enabling entrepreneurs to establish innovative projects, alongside its role in diversifying income sources and raising non-oil revenues for the national economy. — **ONA**

MARKET

MSX Index ends higher

National Aluminium, up 13.68%, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 4.94%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7755.30 points, up by 0.35% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.29% at 635.96 points. National Aluminium, up 13.68%, was the top gainer while, Al Madina Investments, down 4.94%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of turnover.



A total number of 16,125 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR43.6 million, with more than 127.9 million shares changing hands. Out of 60 traded securities, 32 advanced, 14 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR949,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR548,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR401,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 13,905.37 points, up 0.45%. Prices of Muscat Finance, Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank, Bank Nizwa, United Finance were up by 4.69%, 2.94%, 1.60%, 1.31%, 1.14% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments,

Al Omaniya Financial Services, Oman & Emirates Investment, Financial Corporation, Oman Arab Bank were down by 4.94%, 3.27%, 1.64%, 1.02%, 1.00% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 10,137.53 points, up 0.39%. Prices of National Aluminium, Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cement, Oman Packaging were up by 13.68%, 1.35%, 1.22%, 0.95%, 0.88% respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cables Industry were down by 0.32%, 0.15% respectively. Services Index was up by 0.11% before closing at 3,049.30 points. Prices of Oman Oil Marketing, National Gas, Sohar Power, Sohar Power, Muscat Desalination were up by 6.90%, 2.44%, 1.36%, 1.36%, 1.08% respectively. Prices of OQ Exploration & Production, SMN Power Holding, Al Suwadi Power were down by 1.00%, 0.54%, 0.50% respectively.

— United Securities

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7758.32	7728.06	7755.30	7728.06	27.25	0.35%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,905.37	13,842.63	13,905.37	13,842.63	62.74	0.45%
Industry Index	10,154.65	10,083.66	10,137.53	10,098.41	39.13	0.39%
Services Index	3,057.05	3,042.69	3,049.30	3,045.80	3.50	0.11%
MSX Shariah Index	636.88	633.80	635.96	634.11	1.85	0.29%
MSX TR INDEX	12,095.21	12,048.03	12,090.50	12,048.03	42.48	0.35%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	17,095.93	17,018.79	17,095.93	17,018.79	77.14	0.45%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	13,005.52	12,914.61	12,983.60	12,933.50	50.11	0.39%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,220.61	4,200.78	4,209.91	4,205.07	4.84	0.11%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	0.00	0.00%

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
127,906,829	43,601,667	16,125	39,673,224,605	32	14	14	60

MSX DAILY BULLETIN AS ON 14/10/2026

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,296	2,009	1	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,450	0.100	6.897	1,550	1,450	1,550	0.100	94,978,250
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	303,087	31,178	21	0.101	0.105	0.101	0.105	0.102	0.003	2.941	0.105	0.103	0.107	0.100	9,450,000
OM0000002386	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	45,745,805	8,629,874	2,938	0.188	0.191	0.188	0.191	0.188	0.003	1.596	0.191	0.182	0.191	0.100	1,486,117,084
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	8,338	1,285	6	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.002	1.307	0.155	0.154	0.155	0.100	346,727,720
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	231,500	20,604	12	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.087	0.089	0.100	31,695,330
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	500	318	1	0.636	0.636	0.636	0.636	0.630	0.006	0.952	0.636	0.630	0.000	0.100	210,435,044
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	254,702	70,349	29	0.274	0.277	0.274	0.277	0.275	0.002	0.727	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.100	65,485,570
OM0000008710	BANK DESALINATION	65,500	11,070	4	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.168	0.001	0.585	0.169	0.167	0.169	0.100	12,763,218
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	10,351,275	14,070,297	157	1.350	1.366	1.350	1.358	1.350	0.008	0.593	1.358	1.358	1.215	0.100	1,018,500,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	65,915	12,309	23	0.183	0.188	0.183	0.186	0.185	0.001	0.541	0.186	0.186	0.188	0.010	186,000,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	2,966,760	632,613	111	0.214	0.215	0.212	0.213	0.212	0.001	0.472	0.213	0.215	0.213	0.100	311,534,111
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,431,967	1,065,371	1,988	0.439	0.440	0.439	0.440	0.438	0.002	0.457	0.440	0.442	0.440	0.100	3,302,814,707
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	169,950	38,069	952	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.223	0.001	0.448	0.224	0.230	0.224	0.100	680,914,871
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	1,712,139	393,787	1,909	0.234	0.234	0.227	0.228	0.227	0.001	0.441	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	1,187,593,696
OM0000000972	OQ GAS NETWORKS	17,151,767	3,927,148	2,893	0.230	0.230	0.228	0.230	0.229	0.001	0.437	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.100	996,043,502
OM0000000908	QCBASE INDUSTRIES (SPZ)	22,385,301	5,856,687	3,084	0.287	0.288	0.285	0.287	0.286	0.001	0.376	0.287	0.270	0.267	0.040	923,884,057
OM0000004735	SEMBOROP SALLALAH	34,800	9,780	6	0.284	0.284	0.281	0.281	0.280	0.001	0.357	0.281	0.281	0.285	0.100	268,234,718
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,060	707	1	0.343	0.343	0.343	0.343	0.342	0.001	0.292	0.343	0.000	0.000	0.100	24,143,770
OM0000000894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	3,124,140	1,374,923	1,040	0.442	0.442	0.440	0.442	0.441	0.001	0.227	0.442	0.444	0.442	0.100	340,428,400
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,344	432	3	0.335	0.335	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.316	0.322	0.100	33,600,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	4,091	859	3	0.209	0.210	0.209	0.210	0.210	0.000	0.000	0.210	0.201	0.210	0.100	64,576,999
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	2,914	1,463	5	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.000	0.000	0.520	0.520	0.525	0.100	36,178,036
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	1,634	1,144	2	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.695	0.705	0.100	84,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	16,221	5,146	8	0.317	0.318	0.317	0.317	0.317	0.000	0.000	0.317	0.317	0.318	0.100	208,349,321
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	150	516	1	3.440	3.440	3.440	3.440	3.445	-0.005	-0.145	3.440	3.420	3.500	0.100	308,568,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	2,000	1,864	2	0.932	0.932	0.932	0.932	0.935	-0.003	-0.321	0.932	0.932	0.932	0.100	116,404,899
OM0000001529	DHOAF INT'L DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	98,822	23,798	4	0.395	0.395	0.394	0.394	0.395	-0.001	-0.339	0.394	0.394	0.390	0.100	15,940,505
OM0000004633	AL SUWADI POWER	136,084	26,974	16	0.199	0.199	0.196	0.199	0.199	0.000	-0.500	0.199	0.198	0.199	0.100	142,166,862
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	7,768	1,424	4	0.183	0.185	0.182	0.185	0.186	-0.001	-0.538	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.100	36,932,586
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	834,305	91,010	51	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.100	19,075,000
OM00000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	9,884,213	4,916,993	244	0.500	0.501	0.495	0.496	0.501	-0.005	-0.998	0.496	0.496	0.451	0.010	3,968,000,000
OM0000004935	ALBATHNAH POWER	153,485	30,418	14	0.199	0.199	0.198	0.198	0.200	-0.002	-1.000	0.198	0.196	0.200	0.100	153,627,711
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	55,083	6,790	5	0.122	0.122	0.120	0.120	0.122	-0.002	-1.638	0.120	0.120	0.127	0.100	15,564,259
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	10	1	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.153	-0.005	-3.268	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.100	46,681,716
Total		34	118,187,946	41,356,908	15,532											

