

Times

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51

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HIS MAJESTY ARRIVES IN UK, OFFICIAL RECEPTION AT WINDSOR CASTLE TODAY



His Majesty arrived on a four-day state visit to London on Monday

LONDON: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik arrived in London on Monday afternoon on a four-day state visit to the friendly United Kingdom. Upon His Majesty's arrival at Stansted Airport, he was received by Lord Henry Hood, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King (Head of the Mission of Honour), who welcomed His Majesty

and his accompanying delegation as honoured guests of the United Kingdom. Also present to receive His Majesty the Sultan were a number of British officials, Badr bin Mohammed Al Manthari, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Kingdom, and a number of members of the Omani Embassy in London. His Majesty King Charles III of

the United Kingdom and Her Majesty Queen Camilla will hold an official reception ceremony for His Majesty the Sultan on Tuesday at Windsor Castle, in welcome of His Majesty's gracious visit. Earlier, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, departed on Monday morning for the friendly United Kingdom (UK) on a four-day state visit, during which he will

meet His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth. The visit comes in response to the gracious invitation received by His Majesty the Sultan from His Majesty King of the United Kingdom. The visit reflects the keenness of the leaderships of the two countries to strengthen the

strategic partnership between the two friendly nations and to extend new bridges of cooperation and investment across various levels, achieving growth and prosperity for both countries. His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at the Royal Airport by their highnesses, their excellencies and military commanders.

>A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman-UK: From historical legacy to future ties

1 The state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Kingdom (UK), which began yesterday, received widespread attention across international media outlets, including global news agencies and newspapers. >A5

SPORTS Fierce contest at 15th Mussanah Race Week

2 Intense racing was seen at the Barceló Mussanah Resort on the first day of Mussanah Race Week. >A8

MARKET Dates, honey expo opens new avenues

3 The 4th Dates and Honey Exhibition began at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday. >B1

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Premarital screening for citizens marrying abroad

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health has outlined the medical screening and certification procedures for people planning to marry outside Oman, regardless of whether their prospective spouse is an Omani citizen or a foreign national. Under Royal Decree 111/2025, both parties must undergo premarital medical screening before the marriage contract is concluded, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the ministry. The requirement applies whether the tests are conducted



in Oman or abroad. Those undergoing screening outside Oman must complete all laboratory tests specified by the

ministry for hereditary blood disorders and infectious diseases at an accredited healthcare institution in the country concerned. The test results must be attested by the healthcare institution that conducted the tests, the competent health authority in that country and Oman's Foreign Ministry. To obtain a premarital screening certificate, applicants must subsequently visit a government healthcare institution approved by the Ministry of Health in Oman. The institution will verify and document the results and provide premarital medical counselling.

The ministry said these arrangements would remain in effect until the premarital screening service is activated on the electronic health platform. It has also published a list of 40 approved government healthcare institutions across Oman's 11 governorates where laboratory results issued abroad can be verified and documented. The ministry said the procedures are intended to ensure that premarital screening results obtained abroad are properly verified and documented before a certificate is issued in Oman.

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Oman to participate in COP31 climate conference in Türkiye

The event comes at a time when global efforts are directed toward accelerating the implementation of climate commitments and pledges, enhancing the transition to clean energy

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is preparing to participate in the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31), scheduled to be held in the city of Antalya, Republic of Türkiye, from 9-20 November. The Sultanate of Oman's participation in the conference, which is considered one of the most prominent international forums concerned with climate action. The event comes at a time when global efforts are directed toward accelerating the implementation of climate commitments and



pledges, enhancing the transition to clean energy, developing the circular economy, green manufacturing, and climate finance, as well as building ecosystems and infrastructure more capable of confronting the impacts of climate change. The Environment Authority is working to enhance national participation readiness through coordination among supervision and governance, negotiation, media, Oman's pavilion, youth, innovation, indicators, and logistical support teams, ensuring the integration of efforts and highlighting national initiatives and climate priorities of the Sultanate of Oman during the conference sessions. Omani participation rests upon

a set of environmental indicators and achievements, most notably the Sultanate of Oman's advancement by 6 positions in the Global Environmental Performance Index for 2026 to rank 49th globally, compared to 55th in 2024. The Sultanate of Oman also ranked first globally in 6 sub-indicators within the Environmental Performance Index for 2026, which included household solid fuel consumption, sustainable solid waste management, wastewater treatment, species habitats, reduction of open-water trawling, and the trend in sulfur dioxide emission reduction. The circular economy sector witnessed development in the waste management system and

its economic utilization, with the volume of recycled municipal solid waste reaching 1.77 million tons nationally, while the number of recycling factories reached 85, alongside achieving 100 percent in the safe management of solid waste and coverage of its transport and collection services. The proportion of marine reserves within the Exclusive Economic Zone rose to 16.19 percent compared to a baseline of 0.33 percent, exceeding the target set for 2030, while forest area reached 1.5 percent of total land area compared to a baseline of 0.01 percent, achieving the target set for 2030. The number of natural reserves in the Sultanate of Oman increased to 32 reserves during 2025, with a

total area of approximately 187,276 square kilometers. Investments associated with reserves exceeded OMR44 million through 9 investment contracts across 7 reserves, enhancing the sustainable utilization of natural assets and supporting investment opportunities in environmental activities. The Sultanate of Oman continues to implement blue carbon projects by targeting the cultivation of 100 million mangrove trees over an area reaching 20,000 hectares, with estimates of removing nearly 14 million tons of carbon dioxide, as part of efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of coastal ecosystems to absorb carbon emissions and contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change. Omani environmental efforts received regional and international recognition, including an Arab honour in the Arab Excellence Award for 2025 in appreciation of leadership efforts in enhancing institutional environmental action and supporting sustainability programs, alongside the inclusion of the Chairman of the Environment Authority in Forbes' list of sustainability leaders for 2024 in recognition of his efforts in developing environmental work and advancing sustainability pathways. The Environment Authority achieved sixth place in the evaluation of the National Cybersecurity Index for 2024, and the Environmental Information Bank project won the Artificial Intelligence and

Blockchain Award at the government entity level in the same year. Institutional achievements for the government platform linked to the "Bayan" system, as well as the open data team being recognized for the third time for providing the largest number of open datasets on the national portal, reflecting advancement in deploying modern technologies and managing data within the environmental work system. These indicators and achievements reflect the progress achieved by the Sultanate of Oman in developing its environmental policies and enhancing integration between natural resource protection and economic development, supporting its direction toward achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and solidifying its presence in international efforts to address climate challenges. It is expected that Omani participation in the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) will constitute an opportunity to showcase the national experience in environmental sustainability, green economy, and biodiversity protection, as well as to strengthen international cooperation, partnerships, and the exchange of expertise and technologies, thereby contributing to supporting the implementation of climate commitments, achieving national priorities, and continuing the Omani contribution to global climate change efforts. -ONA

IN KUALA LUMPUR

Oman's envoy presents copy of credentials to Malaysia King

KUALA LUMPUR: King Sultan Ibrahim of Malaysia, received the credentials of Eng. Hatim Hilal Al Yaquobi as Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Malaysia. This took place when the King of Malaysia received the Ambassador at the Istana Negara National Palace in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. During the audience, the Ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the King of Malaysia, along with His Majesty's wishes of continued prosperity for the Malaysian people. For his part, the King of Malaysia asked the Ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan, along with his wishes of further progress and prosperity for the Omani people. -ONA