Parallel Market

OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	4,100	263	2	0.064	0.067	0.064	0.067	0.064	0.003	4.688	0.067	0.064	0.067	0.100	20,578,804
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	275,411	34,585	41	0.124	0.127	0.123	0.126	0.123	0.003	2.439	0.126	0.125	0.126	0.100	10,710,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	30,578	23,870	8	0.780	0.789	0.780	0.789	0.780	0.019	2.436	0.789	0.782	0.789	0.100	75,905,000
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	270	60	3	0.223	0.223	0.223	0.223	0.220	0.003	1.364	0.223	0.223	0.242	0.100	4,460,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	542,738	81,275	64	0.149	0.154	0.149	0.150	0.148	0.002	1.351	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.100	33,000,000
OM0000003821	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	52,000	8,478	4	0.163	0.166	0.163	0.166	0.164	0.002	1.220	0.166	0.156	0.175	0.100	33,693,750
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	8,200	763	2	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.075	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	14,623,738
OM0000004847	OMAN REIT FUND	1,069	112	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	85,330,000
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	5,690	1,306	1	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.228	0.002	0.877	0.230	0.224	0.000	0.100	7,460,248
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	7,395,139	1,698,662	289	0.228	0.232	0.227	0.230	0.228	0.002	0.877	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.000	1,538,556,250
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	3,700	888	2	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.239	0.001	0.418	0.240	0.000	0.240	0.100	4,800,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	13,420	7,931	8	0.598	0.598	0.580	0.598	0.598	0.000	0.000	0.598	0.570	0.597	0.100	103,838,963
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	1,050	257	1	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.100	4,453,453
OM0000007910	AL ANWAR REIT	26,580	1,781	4	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.072	0.100	13,450,000	
OM0000003889	JABAL REEF	800	108	0	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	106,455,000
OM0000009569	THEBA REIF	16,513	1,717	3	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.105	-0.001	0.952	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.100	109,450,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,017,478	301,371	39	0.296	0.298	0.294	0.296	0.299	-0.003	-1.003	0.296	0.290	0.296	0.100	616,653,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	2,000	194	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.098	-0.001	-1.020	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	6,799,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	13,488	1,079	5	0.080	0.083	0.077	0.077	0.081	-0.004	-4.938	0.077	0.077	0.080	0.100	3,310,000
Total		9,410,014	2,164,698	481												

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Contact : +968 9383 5905
Email: chris_alwin@yahoo.com

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- Product Knowledge: Excellent knowledge of alcoholic beverage products, including product specifications, characteristics, and market positioning
- Education: College graduate with a degree in Sales, Marketing, Business Administration, or a related field
- Language: Fluent in English, both written and spoken
- Communication Skills: Excellent written and verbal communication skills with a pleasant and professional personality
- Sales Skills: Strong negotiation, customer relationship management, and sales target achievement skills

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HOW TO APPLY: Interested candidates who meet the above qualifications are invited to send their CV to: gulfssypl@omantel.net.om (Subject: SALES MANAGER APPLICATION)
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JOB WANTED

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Finance professional, Chartered accountant (finalist/MBA), with 15 yrs of experience in accounts, audit, tax and VAT compliance, risk management and financial reporting, seeking a suitable opportunity in Oman. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 77179238, chanthusureshabu92@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Finance professional CA finalist, 15 yrs experience, immediate joiner skilled in finance, accounting, audit, and financial operations. Seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: +968 72481770 Email: mdpervez6@gmail.com

Senior Accountant (MBA-Finance), an experienced finance professional with over 10 yrs of experience in accounting, financial reporting and management, seeking a suitable Senior Accountant position in Oman. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 79643031 Email: acc.anwar.om@gmail.com

Indian male MBA, 12 yrs of experience in accounts & procurement looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: 98104268, Email: shinishakir@gmail.com

Indian male M-Com, Accountant, 6 yrs experience in Oman, India. 77509446

Indian male with 2yrs of experience as accountant looking for suitable job opportunities. Contact: +96896530788. Email: Rameezm.s1234@gmail.com

Accountant having 10 yrs gulf experience in accounts, D/L and NOC Available Contact: 79192017

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male - CPA, CMA, CA finalist, MCom with 13+ yrs Finance exp. in Reporting, FP&A, Budgeting, MIS & ERP Implementation. Seeking Senior Finance role. Phone: 98078321

Senior Accountant cum procurement (FMCB, construction), finance job required with D/L & NOC MBA-finance, 8+ yrs experience in accounts, finance, admin (finalization, audit, MIS, banking, cash flow, VAT, payroll, etc). Contact: 94822604

Indian female MCom qualified, 10 yrs of experience in home country seeking job. Tally ERP, busy, Manager.io Contact: 95473637

ADMINISTRATION

Indian female, MSC Industrial Psychology graduate with 1 yr HR experience, seeking HR, Administration, Sales or Marketing roles. Excellent communication, coordination & people management skills. Contact: 99680529, Email: evapraisay@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ADMINISTRATION

Male looking a suitable post. Admin or accounts. Contact: 75224936

Indian male graduate with 20 yrs experience seeks job for executive secretary, admin or any other suitable post. Presently available in Muscat. Contact: 91410074.

DRIVER

Driver with 15 yrs experience looking for job as house driver. Contact: 92503551

ENGINEER

Experienced quantity surveyor seeking opportunities in Oman with NOC, available for immediate joining. Contact: +968 94875222. Email: asmath9926@gmail.com

Senior MEP professional having 20+ yrs of GCC experience in the construction industry of project management, design & supervision works looking for suitable openings. Contact: 97283452 Email: syedrehuman@gmail.com

MEP, HVAC Eng: 4+ yrs Oman experience with valid D/L is available. Contact: +968-75020107

ENGINEER

Experienced Mechanical engineer with 7 yrs of experience currently seeking opportunities in Oman. Kindly consider my profile for suitable positions. Contact 95778415. Email: Samsanju770@gmail.com

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IT support, system support Engineer with 1.5 yrs experience in India seeking opportunities in Muscat. Currently in Oman, available for immediate joining. Contact: +968 95848213

LOGISTICS

Indian male, well experience in logistics & fleet. Presently working reputed company in Oman. Seeking suitable placement. Contact-WA: 98137476

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian male, 8 yrs Oman exp, D/L & NOC seeks job. Ready to join. Contact: 72848242

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male, MBA 13 yrs of professional experience in procurement & commercial, logistics available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194

SALES/MARKETING

Experienced FMCG Sales professional with 7+ yrs in Oman. Seeking sales supervisor, HORECA, sales executive, business development or unit manager roles. Immediate joining. Contact: +968-98706181. Email: zaidahmadsyed87@gmail.com

Indian male, BBA, 20 years experience in sales & marketing in Oman, holding valid Oman D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact : 93011232, Email: jitinjoshua920@gmail.com

Indian male, 18 yrs experienced in channel sales, project sales, business development, having D/L, seeks suitable placement. Contact 92790532

MBA holder with 5 yrs of outdoor sales experience in Muscat, a valid Oman D/L, 6+ yrs of experience in the Indian pharmaceutical sales currently looking for a suitable Sales Executive Jobs. Contact: 75083534

Indian male MMS 2 yrs of sales and marketing experience looking for suitable opportunities. Immediate joining. Contact: 91415250, Email: tambesalwan@gmail.com

Saudi Arabia says Houthis will face consequences for attacks

HRH the Crown Prince Chairs Cabinet Session in Riyadh

RIYADH: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the Cabinet session held yesterday in Riyadh.
 The Cabinet commended the decisive role of the Armed Forces in defending the homeland, safeguarding its gains and resources, and effectively deterring any aggression or threat against its sovereignty and the safety of its citizens and residents. The Cabinet affirmed that these efforts ensure the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains a bastion of security and stability as it advances toward further progress and prosperity, while maintaining its steadfast commitment to achieving regional and global peace.
 The Cabinet stressed that the terrorist Houthi militia will bear the consequences of its crimes and recurrent, heinous attacks targeting Saudi Arabia's airports, Makkah, Madinah, visitors to the Two Holy Mosques, and civilian and economic facilities. The Cabinet extended its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of these criminal assaults and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.
 Furthermore, the Cabinet praised the military operations conducted by the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen to



neutralize the threats posed by the terrorist Houthi militia against the Yemeni people, international peace and security, global trade, and maritime supply chains. The Cabinet reiterated the Kingdom's firm position that it will not tolerate threats to its security or to maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, expressing appreciation for brotherly and friendly nations and international organizations that condemned the crimes of the rebel coup militia.
 The Cabinet also commended the successful restoration of crude oil flows through the East-West pipeline by national cadres. It underscored that this rapid restora-

tion highlights the operational agility of the Kingdom's energy sector, its emergency response capabilities, and its technical proficiency, which reinforce the reliability and continuity of supplies to global markets and support the world economy.
 In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency following the session, Minister of Media Salman Al-Dossary said that the Cabinet reviewed the outcomes of recent discussions and meetings held between the Kingdom and brotherly and friendly nations. These engagements focused on strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation to enhance integration and

coordinate responses to shared challenges across various sectors.
 The Cabinet also reviewed the outcomes of the fifth meeting of the Security Coordination Committee of the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council, emphasizing the continuation of joint efforts to implement agreed-upon initiatives to serve the shared interests of both peoples, given their deep-rooted fraternal ties.
 Additionally, the Cabinet welcomed participants attending the 25th WPC Energy Congress as well as concurrent Arab and international ministerial meetings held in Riyadh this week, emphasizing that hosting these events un-

derscores the Kingdom's role as a global platform for energy dialogue, innovation, partnership-building, and international cooperation.
 On domestic affairs, the Cabinet expressed appreciation for the widespread public participation in the 2026 national blood donation campaign, launched by HRH the Crown Prince to promote humanitarian values and achieve self-sufficiency in blood units and components for patients across all regions of the Kingdom.
 The Cabinet addressed other items on its agenda and issued several decisions, including the following:
 First: Approving the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's accession to the humanitarian funds of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
 Second: Authorizing the minister of culture, or a deputy, to discuss and sign a draft memorandum of understanding on cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of Saudi Arabia and the Ministry of Culture of the Syrian Arab Republic.
 Third: Authorizing the minister of environment, water and agriculture and chairman of the board of directors of the National Center for Meteorology, or a deputy, to discuss and sign a draft memorandum of understanding between the center and the Middle East Green Initiative in the field of meteorology.
 Fourth: Approving a memorandum of scientific and educational cooperation between the Ministry of Education of Saudi Arabia and the UNESCO Regional Center for Quality and Excellence in Education.
 Fifth: Approving a memorandum of understanding in research, development, and innovation between the Research, Development,

and Innovation Authority of Saudi Arabia and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye.
 Sixth: Approving a model memorandum of understanding on the rights of persons with disabilities between the Authority for the Care of People with Disabilities of Saudi Arabia and its counterparts in other countries and international organizations, and authorizing the minister of human resources and social development and chairman of the authority's board of directors, or a deputy, to discuss and sign with those entities a draft memorandum of understanding based on the model.
 Seventh: Authorizing the governor of the Saudi Central Bank, or a deputy, to discuss and sign a draft memorandum of understanding with the Central Bank of Egypt on cooperation in the supervision and oversight of financial institutions under their respective jurisdictions.
 Eighth: Approving the Food Security Strategy for the Gulf Cooperation Council member states for use as a guideline for three years.
 Ninth: The minister of industry and mineral resources shall serve as chairman of the board of directors of the General Authority of Foreign Trade, and the minister of commerce shall serve as vice chairman.
 Tenth: Approving the merger of the General Authority of Foreign Trade and the Saudi Export Development Authority into a single entity named the general authority of foreign trade and export, and directing that the necessary preparations for the merger be undertaken and that any matters requiring statutory action be submitted within 180 days. - **SFA**

CHARGES OF TRESPASSING



Cockroach movement leaders sent to 5-day judicial custody

NEW DELHI: Three of India's Cockroach movement leaders will spend five days in jail over charges of trespassing into what was until recently a designated protest site.
 The leaders allegedly breached police barricades to gain unauthorised entry into the historical grounds of Jantar Mantar.
 Student activists shout slogans during a protest demanding the resignation of the nation's Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged voter roll irregularities linked to the "special intensive revision" (SIR), in New Delhi.
 Student activists shout slogans during a protest demanding the resignation of the nation's Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged

voter roll irregularities linked to the "special intensive revision" (SIR), in New Delhi
 Several students' organisations and political parties are protesting against India's election chief.
 Activists of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) on Wednesday tried to march toward the former designated protest venue of Jantar Mantar in central Delhi.
 However, they were stopped by authorities at barricades.
 Students of the leftist organizations raised Slogan such as "reclaim Jantar Mantar" and "Gyanesh Kumar must resign," referring to the Chief Election Commissioner of India who is facinf mass Protests over allegations of misconduct. — **Agencies**