2026-2030 TERM

Applications for candidacy end today: OCCI poll panel

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) Elections Committee confirmed that candidacy applications for membership on the Chamber's Board of Directors and its branch boards for the (2026-2030) term will close on Tuesday, without extension, calling on those wishing to run to complete their applications and fulfill the announced requirements before the end of the specified period. Eng. Ghalib Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, and Chairman of the Elections Committee, explained that the committee is committed to executing the stages of the electoral process in accordance with the approved timeline, ensuring the soundness and clarity of procedures, as well as applying regulatory controls to all candidates on an equal footing. He stated that setting clear dates for the stages of the electoral process and adhering to them represent a foundation for ensuring its regularity and equal opportunities among candidates, stressing that the candidacy period will end at its announced deadline without extension, in preparation for completing the



remaining electoral stages according to approved procedures. The Undersecretary pointed out that the Chamber's elections represent an important institutional milestone for the business community, allowing Chamber members to choose their representatives on its Board of Directors and its branch boards, thereby enhancing the Chamber's role in representing the interests of the private sector, contributing to the development of the business environment, and supporting economic development. The committee explained that the submission of candidacy applications is carried out electronically, in accordance with the terms, controls, and procedures stipulated in Announcement No. (2) issued on 14 October 2026,

calling on those wishing to run to review the announcement and fulfill all specified requirements and documents before the closure of candidacy applications. The committee indicated that the closure of candidacy applications does not include voter registration and the updating of member data, as these procedures will continue until Sunday, 25 October, calling on members to complete their data within the specified period according to approved procedures. Elections for the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its branch boards are scheduled to take place on Monday, 23 November, 2026, in accordance with the approved timetable for the electoral process. -ONA



REF:OFM/TD-39/2026

Tender for Construction of Hay Al Mina New Storage Facility -Contract Works

Oman Flour Mills SAOG (OFM) intends to undertake the construction of a new storage facility at Hay Al Mina, Muttrah, Muscat, to enhance storage capacity and ensure operational continuity. It involves comprehensive civil, structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical, fire and life-safety systems, associated infrastructure, testing, commissioning and final handover. Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialized vendors to participate in "Tender for Construction of Hay Al Mina New Storage Facility - Contract Works " tender as per the scope of work.

Tender Documents:
Interested bidders are requested to send an email to tender-civil@omanflourmills.com to obtain the tender documents. Tender documents will be shared upon receipt of the tender fee deposit slip via email.

Tender Fee Details:
Tender fee shall be deposited directly to the following bank account:
Account Name: Oman Flour Mills Company SAOG
Bank: Sohar International
Account Number: 001020032407
Swift Code: BSHROMRXXX

Tender Ref no	OFM/TD-39/2026
Tender subject	Tender for Construction of Hay Al Mina New Storage Facility - Contract Works
Tender fee	1500 OMR. Exempted for SMEs
Bid Bond	1% of Proposed Bid Value
Start date for tender collection	20/10/2026
Last date for tender collection	27/10/2026
Last date for receiving the technical queries	17/11/2026
Closing date of the tender	1/12/2026
Mode of payment of tender fee	By Bank Transfer
Email address for clarifications and communication	tender-civil@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals through email: bid-ofm@omanflourmills.com

Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.
Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable.
Bids submittal shall consist of 2 separate PDF files (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number OFM/TD-39/2026.



EXCHANGING EXPERTISE

Oman participates in summit on investing in children's wellbeing

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will participate the day after tomorrow in the World Summit "Investing in Children's Wellbeing: A Path to Sustainable and Equitable Development for Future Generations," hosted by the city of Samarkand in the Republic of Uzbekistan and running for two days. The Sultanate of Oman is represented at the summit by a number of officials from the Ministry of Social Development. The summit will bring together high-level representatives from more than 100 countries to discuss child wellbeing, social protection, child protection, health, early childhood development, and inclusive education. Shakhnoza Mirziyoyeva, First Deputy Director of the National Agency for Social Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan, said the summit represents an opportunity to unite efforts



CHILD PROTECTION: The Sultanate of Oman is represented at the summit by a number of officials from the Ministry of Social Development. -ONA

with international partners for the wellbeing of children, who constitute a third of the world's population. She affirmed that every country has its own experience in this field, but that every child has the right to care, protection, and the realisation of his or her poten-

tial and capabilities, noting that the summit, by bringing together representatives of more than 100 countries, will create an international platform for exchanging expertise and discussing effective solutions in the most important areas capable of ensuring children's wellbeing. -ONA

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6TH EDITION

SQU to open international scientific conference

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University will organise next Monday an international scientific conference titled: "Language and Literature in Light of Interdisciplinary Studies" in its 6th edition, with the participation of 38 scientific papers from 12 countries. The conference will continue for three days at the university's Conference Hall.

The conference will be held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information.

The conference will contribute to investigating interdisciplinary as a renewed approach to addressing language and literature phenomena by opening up to the sciences to develop mechanisms and methods.

It also seeks—through the conference's research—to achieve the desired objectives by presenting serious scientific studies that deal with language and literature in light of interdisciplinary studies.

The conference aims to exam-



ine the nature of Arabic reception regarding the cognitive system belonging to interdisciplinary classification related to language and literature, while keeping pace with human knowledge, tracking its transformations, and monitoring its development trajectory open to sciences. This is in addition to looking forward to joint work at Sultan Qaboos University by combining natural and human sciences to reach a comprehensive renaissance aligned with contemporary requirements, as well as exploring modern scientific methods in the study of the Arabic language.

The conference also seeks to promote dialogue among researchers to develop their specializations and bridge the Omani and broader linguistic and literary heritage with modern interdisciplinary sciences.

The conference comprises eight themes: linguistics and interdisciplinary studies, pragmatics and interdisciplinary studies, in addition to the study of semiotics in the Arabic language and its related interdisciplinary studies, applied linguistics, grammar, morphology, and rhetoric and their overlap with sciences. -ONA

GAME-BASED EDUCATION

Interactive mobile game promotes healthy lifestyles among children

MUSCAT: An interactive mobile game developed through a research project at Dhofar University is helping children in Oman learn about healthy eating, physical activity and lifestyle choices through culturally relevant, game-based education.

Titled Targeting Attributes for a Healthy Lifestyle Using Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) and a Serious Games Mobile Application – LaObese, the project is funded by the Strategic Research Programme of the Research and Innovation Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

The research is led by Dr Nurul Akhmal Mohd Zulkefli, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Dhofar University's College of Arts and Applied Sciences. It combines multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) techniques with a mobile application designed to make health education more engaging and accessible to children.



Unlike games developed solely for entertainment, serious games are designed to support educational, training, behavioural or health-related objectives. Through LaObese, children interact with different situations, make choices and receive feedback as they learn about food selection, physical activity and healthy lifestyle habits.

A key feature of the application

is its emphasis on Omani and locally familiar foods. Rather than relying exclusively on generic international examples, the game incorporates foods that children may encounter at home, at school, in restaurants and in their communities.

The approach aims to help children understand that healthy eating involves more than simply labelling foods as good or bad. It introduces concepts such as balanced portions, nutritional value, healthier ingredients and appropriate consumption frequency, while highlighting the importance of combining nutritious food choices with an active lifestyle.

Dr Nurul Akhmal said the research uses MCDM to identify, evaluate and prioritise the attributes incorporated into the application. This approach enables the research team to assess healthy lifestyle choices against several criteria rather than relying on a single factor.

Oman records 9% rise in persons with disabilities

Males constituted 60 percent of the total, numbering 44,916 individuals, compared to 30,516 females who made up 40 percent



MUSCAT: The total number of Omani persons with disabilities in the Sultanate of Oman reached 75,432 individuals in 2025, accounting for 2.5 percent of the total Omani population, an increase of about 9 percent compared to 2024.

Males constituted 60 percent of the total, numbering 44,916 individuals, compared to 30,516 females who made up 40 percent.

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated that 59 percent of Omanis with disabilities are under the age of 40, while North Al Batinah Governorate recorded the highest number of Omani persons with disabilities, with a total of 16,199 individuals in 2025.

Indicators showed that 56 percent of total disability cases among Omanis resulted from non-congenital causes, numbering 42,210 cases, while 15 percent of disabilities occurred during birth, 20 percent due to diseases, and 7 percent as a result of accidents. Physical disabilities accounted for nearly 28 percent of total disability cases among Omanis.