GROWING INVESTMENT MOMENTUM

Sharjah's real estate market attracts 9,891 new investors in nine months

SHARJAH: Sharjah's real estate market attracted 9,891 new investors in the first nine months of 2026, with buyers from 130 nationalities trading 46,125 properties, according to data released by the Sharjah Real Estate Registration Department.
 Of the new investors, 4,526 were from foreign countries, followed by 2,494 from Arab countries, 2,453 UAE nationals and 418 from other GCC countries.
 Alongside this growing investment momentum, Sharjah continues to solidify its position as a preferred global destination for investors, driven by its flexible legislative frameworks. The total number of real estate projects approved for freehold ownership by non-citizens and foreign investors has reached 52 since the issuance of Executive Council Resolution No. (30) of 2022 concerning real estate ownership for non-citizens.
 The current year witnessed a strong push with the approval of eight new high-quality projects by the end of September 2026. These developments play a pivotal role in attracting foreign capital and expanding residential and commercial options for diverse nationalities, reflecting Sharjah's economic openness and enhancing its strategic status on the international



real estate investment map.
 Abdul Aziz Ahmed Al Shamsi, Director General of the Sharjah Real Estate Registration Department, said the addition of nearly 10,000 investors from a broad range of nationalities reflected the strength of Sharjah's investment environment and confidence in its property market. He attributed the growth to regulatory reforms, expanded property ownership opportunities, economic stability and an attractive investment environment.
 Al Shamsi said the diversity of investors and the expansion of residential, commercial and industrial projects were strengthening Sharjah's position as a regional destination for real estate investment.
 The report detailed the trad-

ing shares across investment categories in Sharjah real estate from January to September 2026. Investments by UAE citizens represented the largest share of total cash trading volume, valued at AED22.4 billion across 31,250 properties. Investments by GCC citizens reached AED2.5 billion across 1,451 properties.
 Meanwhile, investors from Arab countries generated trades worth AED7.8 billion across 6,692 properties, while investments by citizens of other foreign nations reached AED14.1 billion across 6,732 properties, reflecting strong international confidence in Sharjah's real estate sector across residential, industrial, and commercial activities.
 UAE citizens topped the list of

investors with a cash trading volume of AED22.4 billion. Investors from India ranked second with a trading volume exceeding AED6.8 billion, followed by Syrian investors with trades close to AED2 billion, Pakistan at AED1.56 billion, Jordan at AED1.21 billion, and Iraq at AED1.17 billion.
 In terms of the number of properties traded by nationality, UAE citizens maintained their lead with 31,250 traded properties. Indian investors came second with 2,914 properties, and Syrian investors ranked third with 1,738 properties. The list also witnessed a prominent presence of Jordanian investors with 1,005 properties, Iraqi investors with 1,001 properties, and Egyptian investors with 997 properties. - **WAM**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

DRC's Ebola cases top 9,000 as vaccine trial nears launch

KINSHASA: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has recorded more than 9,000 confirmed Ebola cases since May, as preparations for a vaccine trial near completion.
 The country's task force on Ebola released a situation report, showing that 9,066 confirmed cases and 4,381 deaths had been recorded as of Oct. 11, bringing the overall case fatality rate to 48.3 percent. A total of 2,389 patients have recovered.
 The outbreak has affected 65 health zones across seven provinces. The eastern province of Ituri remains the epicenter, accounting for 73.8 percent of all confirmed cases, followed by North Kivu

Province, which has recorded the highest case fatality rate at 57.1 percent.
 Earlier this month, DRC Health Minister Roger Kamba said that the outbreak was becoming increasingly localized, with several affected health zones reporting no new cases for weeks.
 However, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned on Oct. 7 that while the epidemic was slowing in some areas, it continued to grow in others. He also highlighted persistent challenges, including the high proportion of deaths occurring in communities and gaps in contact tracing.

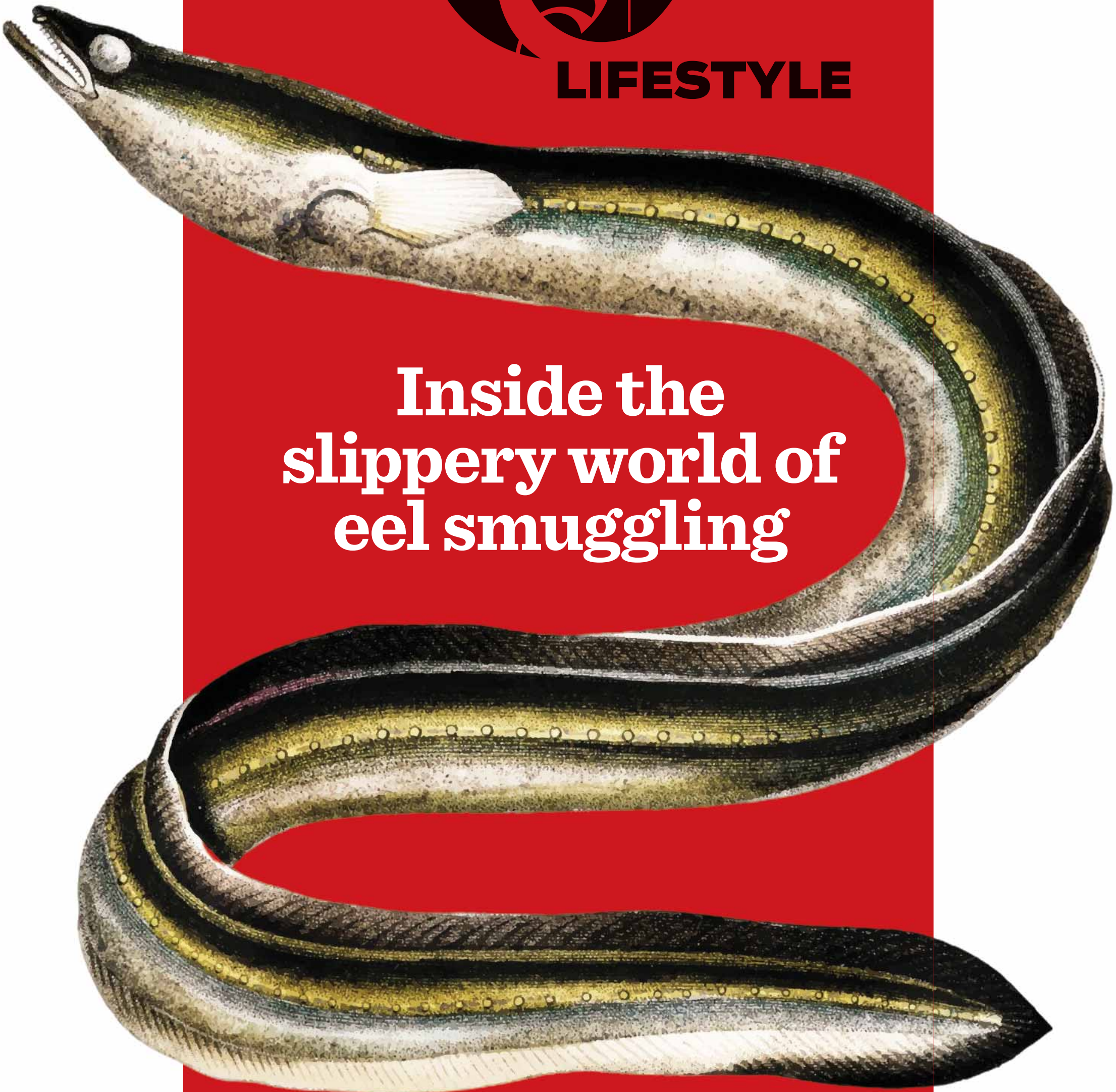
The outbreak was caused by the Bundibugyo ebolavirus, for which no vaccine or treatment has yet been specifically approved, although clinical trials are underway.
 Ervebo, a vaccine approved against the Zaire ebolavirus, is being administered to frontline health workers under research protocols and through compassionate-use arrangements.
 According to the latest situation report, 399 frontline workers had been vaccinated in Haut-Uele province as of Oct. 11. Yet its effectiveness against the Bundibugyo ebolavirus remains unproven.
 The Coalition for Epidemic Pre-