Regarding educational indicators, the proportion of Omanis with disabilities in the age group 10 years and older whose educational level was below the General Education Diploma reached 42 percent in 2025. The number of Omanis with disabilities enrolled in school education aged 6 years and older reached 483 individuals during the 2025/2026 academic year, including 276

males and 207 females.

On marital status, the proportion of married Omanis with disabilities in the age group 15 years and older reached about 35 percent in 2025, totalling 26,511 individuals, including 17,842 males and 8,669 females.

In the labour market, the economic participation rate of Omanis with disabilities aged 15 years and older reached about 38 percent in 2025, while the number of employed individuals among them grew by 10 percent compared to the previous year, reaching 18,437 employed persons, 47 percent of whom work in the private sector.

The largest percentage of employed individuals was concentrated in the agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry farming, and

fishing occupational group, standing at 18 percent.

Regarding general property ownership indicators, the number of Omanis with disabilities owning one or more plots of land increased by 9.3 percent in 2025 compared to the previous year, and the number of owners of one or more residential units rose by 10 percent. The number of Omanis with disabilities owning one or more vehicles reached 18,499 individuals, an increase of 9.5 percent compared to 2024.

In the field of social protection, the number of Omani beneficiaries of the disability benefit reached 51,252 individuals in 2025, with males accounting for 61 percent, while the total amounts disbursed to benefit recipients reached approximately OMR74 million.

The number of beneficiaries of prosthetic devices and support services provided to Omani persons with disabilities reached 10,074 beneficiaries in 2025, with parking permits for persons with disabilities accounting for nearly 22 percent of the total services and assistance recorded under this indicator.

Regarding rehabilitation services, the number of individuals enrolled in government and private rehabilitation centers at the Ministry's expense reached 9,226 individuals in 2025, while the total number of these centers stood at 128. -ONA

NIBRAS ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

New entity to support education, research, innovation launched

MUSCAT: The College of Banking and Financial Studies announced on Monday the official launch of the "Nibras Private Endowment Foundation."

The new entity is an educational endowment institution dedicated to preserving, developing, and managing endowment assets according to the highest governance standards, and directing their returns toward sustainable educational opportunities that contribute to building a knowledge-based economy serving future generations.

The foundation will direct its yields toward supporting eligible students, funding scientific research, empowering innovation and entrepreneurship, and supporting the fields of financial technology and artificial intelligence, in addition to strengthening community partnerships to develop human capital and achieve the national priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

Hisham Abdulmalik Al Hinai, CEO of Nibras Private Endowment Foundation, explained that the foundation's official launch represents an important milestone in consolidating the culture of educational endowments as one of the most vital tools for sustainable investment in people and knowledge. He pointed out that the foundation seeks to improve the management

and development of endowment assets, converting their returns into an educational and knowledge impact that serves the future of the Sultanate of Oman.

The foundation relies in its operations on a system of institutional values encompassing trustworthiness, sustainability, transparency, inclusivity, partnership, and excellence, ensuring the highest levels of efficiency and maximizing the societal value of endowment resources.

The Foundation looks forward to building strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors, individuals, and donor organizations to launch qualitative initiatives including academic scholarships, scientific research support funds, innovation and entrepreneurship programs, and academic chairs, thereby enhancing the role of endowments as a primary driver of sustainable development.

It is worth noting that this foundation was established under the supervision of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs through an initiative by the College of Banking and Financial Studies in accordance with an integrated legal and regulatory framework, operating under the oversight of an independent board of directors committed to standards of transparency, governance, and accountability. -ONA

MEETING

Dhofar Municipal Council discusses ways to regulate taxi operation

SALALAH: The Municipal Council of Dhofar Governorate held today its eighth regular meeting of the year, under the chairmanship of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar and Chairman of the Council.

During the meeting, the council reviewed a report on the specialised training programme for preparing sign language interpreters in government and private institutions in Dhofar Governorate (Level One), along with its implementation mechanism, submitted by the Directorate General of Social Development in the governorate.

It also reviewed the council's plan for 2027 and the most prominent initiatives and activities scheduled for implementation during the upcoming year.



The council reviewed the outcomes of the permanent committees' meetings and updates on the implementation of the "Qimuna" (Our Values) initiative.

The Social Affairs Committee presented the plans laid down to

complete its stages, which were launched through cooperation and coordination between the Municipal Council and the Directorate General of Endowments and Religious Affairs, aiming to consolidate identity and Islamic

values among children and youth, as well as enhance societal stability through various educational, instructional, religious, and interactive programmes.

The meeting also addressed the committee's plans regarding the proposal to launch the "Neighborhood Team" initiative, which targets skill development, the consolidation of positive values, and the encouragement of initiative and community participation, thereby contributing to strengthening bonds among members of the local community.

The council discussed the outcomes of the joint meeting between the Legal Affairs Committee and the Governorate Development Committee alongside various relevant entities regarding the explo-

ration of the best ways to regulate the taxi sector's operation in an integrated manner, contributing to raising the sector's efficiency and elevating the quality of services provided to citizens and visitors.

The council reviewed the recommendations of the Health and Environmental Affairs Committee regarding the controls and requirements for regulating honeybee keeping and hive management, methods for preventing bee diseases and pests, and improving honey production and marketing, in accordance with the Executive Regulations of the Agriculture Law issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

It also reviewed the committee's recommendations related to

ensuring compliance with health requirements for the sale and slaughter of poultry and sheep, as well as pet breeding.

The council examined several responses from government entities, including the tourism promotion for the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season, the tenth campaign to combat the coconut leaf beetle insect, and the regulation of the sale of commercial registrations to foreign investors.

These topics come within the framework of the Dhofar Municipal Council's follow-up on service, developmental, and societal issues, as well as discussing proposals and recommendations aimed at developing services and enhancing the quality of life in the governorate. -ONA

UK VISIT

His Majesty is accompanied by a high-level official delegation



<FROM A1 Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan during the visit is a high-level official delegation comprising His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs; His Highness Sayyid Lu'ai bin Ghalib Al Said, Secretary-General of the Diwan of the Royal Court; Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of the Royal Court; Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office; Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior; Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office; Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education; Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority; Hussain bin Ali bin Abdul Latif, Adviser at the Private Office; Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion and Badr bin Mohammed Al Manthari, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Kingdom. -ONA



Oman-UK: From historical legacy to future partnership

This royal visit by His Majesty is not merely a protocol event, but rather a new chapter in the historical relationship

WINDSOR: The state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Kingdom (UK), began yesterday, received widespread attention across international media outlets, including global news agencies and newspapers.

The media highlighted its political significance and historical dimensions within the context of the deep-rooted ties of friendship and partnership uniting the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom, along with the extraordinary importance it acquires as the first visit of its kind in more than four decades. This royal visit by His Majesty is not merely a protocol event, but rather a new chapter in the narrative of a historical relationship and an established friendship described as “unshook” since the treaty of 1800.

From the halls of Oxford University to the corridors of the British-Omani Society, which was founded fifty years ago, the bridges of this friendship extend to encompass youth, scientific research, and manufacturing, confirming that the rich history serves as the foundation upon which the future partnership is constructed.

In this context, several UK-based researchers and specialists emphasised to Oman News Agency the importance of this visit in consolidating the close ties of friendship between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom and opening broader horizons for partnership and cooperation. They noted that in a world experiencing accelerated transformations, this visit stands out as a remarkable exception: a relationship built not only on immediate interests, but on mutual respect for the rule of law and a shared maritime heritage.

Richard Stanford, Chairman of the British-Omani Society, affirmed that the state visit paid by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Kingdom constitutes an extraordinary tribute to the historical bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. He highlighted the importance of this event in consolidating and strengthening relations between the two nations, as well as celebrating the historical bonds of friendship between the two countries and their friendly peoples, whose roots extend back hundreds of years.

He pointed out that this visit represents a prominent milestone in the course of relations between the two countries, carrying with it confirmation of the ongoing reinforcement of their ties and building upon their firm foundations while looking toward the future. He noted that promising opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom allow both countries to intensify cooperation in several fields, including economic sectors, scientific research, and manufacturing, as well as opportunities available to youth in both nations.

He explained that the long history between the two countries constitutes a solid foundation, and that His Majesty the Sultan’s royal visit comes to consolidate this relationship and seek to develop and strengthen it in the future; while history is important, ensuring that the two countries continue together and remain close in the future is no less vital.

He addressed the role of the British-Omani Society, established fifty years ago, in developing and advancing bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. He pointed out that the society runs various programmes aimed at youth in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom, with the objective of imparting skills suited for the work environment, covering several fields ranging from the environment and



business to preparing young people to become future leaders.

The Chairman of the British-Omani Society stated that there are several joint research programmes between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom, where university research is converted into startups and subsequently put into production. Many of these companies are conducting discussions with the Sultanate of Oman to manufacture technologies discovered at British universities locally within the Sultanate of Oman.

He elaborated that these fields encompass a wide range of technologies, extending from technologies supporting the achievement of net zero to satellite communication technologies, stressing that the Sultanate of Oman possesses promising opportunities and capabilities in manufacturing and technical advancement.

He explained that the British-Omani Society has been executing distinguished programs for some time and looks forward to expanding their scope with the support of sponsoring companies, particularly in youth development sectors, alongside sports, environment, business, and economic development—fields that are all aligned with Oman Vision 2040.

He confirmed that the society takes pride in the continuous growth and notable development it has achieved over the past fifty years to reach its current status, looking forward to further growth. He highlighted that the core of the relationship the society seeks to consolidate is an intergenerational one, in which future generations take up the torch and carry it forward, an aspect of paramount importance in the trajectory of bilateral relations.

For his part, Professor Eugene Rogan, Director of the Middle East Centre at St Antony’s College, Oxford University, affirmed that the royal visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik constitutes an important opportunity to renew the bonds of friendship and historical ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom. He noted that holding the official reception ceremonies at Windsor

Castle carries historical and symbolic significance reflecting the ancient roots of Omani-British relations spanning several centuries.

He pointed out that bilateral relations enjoy the care and attention of His Majesty the Sultan and His Majesty King Charles III, an interest that serves as an extension of the support these relations received during the era of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the late Queen Elizabeth II.

He explained that water forms the essential link between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom, as both are maritime nations with a long-standing history in seafaring navigation.

Professor Eugene Rogan stated that throughout history, the Sultanate of Oman has remained an outward-looking society, as its geographical and civilizational ties extended to South Asia and East Africa, alongside the south of the Arabian Peninsula, confirming that it is a nation founded on openness and tolerance. He emphasized that this culture, rooted in Oman’s history as a maritime power, has shaped its standing in international relations in the twenty-first century.

He highlighted that the Sultanate of Oman is distinguished by its ability to maintain good diplomatic relations with all parties and has played a positive and constructive role in directing regional conflicts toward diplomatic settlements. He affirmed that both the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom respect the sovereign rights of nations and believe that conflicts are best resolved through diplomatic means, adding that we live in an era where many countries resort first to military means to impose national priorities instead of attempting to find common ground through negotiation.

He explained that what connects the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom is mutual respect for the rule of law and shared support for international law. In this regard, he stated that the initial relations between the two countries were governed by treaties respected by both sides for their mutual benefit, despite

the age of those treaties, examining the dynamic relationship between the two countries in the twenty-first century reveals that the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom represent models of two states upholding a global order based on international law at a time when this system is under immense pressure.

He stressed the pivotal role of culture and the prominent status enjoyed by the Arab world in the global cultural landscape, noting in this context the role played by the Middle East Centre at Oxford University in building bridges of communication between the Sultanate of Oman and the international community of historians to elevate the narrative of Oman’s history in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Dr. Farhan Ahmad Nizami, Director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, pointed out that the royal visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik reflects the level of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, which date back more than two centuries.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman occupies a unique position regarding the nature of its relationship with the United Kingdom, combining ties at the leadership level, government-to-government relations, and a third level connecting the two countries on a cultural and civilizational scale.

He highlighted the contributions of the Omani approach—based on dialogue, tolerance, and mutual respect—in enhancing rapprochement and deepening understanding among cultures and civilizations, noting that the attention received by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies over past decades from the leadership in the Sultanate of Oman reflects the contributions of this approach.

He explained that the Centre includes a chair named after Oman, alongside a hall bearing the same name that houses all its activities, situated adjacent to King Charles III Garden. The building and the garden stand side by side, such that within the hall itself, an Omani fellow sits alongside the recipient of the King Charles III

Fellowship, while the Centre also hosts visiting scholars from the Sultanate of Oman.

He emphasised the important role that academic and cultural institutions can play in expanding the horizons of Omani-British cooperation and strengthening ties between emerging generations in both countries, stressing that relations between peoples and scientific research—through the better understanding of peoples and cultures—should form the foundation upon which these ties rest.

Dr. Farhan Ahmad Nizami, Director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies considered the relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom a fine example of this, as its bonds are consolidated through continuous interaction between peoples, whether in commerce, security, education, or culture.

He pointed out that deploying British academic and research expertise in developing Omani competencies and enhancing scientific and academic cooperation between the two countries constitutes an essential pillar for building a sustainable relationship that yields mutual benefit, affirming that joint work opens horizons for exchanging knowledge and expertise, contributing to solidifying human relations and building firm friendships between the two sides.

Dr. Fouad Abdel-Razek, an expert in British and international affairs, affirmed that the state visit paid by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Kingdom is not merely a protocol visit, but an expression of the depth of historical relations extending for more than two centuries that have succeeded in navigating political, regional, and international transformations. He added that Omani-British relations trace their roots back to the early nineteenth century and have witnessed multiple stages of political, commercial, and security cooperation, but acquired broader dimensions in the modern era, extending into the era of the renewed renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty the Sultan.

He explained that the visit car-

ries a clear message that historical relations derive their strength not from the past alone, but from their ability to adapt to the present and invest in the future.

He stated that the secret to the success of this relationship lies in its not remaining captive to the past, despite its richness, but rather gradually transforming from a traditional strategic relationship into a multidimensional partnership that continuously expands to encompass new domains, confirming that this visit transcends protocols to address practical aspects, drawing inspiration from the past while envisioning the future.

Dr. Fouad Abdel-Razek pointed out that this relationship today rests on partnership and mutual interests while respecting political decision-making and the distinct foreign policy of both nations. He explained that there is added significance in light of current tensions in the Middle East, where the Sultanate of Oman represents a voice for dialogue and de-escalation, while Britain remains an influential nation enjoying broad political, security, and economic relations in the region.

He explained that the continuity of Omani-British relations rests on three main pillars: the first being political trust accumulated over long decades, which helped both countries maintain channels of communication even during periods of regional and international turmoil.

He added that the second pillar consists of defense and security cooperation, which represents one of the main pillars of this relationship, whether through joint military training, expertise exchange, or cooperation in maritime security.