paredness Innovations announced Tuesday that final preparations were underway for Tumaini, a pivotal Phase 2/3 clinical trial to evaluate vaccine candidates against the Bundibugyo virus.
 The trial, expected to begin in the coming weeks pending ethical and regulatory approval, will likely evaluate Ervebo first, followed by vaccines specifically developed against the strain as they become available.
 Declared on May 15, the outbreak has become the largest and deadliest Ebola outbreak ever recorded in the DRC and the second-largest worldwide, after the 2014-2016 epidemic in West Africa.
 - **Xinhua**





LIFESTYLE



Inside the
slippery world of
eel smuggling

Traffickers are making big bucks smuggling millions of critically endangered eels across continents, using suitcases on planes and legal loopholes to deliver them to dinnerplates. Where are the smuggling hotspots?

In Plentzia, a small waterfront town close to bustling Bilbao, eel fishing has long been part of daily life. Now fisherfolk across Spain's Basque Country can no longer catch the animals, a prized delicacy at the center of what authorities describe as one of the world's most lucrative wildlife trafficking trades.

The regional ban is meant to protect the European eel, a critically endangered species, which has seen population declines of around 95% since the 1980s. Yet local fishermen argue the regulations punish those who adhere to them, while criminal networks profit from a billion-euro trade in illegally caught eels.

"So it's the Basque fishermen who will make the eel extinct when the rest are allowed to fish?" said Unai Eizaguirre, who's been fishing eels for 30 years and is now facing the prospect of income shortfalls. "It's ridiculous."

Conservationists support the ban as an emergency response in the face of multiple threats from pollution and climate change. But marine biologist Estibaliz Diaz says longer-term measures, like removing hydroelectric dams that block migration routes and kill eels with their turbines are also needed.

"The situation is so bad that we have to act on everything," said Diaz, who works with local marine research institute AZTI.

Eel smuggling as lucrative as drugs

Part of what makes European eels so vulnerable is their remarkable life cycle, which was, until relatively recently, a source of mystery. Scientists now know adult eels migrate thousands of kilometres from European rivers to the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic, their only known spawning grounds. They breed and then die, leaving their larvae to drift to Europe. By the time they reach rivers, they've transformed into tiny, transparent "glass eels."

Today, the number of glass eels reaching the Gulf of Biscay and connected waterways is only around 12% of what it was before the 1980s, Diaz says.

The young glass eels conservationists are trying to protect are the most valuable in the illegal trade, fetching up to €9,000 (\$10,400) per kilogram.

"You can compare it with drug trafficking. Every year they seize tons of illegally caught eel in Europe," said Eizaguirre. "The big business lies in trafficking them to Asia," adding that the huge profits and comparatively small fines for smaller infractions by local fishers make the risk worth it. However, when criminal organisations are involved, penalties can be substantial with fines up to 6 times the value of illegally smuggled eel.

Demand in countries such as China, South Korea and Japan is



driving prices. As is a biological peculiarity: So far, it's been exceedingly difficult to get eels to reproduce in captivity. This means fish farms — where the eels are raised before being sold to premium restaurants — need a steady stream of young from the wild. Sometimes, the same smuggled eels come back to Europe as fillets for the sushi market.

Conservationists had hoped pressure on the species would ease when the EU banned export of the species outside the bloc in 2010. Instead, organized crime groups have increasingly muscled in on the market, with the illegal trade now generating an estimated €3 billion in profits in peak years.

"Our estimated maximum was always 100 tons of glass eels smuggled annually. That's already around 300 million fish," said Florian Stein, head of policy and science at the German Angling Association. But information from

his contacts in the illegal trade have led him to the conclusion that it was a "very conservative estimate."

International law enforcement agencies are also cracking down, with Europol's Operation Lake seizing 22 tons of glass eels and arresting 26 suspects between 2024 and 2025.

"There has been a lot of pressure from law enforcement throughout Europe," said Interpol's Sanchez Romero. "That's why the criminal groups always look for new routes."

Eels smuggled in suitcases along complex routes

Stein, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on international eel smuggling and advises the German government, said trafficking has increased since 2020, and illegal trade routes have become more complex.

"Ten years ago, Madrid airport was still one of the biggest smug-

gling hotspots," he added. This was due to its proximity to fishing grounds in northern Spain and Portugal.

Increased checks by Spanish authorities on flights to East Asia forced traffickers to adapt. Experts now say a new route running through North Africa via Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal has become increasingly important.

Geography is one reason the route is attractive. The Strait of Gibraltar is 14 kilometers at its narrowest point and a busy maritime junction. "We know that many drugs are also transported through this strait," Moroccan investigative journalist Yassir Al-Makhtout told DW.

European eels also inhabit rivers and estuaries in Morocco. Though the country has banned the export of glass eels smaller than 12 centimeters (4.7 inches), it is building a legal domestic eel trading industry. Experts fear that's acting as a cover for trafficked animals coming in from Europe.

From Morocco, smugglers then move eels along numerous routes to Asia. The means are not always sophisticated. Glass eels can be transported in ordinary suitcases on domestic flights. They're placed in bags filled with a little water and insulated to keep their temperature stable. They can survive for up to 48 hours in those conditions. Once in Asia, they go to the fish farms.

A species running out of time

Eels are an important indicator species for the health of ocean and riverine ecosystems because their long migrations across multiple habitats make them vulnerable to problems that could also harm other species. They also serve as important prey for herons, otters and larger fish. "But the impact of its disappearance is difficult to predict," said marine biologist Diaz.

Under EU regulations, member states must undertake measures to allow 40% of adult eels to return to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. Diaz also wants to ensure at least 40% of glass eels make it back from the Sargasso Sea.

But European eels are not the only eel species under threat. A proposal to protect all freshwater eel species from illegal and unsustainable trade was rejected at the 2025 CITES wildlife conference. For Stein such protection is key.

"The proposal should be on the table again at the next conference. I just don't know how else we can get a handle on this problem," said Stein, adding more lobbying and coalition building is needed to advocate for a ban.