He said that the third pillar comprises economic and commercial interests, which evolved from historic maritime and trade relations into partnerships encompassing investment, energy, education, and technology, noting a highly important factor represented by mutual understanding between the two leaderships and respect for the Omani approach based on balance and non-alignment with bloc politics. -OMA

Oman calls for global action against organised crime

This participation underscores the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to supporting international efforts to combat transnational organised crime

VIENNA: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational



Organised Crime, which began on Monday in Vienna and continues until 23 October. The Sultanate of Oman's delegation to the session is headed by Attorney General Nasr Khamis Al Sawai, Head of the Governmental Experts Team. The conference discusses the implementation of the Convention

and its protocols, alongside enhancing international cooperation in combating organized crime, including the extradition of wanted persons, mutual legal assistance, combating human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and the illicit trafficking in firearms. In his speech before the conference, the Public Prosecutor

emphasised the importance of intensifying international efforts to address evolving patterns of transnational organised crime and enhancing proactive action through evidence sharing, developing legislation, and raising the efficiency of national capacities. He reviewed the Sultanate of Oman's efforts in updating its legislative system and aligning it with the provisions of the Convention, pointing to the Penal Law, the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, and the Anti-Information Technology Crimes Law, affirming the Sultanate of Oman's constant approach to fulfilling its international obligations. This participation underscores the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to supporting international efforts to combat transnational organised crime and developing legal and judicial cooperation mechanisms, extending from its accession to the Convention pursuant to Royal Decree No. (37/2005). -ONA

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Two arrested for defrauding citizen

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP), in cooperation with the Directorate General of Investigations and Criminal Research, have arrested two Arab nationals on charges of defrauding a citizen of OMR29,000 by claiming they could multiply the victim's money and generate financial profits.

The arrests were made by the North Al Batinah Governorate Police Command, the ROP said. The police stressed the importance of raising public awareness to prevent fraud and extortion by adopting precautionary measures and avoiding suspicious promises of quick and unrealistic profits.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Omani women's contribution in shaping cultural scene highlighted

MUSCAT: As part of the Sultanate of Oman's celebrations of Omani Women's Day, the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science at the Diwan of Royal Court held a panel discussion titled "Omani Woman's Contribution to Shaping the Omani Cultural Scene." The session highlighted the contributions of Omani women in shaping and creating the cultural scene, their role in knowledge production and creativity, preserving and developing cultural identity, and contributing to building cultural projects and practices. The panel was held under the auspices of Sayyida Wafa Hilal Al Busaidi, in the presence of several prominent female figures concerned with the literature, culture, and arts sectors, as well as specialists in museums and antiquities,



and members of specialised institutions and cultural projects in general. The session aimed to introduce diverse and active Omani women's experiences in the cultural scene, discuss the transformations witnessed in women's presence and their prominent role in the cul-

tural landscape, and their role in preserving Omani cultural identity and presenting it in a contemporary image. It also highlighted the role of the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science in showcasing women's civilizational and cultural role. The session witnessed remark-

able interaction from the audience, which included several figures working in cultural management, leadership in cultural institutions, and museum administration, contributing to enriching the dialogue, broadening the angles of discussion, and exchanging ideas and viewpoints. - 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.

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

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Guest of Honour:
His Excellency Dr Ali Qassim Al Lawati
President, The Royal Academy of Management

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THIRD EDITION

European Union Film Festival in Muscat concludes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The third edition of the European Union Film Festival in Muscat concluded on 18 October, bringing a week of European cinema, cultural exchange and creative storytelling to audiences in the Sultanate of Oman. The festival celebrated the diversity of European filmmaking while providing a platform for emerging local and Omani filmmakers to showcase their work and connect with a wider audience.

Organised by the Delegation of the European Union and the embassies of EU Member States in Oman, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Oman Film Society and the International Film Foundation of Oman, Cinépolis Cinemas Oman and Nikon, the festival took



place at Cinépolis at Oman Avenues Mall. The week featured 20 films from nine European Union member states: Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain. Over the course of the festival, more than 1,000 viewers attended the screenings, reflecting the growing interest in international cinema and the role of film in bringing cultures and communities closer together.

A major highlight of this year's edition was the introduction of the Short Film Competition, celebrating local storytelling, creativity and the talent of filmmakers based in Oman. The competition offered emerging and established filmmakers an opportunity to share their perspectives, gain recognition and contribute to the development of Oman's growing film industry.

The festival's short film com-

petition winners were announced during the closing ceremony:

- Best Film:** Waham directed by ISSA Al Sush
- Best Director:** Forbidden Flowers directed by Dalila Ali
- Best Storyline:** Higuita directed by Nilanjana Sha
- Audience award:** The Search by Anirban Ray
- Nikon 48H Challenge Winners: 1st prize** Nazar Hussain Al ramimmy

National University
Movie name : Fathers Luban
2nd prize
Mahmud Al Baluchi
UTAS
Movie name: A different Eye
3rd prize
Younus Khalifa Al Ghafri
National University
Movie name: A simple Gesture

The awards recognised the originality, artistic vision and storytelling achievements of the participating filmmakers, highlighting the richness and diversity of local and Omani creative talent.

Commenting on the festival's conclusion, H.E. Christophe Farnaud, Ambassador of the European Union to the Sultanate of Oman, said: "The third European Union Film Festival in Oman sends a clear message: this cultural celebration has become an established

tradition, welcomed, cherished and keenly awaited by our Omani friends. This year's programme offers a rich variety of genres, characters and stories spanning the full range of human emotions - from despair to hope, from fear to courage. It is a kaleidoscope of European lives and, ultimately, of all our lives. Come and immerse yourself in the diversity!"

Beyond the screenings, the festival reinforced the value of cinema as a universal language that transcends borders, encourages dialogue and offers audiences new perspectives on different cultures and experiences. The inclusion of the Short Film Competition and Nikon 48H Challenge further strengthened the festival's commitment to nurturing local talent and creating opportunities for creative collaboration.

WALI OF AL AMERAT

Work progress of local community and key social development programmes reviewed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hamad bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Wali of Al Amerat, on Monday visited the Omani Women's Association and Al Wafa Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, to review the progress of work and the programmes and services provided, identify the key challenges and needs, and discuss development proposals aimed at improving performance and strengthening the role of both institutions in serving the local community.

During his visit to the Omani Women's Association in Al Amerat, he reviewed the activities, programmes and initiatives implemented by the Association in women's empowerment, capacity development and boosting community participation.

He discussed the key challenges facing the Association and pro-



posals to advance its performance and expand its programmes and initiatives, thereby reinforcing its contribution to community development in the wilayat.

The Wali also visited Al Wafa Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in Al Amerat, where he followed up on the centre's work, as well as, exploring the rehabilitation programmes, activities and services provided to beneficiaries. He was

briefed on the efforts made to advance their capabilities and skills and promote their integration into society.

The centre's needs and the challenges it faces were also discussed, along with ways to address them through development proposals and solutions that would contribute to improving the quality of services and enhancing its rehabilitation programmes.

The two visits form part of

the efforts of the Office of the Wali of Al Amerat to foster direct communication with community and service institutions, identify their needs, and support their efforts to develop their programmes and services.

These efforts enhance integration and community partnership and contribute to achieving sustainable social development objectives, in line with the priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

ARAB OPEN UNIVERSITY

Health cooperation MoU inked

MUSCAT: The Health Committee in Seeb has signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation with the Arab Open University as part of efforts to strengthen community partnership, enhance coordination among institutions, and support the wilayat's efforts to obtain international accreditation from the World Health Organization (WHO) as the first healthy wilayat in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The memorandum aims to reinforce cooperation between the two sides and make use of their available capabilities and expertise. Thereby supporting health, awareness and community programmes and initiatives, advancing public health, and enhancing efforts to achieve the objectives of Seeb as a Healthy Wilayat.

The cooperation includes implementing several health initiatives and services on the university campus, including free field and periodic health screenings to measure blood pressure and



blood sugar levels, organising blood donation campaigns, and providing seasonal vaccinations. It comprises the provision of technical consultations to support the university's efforts to obtain the "Health-Promoting University" certification.

The cooperation covers conducting awareness lectures and seminars, as well as conducting certified training courses in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Thereby boosting health consciousness and promoting proper healthy practices among students and academic and administrative staff.

Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma

Social Impact Awards 2026

Dar Al Atta'a Wins Leadership in Social Impact Award at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026



Dar Al Atta'a was felicitated with the 'Leadership in Social Impact 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 TEEvents, 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.

Dar Al Atta'a was recognised for its longstanding commitment to community welfare, social empowerment and sustainable development, making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families across Oman. As one of the Sultanate's prominent charitable organisations, it has played

an important role in addressing social needs, supporting vulnerable communities and promoting a culture of giving and collective responsibility.

Through its wide-ranging initiatives, Dar Al Atta'a has supported education, healthcare, family welfare, community development and economic empowerment, helping individuals and families overcome challenges and access opportunities for a better quality of life. Its efforts focus not only on providing immediate assistance but also on creating pathways towards greater independence, stability and long-term wellbeing.

The organisation's work also reflects the importance of collaboration, volunteerism and community participation in addressing social challenges. By bringing together individuals, businesses and institutions to support meaningful causes, Dar

Al Atta'a continues to strengthen the spirit of social responsibility and encourage wider participation in charitable and humanitarian initiatives.

Through its sustained dedication to social inclusion, community empowerment and improving lives, Dar Al Atta'a demonstrates how purpose-driven organisations can create lasting positive change. Its contributions continue to inspire a stronger culture of compassion, generosity and social impact across the Sultanate.

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

Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Al Maadi Wins Environment Protection Initiative Award at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026



Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Al Maadi was felicitated with the 'Environment Protection 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 TEEvents, 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.

Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Al Maadi was recognised for his innovative approach to environmental protection, sustainability and youth engagement through the 'Ihya - From Scrap to Innovation' initiative at Al Harith bin Malik Basic Education School. The initiative focuses on transforming

discarded electronic equipment into valuable learning resources, encouraging students to explore the possibilities of recycling, technology and creative problem-solving.

Through his leadership, nearly 100 kg of electronic waste has been repurposed, providing students with opportunities to develop innovative projects using discarded electronic components. By integrating practical learning with environmental awareness, the initiative encourages young people to understand the importance of resource conservation, waste reduction and the principles of the circular economy.

The programme also promotes hands-on learning, technological innovation and environmental responsibility, inspiring students to develop practical solutions to real-world challenges. By demonstrating how electronic waste can be transformed into

functional innovations, the initiative helps nurture creativity, critical thinking and a stronger sense of environmental stewardship among young learners.

Through his commitment to education, innovation and sustainability, Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Al Maadi demonstrates how individual leadership can inspire meaningful environmental change. His efforts highlight the important role of schools and young people in promoting responsible consumption, encouraging innovation and contributing to a more sustainable future for Oman.

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

SPORTS

Fierce competition drives action in 15th Mussanah Race Week

With four races already completed across the Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, and Para Inclusive classes, sailors faced challenging waters that tested both endurance and skill

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Intense racing and incredible talent shone through at the Barceló Mussanah Resort on the first day of competitive racing in the 15th Mussanah Race Week and the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship as sailors in both events hit their stride.

With four races already completed across the Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, and Para Inclusive classes, sailors faced challenging tactical waters that tested both endurance and skill. The fleets delivered stellar performances, with tight leaderboards at the end of day one as competitors vie for position ahead of a busy week of sailing.

Khaled Yahya Al Sarihi from Oman recorded two wins and one second place finish out of four races as he stormed to the top of the Optimist standings after the first day. Krishna Vekitchalam of India sits second, himself recording three podium finishes. Fellow Omani Mohammed Ziyad al Gasim is third, overcoming a difficult start to win races two and three. The highest ranked junior is Mohammed Suleiman Al Balushi of Oman, fourth overall.

Laila Mohamed of Egypt, fifth overall, leads the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship Optimist competition with three wins and a second placed finish. Abeer Kalil Al Zakwani of Oman is second, just two points back after trading wins and recording three second placed finishes. Dana Abdullah of Bahrain is third after the first day.

The ILCA 4 competition is led by Karma Waleed of Egypt who came back from a third and fourth place to notch two wins in the last two races. She leads overall and the women's sailing championship. Abdulrahman Al Bahri of the UAE sits second overall with a win, a second and a third placed finish, Omani Hood Saad Al Nofli ended the day in third just two points back. Tarteel Zaid Al Hasani of Oman, fourth overall, is second in the women's competition, with fellow Omani Hadeel Yousef Al Mushairfi, seventh overall, third in a very close fleet.

Ines Nabel Gmati of Tunisia leads the ILCA 6 category after three wins from four races. Simeon Hristov, representing the UAE, ended the day in second with two wins, while Kholoud Mostafa of Egypt is third just one point behind. Oman's highest ranked sailor after the first day is Elyas Badar Al Fadhali in eighth overall. Ines Nabeel Gmati and Kholoud Mostafa are the top two in the women's competition with Maryam Ihab, also of Egypt, in third and fifth overall.

Ibtisam Al Salmi of Oman, who ended the day fifth in the ILCA 6 competition, said, "Competing in the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship is an empowering experience and part of an inspiring journey for all of the women here. Having a standalone platform dedicated to female sailors is vital; it gives us visibility, builds our confidence, and provides essential competitive experience. Providing more opportunities like this



in Oman is crucial for encouraging young girls to take up the sport across the region, breaking barriers, and growing the community of women in maritime sports."

Oman's Al Mutasem Humood Al Farsi sits atop the ILCA 7 leaderboard after day one with two wins,

level on points with Dawood Abdullah of Bahrain who scored one win and two second places. Hamza Al Ali from the UAE is third while Oman's Al Salim Ali Al Hamdani is just two points back in fourth.

The Para Inclusive Hansa 303 competition features an all-Omani fleet, and currently tied for the lead are the crews of Anwer Al Balushi-Adil Al Siyabi (two wins and a second place) and Buthaina Al Balushi-Malik Al Qartoobi (two second places and one win). The pair of Anas Al Hashmi-Ahmed Al Araimi are third, with Hashim Al Hashmi-Sabri Al Alawi and Moosa Al Nafai-Maher Al Balushi fourth and fifth but within touching distance of the top three.

Bahrain's Dawood Abdullah, competing in the ILCA 7 class, praised the development of Mussanah Race Week, having participated in the event since its fifth edition.

"Over the past decade, I have seen significant improvements in the standard of competition, boats and equipment. The introduction

of advanced equipment, including carbon fibre masts, has improved performance and given sailors greater confidence," he said. Dawood also welcomed the growing participation of Arab sailors. "The event has attracted competitors from around the world, offering valuable opportunities to gain experience. Seeing more Arab sailors competing today reflects the progress of sailing in the region and is a source of pride for us," he added.

Kuwait's Yaqoub Shah, competing in the ILCA 7 class, praised the organisation of Mussanah Race Week and the strong level of competition among international sailors. "The event has brought together talented sailors from different countries, while challenging wind conditions have made racing more competitive, with positions changing throughout the races," he said. "My opening-day performance was below expectations, but I aim to improve in the coming races. This event is also a valuable opportunity to return to competitive sailing after a break due to my

studies. I look forward to gaining more experience and competing in future editions," he added.

Nawaf Yaqoob Al Ghadani, Event Race Management, highlighted the infrastructure and local expertise powering the success of both championships: "The Mussanah Sailing School continues to prove its status as a premier venue, having previously earned recognition as a Category A High Performance Training Centre by the Asian Sailing Federation (ASAF). Our exceptional facilities and deep experience in hosting international championships and training camps provide visiting international teams with an ideal environment for high-quality training and competitive racing. Furthermore, the heavy involvement of Omani professionals across event management, marine operations, logistics, race organisation, and coaching is a testament to our commitment to building local capabilities and gaining practical experience that will shape future sailing programmes and international events in Oman."

Both events support Oman Sail's work to develop national talent, empower young people and women, and increase community participation in sport. They also contribute to the acceleration of Oman Vision 2040's objectives and strengthens Oman's position as a host venue for international sporting events.