"The eel for us is more than just a fish," said Unai Eizaguirre. "It's been part of our identity for centuries." For fishermen like him, better protection for the eel represents a chance at a sustainable future. -DW

SPORTS

UEFA Champions League: Barcelona beat Galatasaray 4-1, Arsenal thrash Lille 3-0

Aleksey Batrakov gave Galatasaray the lead in the 28th minute, but Joao Cancelo equalised for Barcelona in the 43rd minute



ISTANBUL: Barcelona came from behind to thrash Galatasaray 4-1, while Arsenal scored three second-half goals in seven minutes to beat Lille 3-0 in the UEFA Champions League league phase on Tuesday, as both sides secured convincing victories on matchday two. Aleksey Batrakov gave Galatasaray the lead in the 28th minute, but Joao Cancelo equalised for Barcelona in the 43rd minute.

Fermin Lopez put Barcelona ahead in the 50th minute with a header from a Lamine Yamal cross. Yamal then set up Anthony Gor-

don three minutes later to extend the lead, before substitute Karim Adeyemi scored in the 65th minute to complete the rout.

Meanwhile, Arsenal defeated French side LOSC Lille 3-0 in the UEFA Champions League league phase on Tuesday, scoring three goals in seven minutes in the second half to maintain their perfect start to the competition.

Jurrien Timber broke the deadlock in the 64th minute before Arsenal introduced Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and Kai Havertz through a triple substitution.

Saka then set up Eberechi Eze for Arsenal's second goal in the 67th minute before scoring himself four minutes later after combining with Havertz.

Arsenal dominated proceed-



ings with 53 per cent possession and registered 16 shots, including eight on target. Lille managed just four shots, none of which tested the goalkeeper. Lille were unable to find a breakthrough against Arsenal's defence as the Gunners secured a comfortable victory.

Pablo Barrios and Ademola Lookman scored as Atletico Madrid beat Manchester United 2-0

in the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday. Atletico needed less than a minute to open the scoring after Giuliano Simeone collected a long ball and set up Barrios to side-foot home. Manchester United saw Bryan Mbeumo fire wide before Marcus Rashford came inches away from connecting with Lisandro Martinez's ball from the back.

Atletico's Johnny Cardoso saw

his effort from the edge of the area ruled out after VAR detected an earlier handball by Marcos Llorente, while Julian Alvarez hit the post at the start of the second half.

Manchester United's hopes suffered a major setback in the 74th minute when Leny Yoro was shown a red card.

Lookman doubled the lead five minutes later, scoring from close range after goalkeeper Senne Lammens had saved Jonathan David's initial effort. Villarreal beat Napoli 3-1 after coming from behind.

Napoli took the lead in the eighth minute when Amir Rrahmani scored from a loose ball in the home penalty area.

Villarreal responded well, with Georges Mikautadze slotting home from a narrow angle in the 23rd minute. Santiago Mourinho put Villarreal ahead three minutes later after collecting the ball outside the penalty area and scoring with a powerful shot.

A thumping effort from Tani Oluwaseyi in the 86th minute sealed Villarreal's first Champions League win since its quarterfinal victory over Bayern Munich in April 2022.

Bayern Munich was held to a 3-3 draw by Viking in Norway. -Agencies

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Martinez criticises United's hierarchy after defeat to Atleti

MADRID: Manchester United defender Lisandro Martinez criticised the club's hierarchy and said he expects more from the team's technical director following their 2-0 defeat to Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Champions League, calling for greater investment in the squad to compete with rival teams, according to Sky Sports.

In a post-match interview, Martinez said he had expected the club's management to bring in more players during the summer transfer window, specifically expressing disappointment with technical director Jason Wilcox.

"I have to control myself a lot, but sometimes it's a reflection of how our club is at the moment. We had a fantastic season last season, and now we expect more from the top, from upstairs, to bring in more players to compete because many teams have brought in many players as well," Martinez said while speaking to Amazon Prime, as quoted by Sky Sports.

Martinez said he expected greater investment from the club's technical director, while acknowledging that players also needed to improve and stressing the importance of building a stronger squad.

"Yes, 100 per cent. I expect more from our technical director.



I have to be honest. And also, as a player, we have to do more. It's also important to build a strong squad to be ready for this kind of night," he said.

The defender added that building a strong squad was essential to handle challenging matches, while suggesting that responsibility for the team's struggles should not rest solely with the manager or players.

"He does his best," Martinez said of manager Michael Carrick. "But every season is different. You can't stay with what you did last season. The teams know how you play, they know every detail. If you don't change, next season is a big problem. You start changing, changing, changing managers. But what about [moves his eyes upwards] other areas?"

Martinez suggested that re-

sponsibility for the defeat should not fall solely on the coach and players, pointing to other areas of the club that also needed scrutiny.

"I can't say more. Because also tonight it is easy to say the coach, it is easy to say the players, but also we have to see other areas," he said.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Carrick said he had not watched Martinez's interview and suggested the defender's comments may have been influenced by the disappointment of the defeat.

"Well, I haven't seen the interview. I've half heard about it in the other interviews I've done. I think it's a little bit about the emotions of the game as well, coming here and being disappointed not to get something from the game. Straight after a game, for me, is not the time to talk about that interview because I haven't seen it, so I can't really comment on that. But I think it's important for us to move forward quickly, really. I think there's a big game on Sunday, and it's really important that we move forward and we stay focused on that," he said.

"There's disappointment within the group. I'm bitterly disappointed in certain things, and the boys are as well as a group," he added. -Xinhua

ICC WEBSITE

Sahibzada Farhan surpasses Abhishek Sharma's record for most runs in three-match T20I series

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan captain Sahibzada Farhan set a new record for the most runs in a bilateral three-match men's T20I series between two Full Members, finishing with 238 runs despite his side suffering an eight-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in the third and final match in Rawalpindi, according to the ICC website.

Farhan scored his third consecutive half-century (76 runs off 47 balls) to take his tally to 238 runs in the series, surpassing India's Abhishek Sharma, who had scored 229 runs against Afghanistan earlier this year.

New Zealand's Colin Munro, with 223 runs against West Indies in the 2023-24 series, occupies the third spot on the list, followed by Australia's David Warner (217 against Sri Lanka in 2019) and Afghanistan's Hazratullah Zazai (204 against Ireland in 2019).

Sri Lanka chased down Pakistan's total of 168/8 with 17 deliveries remaining at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, with Kusal Mendis leading the way with a quick-fire 87 off 47 balls. Mendis was adjudged Player of the Match for his innings. The defeat, however, did not affect Pakistan's series result, as the hosts had already secured the series with dominant wins in



the first two matches. Pakistan won the opening T20I by four wickets on October 9 and the second by 82 runs on October 11, before Sri Lanka claimed an eight-wicket victory in the finale on October 13.

After the match, Farhan said Pakistan followed the same approach in the final match as in the first two games, adding that he aims to maintain consistency and make the most of his form.

"The way we set a superb target in the first two matches, today also we had the same plan, but it's cricket; anything can happen. The effort is to stay consistent. When I perform well, I'm even more focused

to do well in the next match. It's cricket; you're not always in form. So I'm looking to make the most of it," he said, as per the ICC website.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis praised the team's improved bowling and fielding, along with the batting performances of Kamindu Mendis and himself, in the eight-wicket victory.

"We bowled really well today in the middle period. The fielding was better too, and the batting was excellent. Kamindu (Mendis) batted really well after the Powerplay. He played his natural game, and I did too. We did really well in all three departments," he said. -ANI

34-YEAR-OLD



Neymar set for Santos return against Fluminense

RIO DE JANEIRO: Neymar is set to return from injury as Santos seeks to resume winning ways against Fluminense in Brazil's Serie A.

The 34-year-old missed Santos' 2-1 weekend loss at Atletico Mineiro but returned to training on Tuesday as he vies to be fit for Sunday's clash at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium.

Neymar has made just 25 appear-

ances across all competitions for Santos this year amid ongoing knee and leg muscle problems.

Santos is currently eighth in Brazil's 20-team Serie A standings with 42 points, 22 shy of leader Flamengo. After a poor start to the current season, Santos has enjoyed a resurgence in recent weeks, going eight games without defeat before losing to Atletico Mineiro on Sunday. -Xinhua

IN LONDON

Lara, Root, Ganguly, Rahane join Prince William for a tennis-ball cricket match

LONDON: Former India captains Sourav Ganguly and Ajinkya Rahane joined a distinguished gathering of other cricketing legends and members of royalty in London for a unique celebration bringing together the spirit of cricket and the cause of environmental sustainability, according to a press release from The Royal Foundation.

Invited by Prince William, Rahane, who recently called time on an illustrious career, participated in a friendly tennis-ball cricket match marking the countdown to the Earthshot Prize awards ceremony, an initiative of The Royal Foundation, which will be held in Mumbai next month.

The match took place on The Mall, outside Buckingham Palace, a ceremonial roadway typically reserved for grand royal processions. The occasion brought together an array of cricketing greats, including former India captain Sourav Ganguly, West Indies legend Brian Lara, and England stars Joe Root and Harry Brook, among others.

Reflecting on his experience at the event, Rahane shared his thoughts in a LinkedIn post on Wednesday. Rahane described the tennis-ball cricket match as a memorable experience, high-



lighting the shared love for cricket between India and the UK. He said the event also raised awareness about environmental sustainability ahead of the Earthshot Prize ceremony in Mumbai this November, stressing the impor-

ance of collective efforts to protect the planet.

"Cricket has taken me to some remarkable venues across the world, but playing tennis-ball cricket right on The Mall in London with Buckingham Palace in

the backdrop is an experience that will stay with me for a long time," he said.

"Yesterday was about celebrating the shared love for the game between India and the UK, but more importantly, shining a light on a cause that matters far beyond the boundary ropes. It was a privilege to spend time with Prince William and catch up with wonderful friends and icons of the sport Dada, Brian Lara, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Danni and everyone else who brought so much joy to the pitch. We spoke about the unifying spirit of cricket, our memories of playing in England and back home in India, and the responsibility we share toward the future," Rahane added.

"The energy was set for what promises to be an impactful moment: The Earthshot Prize heading to Mumbai this November. Repairing and protecting our planet across nature, clean air, oceans, waste reduction, and climate requires the same values the sport teaches us every day discipline, collective effort, and genuine intent. A memorable morning in London for a cause that deserves all our support. Looking forward to welcoming The Earthshot Prize to my home city next month," he said further. -ANI

IN PICTURES



One-year celebration of Swadesh at Eros
Bollywood actor Aamir Khan and his wife Gauri Spratt pose for a picture during the one-year celebration of Swadesh on the eve of Navratri at Eros, in Mumbai. ANI Photo



Aftermath of earthquake in Panama
This photo shows quake-affected residents at a temporary shelter in Llana Arriba, Herrera, Panama. Xinhua



NBA preseason game Toronto Raptors vs New York Knicks
Kyle Anderson (2nd L) of Toronto Raptors fights for a rebound with Tyler Nickel (3rd R) of New York Knicks during the 2026-2027 NBA preseason game between Toronto Raptors and New York Knicks in Toronto, Canada. Xinhua



Floating market on Inle Lake in Myanmar
Vendors sell food at a floating market on Inle Lake in Nyaungshwe township in Shan state, Myanmar. Xinhua



Migratory birds at the Horqin National Nature Reserve in China
A drone photo shows migratory birds at the Horqin National Nature Reserve in Horqin Right Wing Middle Banner of Hinggan League, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Xinhua



Highlights of Copenhagen's annual Culture Night
Visitors explore the old reading room of the Royal Danish Library during Culture Night 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Museums, libraries and public institutions opened their doors, offering visitors tours, performances and family activities across Copenhagen. Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Spend with your new BankDhofar credit card and make Thailand your next destination

Applicants must apply during the campaign period and meet the stipulated spending requirement within 60 days of card issuance, or by 12 January, 2027, whichever comes first



MUSCAT: BankDhofar is giving customers an added incentive to make its credit cards their preferred payment companion, with a new acquisition campaign offering qualifying cardholders the opportunity to secure complimentary holiday packages through their everyday retail spending.

Running from 13 October to 12 December 2026, the promotion is open to BankDhofar customers who do not currently hold, and

have not previously held, a BankDhofar credit card. Applicants must apply during the campaign period and meet the stipulated spending requirement within 60 days of card issuance, or by 12 January 2027, whichever comes first.

The campaign combines the convenience and purchasing flexibility of BankDhofar credit cards with an experiential reward: a holiday package to Thailand delivered in partnership with Mastercard. Different spending thresholds

apply according to card category. Gold and Najm cardholders must achieve eligible retail spending of at least OMR750, while the threshold for Platinum customers is OMR1,000. World and World Elite cardholders qualify at OMR3,000.

A broad spectrum of personal purchases counts towards these targets, including point-of-sale, online and eligible wallet transactions, whether denominated in Omani rials or foreign currencies.

Adding a competitive dimension to the promotion, 56 winners will be selected based on the highest qualifying spend within the respective categories.

Travel under the packages is valid from January 31, 2027 to January 31, 2028, subject to applicable conditions and blackout periods.

Beyond its immediate appeal as a travel reward, the initiative underscores BankDhofar's broader focus on enriching the value customers derive from their banking relationships. By connecting routine card expenditure with desirable lifestyle experiences, the campaign encourages greater adoption of convenient cashless payments while rewarding customers for choosing BankDhofar cards.

The promotion further complements the bank's growing suite of card and digital-payment solutions, reflecting its emphasis on combining convenience, choice and tangible customer benefits.