The 2026 edition is presented by Renaissance Services as title partner; the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism; Barceló Mussanah Resort as the host and bronze partner; and National Mineral Water Company (Tanuf), the Arab Sailing Association, the Oman Maritime Sports Committee, and the Royal Navy of Oman's Directorate of Medical Services at the Medical City for Military and Security Services as supporting partners whose presence supports event operations, supplies, accommodation, promotion and services for sailors, coaches and visitors.

SECOND TEST

Australian seamer Scott Boland strikes twice as South Africa reach 20/2 on rain-hit Day 1

GQEBERHA: Persistent rain washed out most of the opening day of the second Test between South Africa and Australia at St George's Park, with only 12.2 overs possible on Sunday. South Africa were 20/2 at stumps after Australia won the toss and elected to bowl first.

Australia pacer Scott Boland struck twice in quick succession to put the hosts under pressure before rain returned and prevented any further play. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was unbeaten on four, while Marques Ackerman was batting on five when play was called off for the day.

The opening session began after a delay of nearly two hours due to rain and wet conditions. Australia initially struggled to find their rhythm, with Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood unable to make an early breakthrough as South Africa negotiated the opening overs.

However, Boland changed the complexion of the innings after coming into the attack. He first dismissed opener Aiden Markram with a delivery that swung back in to breach his defence, before removing David Bedingham for a duck on the very next ball, with wicketkeeper Alex Carey com-



pleting the catch.

The double strike left South Africa reeling at 12/2, with Australia exploiting the movement available in the conditions. Boland finished the day with figures of 2/5 from 3.2 overs, including two maiden overs.

Bavuma and Ackerman attempted to steady the innings, but persistent rain interrupted play again. Despite hopes of a resurgence, the weather failed to improve sufficiently, forcing the umpires to call stumps early.

South Africa made several changes to their playing XI for the second Test, with Ackerman making his debut and Kagiso Rabada

returning to the side. The hosts will need their remaining batters to build a substantial partnership when play resumes on Day 2.

Australia, meanwhile, will look to capitalise on their early breakthroughs after making a positive start with the ball. The visitors entered the contest following a victory in the opening Test in Durban and will aim to strengthen their position in the series.

Play on Day 2 is scheduled to begin 15 minutes earlier than usual, at 9:45 am local time. However, further rain is forecast in Gqeberha, raising concerns over the amount of cricket possible on the second day. -ANI

AT RAWALPINDI

Agha, Shaheen shine as Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by 37 runs to start off tri-series campaign with win

RAWALPINDI : A century by Salman Ali Agha and fine bowling from Pakistan pace trio of Shaheed Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah helped Pakistan start off their tri-series campaign against Sri Lanka with a 37-run win at Rawalpindi on Sunday.

After a century from Salman (107 in 90 balls, with 10 fours and a six) guided Pakistan to 305, Sri Lanka's hopes were kept alive by half-centurions Pavan Rathnayake and Janith Liyanage, but the Pakistan pacers kept chipping wickets timely, bundling out SL for 268 in 48.1 overs.

Coming to the match, Pakistan was put to bat first by Sri Lanka. After Pakistan was reduced to 118/4, a 97-run stand between Salman Agha and Hasan Nawaz (37 in 49 balls, with two fours and two sixes) put the team back on track. Agha slammed his fourth ODI ton, scoring 107 in 90 balls, with 10 fours and a six, taking Pakistan to 305 all out in 49.5 overs.

Eshan Malinga (4/46) and Asitha Fernando (3/59) were among top bowlers for Sri Lanka.

Babar Azam, the skipper, who made 45 in 57 balls, with six fours, became the fifth Pakistani to reach 16,000 international runs.

Now in 355 international appearances since his debut in 2015,



Babar has made 16,038 runs in 399 innings at an average of 45.30, with 32 centuries and 111 fifties. His best score is 196. Above him are legends: Inzamam-ul-Haq (20,541 runs in 495 matches with 35 centuries), Younis Khan (17,790 runs in 408 matches with 41 centuries), Mohammed Yousuf (17,134 runs in 374 matches with 39 centuries), and Javed Miandad (16,213 runs in 357 matches with 31 centuries).

The right-hander batter's forte is ODIs, with 6,671 runs in 144 matches and 141 innings at an average of 53.36, with 20 centuries and 38 fifties, and a best score of 158.

During the chase, Sri Lanka sank to 91/4 in 19.3 overs, losing Avishka Fernando (5), Kusal Mendis (18),

Kamindu Mendis (44 in 50 balls, with four boundaries) and Sahan Arachchige (3), with Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/55) getting two of these wickets.

Rathnayake (79 in 74 balls, with six fours and two sixes) and Liyanage (60 in 74 balls, with five fours) put Sri Lanka back in the game with a 119-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Liyanage was the sixth wicket down at 253 runs, with SL needing 53 runs in 38 balls. However, Naseem Shah (2/43) and Haris Rauf (2/48) got two crucial wickets, removing Dasun Shanaka for 28. Pakistan managed to skittle out SL for 268 in 48.1 overs.

Agha won the 'Player of the Match' for his century. -ANI

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leeds United fight back to hold Manchester United to 1-1 draw in Premier League

LEEDS : Leeds United fought back from a goal down to secure a 1-1 draw against Manchester United in their Premier League clash at Elland Road, with Dominic Calvert-Lewin cancelling out Bryan Mbeumo's first-half opener.

Mbeumo gave Manchester United the lead in the 35th minute with a composed, left-footed finish following a well-worked move. However, Leeds responded strongly after the break, with Calvert-Lewin finding the net to restore parity

and ensure the two sides shared the points.

The result extended Manchester United's winless run in the Premier League to five matches. The Red Devils were left frustrated after failing to capitalise on their first-half advantage, while Leeds had several opportunities to claim all three points.

Leeds threatened early in the contest when Nico Elvedi's header from Anton Stach's free-kick forced Manchester United goal-

keeper Senne Lammens into a save. The visitors responded with a chance of their own, but Mbeumo could not direct his header from Youri Tielemans' cross on target.

Mbeumo made amends in the 35th minute, finishing another Tielemans delivery into the bottom-left corner to put Manchester United ahead. Leeds attempted to find an equaliser before the interval, but Calvert-Lewin headed wide, while James Justin's effort from inside the penalty area lacked



the power to trouble Lammens.

Leeds returned with greater intensity after the break and drew level just six minutes into the second half. Following Stach's corner, Tarik Muharemovic won the initial header as Manchester United struggled to clear their lines, allowing Calvert-Lewin to volley the loose ball into the net.

The hosts continued to press for a winner, with Ao Tanaka and Noah Okafor sending efforts over the crossbar. Manchester United

also threatened at the other end, as Bruno Fernandes dragged a shot across goal.

Stach missed a promising opportunity to put Leeds ahead when his left-footed volley sailed over the crossbar. The hosts continued to push in stoppage time, with a scramble inside the Manchester United penalty area creating further anxiety for the visitors' defence, but neither Lukas Nmecha nor Stach could convert the chance. -Xinhua

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$106.83. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$1.07 from the price of Friday, which was \$105.76.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,634.86 points, down by -0.28% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.16% at 628.62 points. Sohar Power, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Galfar Engineering, down 4.91%, was the top loser.

Dates and honey expo opens avenues for investment and new markets

It comes as a celebration of Omani products, highlighting their quality and diversity, as well as the abundance of palm bumper crops and honey products in Oman, reflecting Omani agricultural heritage and enhancing the presence of local products in markets



MUSCAT: The activities of the 4th Dates and Honey Exhibition began on Monday at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). The event is participated by 100 small and medium enterprises, companies, and producing, manufacturing, exporting, and importing entities of dates and honey, alongside several entrepreneurs from within Oman.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Sagri, Economic Advisor at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs.

The exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in partnership with Oman Agriculture Development Company, runs until 23 October. It comes as a celebration of Omani products, highlighting their quality and diversity, as well

as the abundance of palm bumper crops and honey products in the Sultanate of Oman, reflecting Omani agricultural heritage and enhancing the presence of local

products in markets.