NEW SUV

Chery Oman announces exclusive 3-day Flash Sale on Tiggo 9 and Tiggo 7 SUVs

MUSCAT: Chery Oman has announced a three-day Flash Sale offering customers across the Sultanate a limited-time opportunity to own selected Tiggo 9 and Tiggo 7 SUVs at special promotional prices. Scheduled from 13th to 15th October 2026, the Flash Sale brings together attractive prices across four variants, making it an ideal opportunity for customers looking to purchase a new Chery SUV.

The Flash Sale features two of Chery's popular SUV model ranges, catering to different driving preferences and lifestyles.

The 2026 MY Tiggo 9 Luxury AWD is available at OMR10,099, while the 2026 MY Tiggo 9 Flagship AWD is priced at OMR10,999. Customers looking for the 2027 MY Tiggo 7 Champ can choose between the 1.5 STD variant at OMR5,899 and the 1.5 LUXURY variant at OMR6,249.

These special prices are available exclusively during the three-day Flash Sale.

Engineered with a focus on performance, safety and innovation, the Tiggo 9 and Tiggo 7 combine contemporary design, comfort and advanced technology.

The Tiggo 9, Chery's flagship SUV, offers a premium interior, spacious seating, a 15.6-inch HD central display with intelligent interactive features and all-wheel-



drive capability for enhanced driving confidence.

The Tiggo 7 Champ blends modern styling, everyday practicality and comfort with a well-equipped cabin and an efficient 1.5-litre powertrain. Both SUV ranges incorporate advanced safety technologies, with features such as Adaptive Cruise Con-

trol, Blind Spot Monitoring and a 540-degree panoramic camera system available depending on the model and variant. Together, they reflect Chery's commitment to delivering quality, innovation, performance and value to customers across Oman.

Customers are invited to visit their nearest Chery showroom

from 13th to 15th October 2026 to take advantage of the exclusive Flash Sale prices on the Tiggo 9 and Tiggo 7, subject to vehicle availability and applicable terms and conditions.

In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by New World Autos LLC. For the latest Press Releases, Test Drive requests and more,

please visit www.chery.om, www.youtube.com/@OmanChery, www.facebook.com/CheryAutoOman, and www.instagram.com/cheryoman. For any further details & to ascertain the availability of stocks, please visit the Chery Showroom at Wattayah, Al Hail (Seeb), Sohar, Salalah & Barka.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU proposes one-year delay to methane import rules

BRUSSELS: The European Commission on Wednesday proposed postponing certain obligations for fossil fuel importers to ease pressure on them due to high energy prices and supply concerns.

The obligations under the European Union (EU) Methane Regulation would be postponed for one year, it was announced.

The proposal came as the conflict in the Middle East has put further strain on global energy markets, driving up prices and raising the risk of reduced availability of oil and gas, the Commission said.

The proposed amendment to the regulation would delay monitoring, reporting and verification obligations for importers of natural gas, oil and coal, as well as methane-intensity reporting requirements for both importers and EU producers.

The European Commission said on Wednesday that the postponement would give importers additional time to comply with the rules, while helping avoid further pressure on security of supply of imported fossil fuels.

Nevertheless, it added that the amendment would not change the overall ambition, integrity or scope of the regulation, reaffirming the bloc's commitment to reducing methane emissions.

— Xinhua

ARCTIC SECURITY COOPERATION

Trump says 'massive oil, gas, mineral' exploration set to begin in Greenland

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced that large-scale oil, gas and mineral exploration is set to begin in Greenland, a month after Washington reached an agreement with Denmark and Greenland to strengthen defence and Arctic security cooperation, reiterating the island's strategic importance to the United States and Europe.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump highlighted Greenland's potential energy and mineral resources, while emphasising its geographical importance for the defence of the United States and Europe against potential security threats.

"Massive Oil, Gas, and Mineral Exploration is getting ready to begin in our new and beautiful Greenland! There are Experts that are saying that the amount of easily available Oil is far greater than that of almost any land, anywhere in the World and, even more importantly, from a Security Purpose in the Defence and Offense of both the United States of America, and Europe, is second to none. Any future attack on the United States will have to come



across Greenland, where our Defense will routinely knock down drones, missiles, or any other form of weapon not yet even conceived. It gives us time, location, and sightline, like nowhere else in the World!" Trump said.

The announcement comes amid heightened international attention on Greenland's strategic position in the Arctic and follows months of diplomatic friction over the territory's security and its significance to Washington.

Last month, Trump joined Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen to sign an agreement aimed at

strengthening defence and Arctic security cooperation. The agreement marked a step towards addressing tensions surrounding Greenland's strategic role.

Ahead of the signing on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Trump expressed optimism about the partnership.

"We're going to have a tremendous relationship, a secure relationship, and we look forward to it... This was long in the making," he said.

The signing comes after he announced an "Infinite Life" Agreement with Denmark and Greenland, claiming that the arrangement addressed Washington's security concerns and would give the United States lasting control over security-related matters on the island.

In a post on Truth Social in September, Trump said the agreement had "completely" addressed US concerns over Greenland and would come at no cost to Washington.

"I am pleased to announce that the United States of America has entered into an Agreement with The Kingdom of Denmark, and

Greenland, that gives the United States permanent control over security, and all other needs, in Greenland, completely addressing ALL of our many U.S. concerns," Trump said.

He further claimed that the arrangement would ensure Washington retained the ability to take whatever measures it considered necessary to protect Greenland and American security interests.

"At my direction, we worked with representatives of Denmark and Greenland to guarantee that the United States will FOREVER have the complete ability to do what is necessary in Greenland in order to secure and defend the security of Greenland, and the United States of America," he said.

"Additionally, from now on, no US adversary can EVER have a base in Greenland, have a military presence in Greenland, or make sensitive investments in Greenland, without our express written approval," Trump added.

The US President described the agreement as having no expiry and also announced plans for a major expansion of the American military presence on the island.

— ANI

IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS

Mauritius imposes curfew in several areas amid violence

PORT OF LOUIS: Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam announced in a televised address on Tuesday.

The measure comes after incidents occurred in several localities across the country since Monday evening, during which individuals set fire to various objects, blocked roads, vandalised police stations and shops, and torched vehicles.

In his address, Ramgoolam condemned the violence as "unacceptable" and called on the public to demonstrate "the greatest solidarity," stressing that "peace and harmony in the country depend on every Mauritian."

According to the prime minister, information from multiple sources and the police indicates that the incidents were allegedly orchestrated by a group of people "funded and sent by drug traffickers who feel threatened by police actions."

"They are preparing to cause disorder again tonight, and that is why the Cabinet has decided, in the interest of and for the safety of the population," Ramgoolam said.

He said special arrangements



had been made to accommodate medical emergencies and essential services, adding that the Cabinet would meet again to decide on the next steps.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation reported that the curfew would apply to several areas across the country, including the capital, Port Louis.

The acts of violence come amid tensions over water supply difficulties and public outrage over the shooting and injury of Elodie Thomas, a 27-year-old woman, during an incident involving a police officer on Friday. According to reports, Thomas was shot without any apparent justification. — ANI



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