The exhibition aims to provide companies and enterprises operating in the production, manufacturing, packaging, exporting, and im-

porting of dates, honey, and their derivatives with the opportunity to introduce their products and expand the horizons of trade and investment in this sector. It also aims

to highlight the quality of Omani products and open new markets for them, contributing to raising their competitive capacity and enhancing their presence locally, regionally, and internationally.

Yahya Khalfan Al Hadabi, Director of the Marketing Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, told Oman News Agency that the fourth edition of the Dates and Honey Exhibition sees the participation of 100 companies and enterprises in the dates and honey field.

He noted that focus was placed on the marketing identity of products, their compliance with specific standards, and laboratory testing for honey, with exhibitors obtaining quality certificates for product standards and packaging to shift from traditional aspects to innovative marketing and packaging identities capable of reaching foreign markets.

He added that the current edition of the exhibition focused on prominent producers and market-

ers capable of entering the market and competing effectively.

The exhibition serves as a platform to showcase the latest technologies and modern applications in the fields of date and honey production, manufacturing, and packaging, as well as exchanging expertise and experiences among producers, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs, thereby supporting the development of production mechanisms, elevating product efficiency and quality, and boosting growth and investment opportunities in this vital sector.

The organisation of the exhibition comes within efforts aimed at promoting a culture of consuming local products, raising awareness of their quality and diversity, supporting Omani products, and opening new avenues for marketing and investment, which contributes to developing the national economy and strengthening the food security system.

The exhibition welcomes visitors daily throughout its run from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, allowing them to explore the finest types of dates, honey, and their diverse products, meet producers and business owners, and view products combining authenticity, quality, and innovation.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources invites community members, including citizens and residents, to visit the exhibition and benefit from its activities, products, and diverse experiences, emphasising that supporting local products and choosing Omani goods represent a direct contribution to supporting business owners and strengthening the national economy.

The fourth Dates and Honey Exhibition embodies a specialised platform to celebrate the bounties of the Sultanate of Oman and highlight its agricultural products, with the authentic identity, long history, and economic and nutritional value they carry, telling through them the story of Oman's land and its renewed giving. -ONA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Oman's central bank raises OMR48.6mn through treasury bills



MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR48.6 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills include OMR20 million, for a maturity period of 28 days.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.705 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.705 per OMR100.

The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.84554 per cent and 3.85691 per cent, respectively.

Additionally, treasury bills amounting to OMR28.6 million for a maturity period of 91 days was also allotted on Monday.

The average accepted price reached OMR98.965 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.965 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.15137% and 4.19479%, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.50 per cent while the discount rate on the treasury bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.00 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -ONA

INTEGRATED PROPOSITION

Sohar International launches expatriate banking proposition with housing loans, cashback and digital remittance solutions

MUSCAT: Recognising the increasingly diverse financial needs of expatriate communities in Oman, Sohar International has introduced an integrated Expat Proposition that brings together solutions across four key areas— spearheaded by Housing Finance, alongside everyday spending, financial protection, and international money transfers.

The offering combines residential financing solutions, the Bank's 3% Cashback Credit Card, exclusive insurance solutions, and mobile-based global remittance services, providing greater value, choice, and convenience through a connected banking relationship.

Commenting on the proposition, Abdul Qadir Al Sumali, Chief Retail and Wealth Management Officer at Sohar International, said: "Our approach is to look beyond individual financial products and understand the broader needs that shape our customers' financial lives. For expatriate customers, this includes managing everyday expenses, assuring themselves and their families, and maintaining seamless financial connections with their home countries. By bringing these needs together through an integrated proposition, supported by our digital capabilities and strategic collaborations, we are creating a more connected banking experience while enabling our customers to derive greater value from their relationship with Sohar International."

Recognizing the vital role of housing in fostering a sense of stability, the package offers Expat Housing Loans, enabling expatriate residents to finance the purchase of ready-to-move-in



properties within approved Integrated Tourism Complexes (ITCs) in Oman. Eligible customers aged 21 and above, with a minimum monthly salary of OMR 1,500, can access financing of up to 70% of the property value, with repayment tenors of up to 20 years.

Financing is subject to a maximum age of 60 years at maturity and a maximum debt burden ratio of 50%. This solution addresses a key living essential for expatriates while supporting the Sultanate of Oman's accelerating urban development, in line with Oman Vision 2040 to establish the nation as an ideal destination for living and investment, thereby driving economic growth.

The 3% Cashback Credit Card is designed to deliver tangible value on everyday spending, offering 3% cashback on dining, fuel, groceries and school-related expenses, with cashback credited automatically

each month. Customers can also benefit from six complimentary airport lounge visits across 25 international hubs and flexible 0% interest payment plans for up to 24 months, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

For Wealth Management customers holding Visa Signature Credit Cards, the proposition delivers unlimited complimentary access to over 1,000 airport lounges worldwide and an elevated, end-to-end luxury travel experience subject to minimum spend, including exclusive Home Check-In with luggage collection and boarding pass issuance from your doorstep, Fast Track immigration clearance, Land & Leave arrival assistance, complimentary Valet Parking, dedicated Porter Service, premium Limo and Chauffeur airport transfers, and VIP Meet & Assist concierge services, ensuring truly seamless,

first-class travel from front door to final destination.

The proposition also provides access to Comprehensive Insurance Solutions through Sohar International's strategic partnerships with Liva Insurance and Arabia Falcon Insurance, covering medical, motor and life protection. Medical insurance from Liva offers exclusive discounts on coverage of up to OMR 10,000 annually, with solutions tailored to different expatriate segments. Motor insurance provides comprehensive coverage with upfront premium savings and access to Liva rewards and partner lifestyle outlets, while Life Protect from Arabia Falcon offers two months of zero premium costs and manageable monthly payments.

For expatriate customers sending money internationally, Global Remittances & Mobile Transfers, enables instant transfers to more than 35 countries directly through Sohar International's digital banking channels.

The fully digital and paperless service allows customers to transfer funds conveniently through their smartphones, while qualifying online local transfers can earn 10 loyalty points.

Through the Expat Proposition, Sohar International is bringing complementary financial solutions together within a single proposition while further advancing its digital banking strategy. By providing customers with convenient alternatives to traditional physical remittance channels and enabling them to manage more of their financial needs digitally, the Bank continues to enhance accessibility, relevance and convenience across the customer journey.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Sohar Power, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Galfar Engineering, down 4.91%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,634.86 points, down by -0.28% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.16% at 628.62 points. Sohar Power, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Galfar Engineering, down 4.91%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 16524 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 49.37 million, with more than 171.75 million shares changing hands.

Out of 69 traded securities, 26 advanced, 23 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 1847K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 1527K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 320K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,766.56 points, down -0.20%. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Ahli Bank, Ominvest, National Finance, Bank Dhofar were up by 1.87%, 0.50%, 0.49%, 0.47%, 0.45% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Taageer Finance, Bank Muscat, DIDIC, Oman Arab Bank were down by 3.09%, 2.78%, 2.53%, 1.71%, 1.38% respectively.



Industrial Index closed at 9,997.88 points, down -0.20%. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cement, Voltamp Energy, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 4.95%, 1.42%, 1.07%, 0.68% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Raysut Cement, Oman Cables Industry, Oman Flour Mills were down by 4.91%, 1.68%, 0.58%, 0.34% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.13% before closing at 3,027.19 points. Prices of Sohar Power, Dhofar Generating, Majan College, Majan College, Al Jazeera Services were up by 10.00%, 3.95%, 2.19%, 2.19%, 2.00% respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, OQ Exploration & Production, Oman National Engineering, Al Batinah Power, Renaissance Services were down by 1.06%, 0.81%, 0.67%, 0.51%, 0.36% respectively.

-United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,689.87	7,626.29	7,634.86	7,656.14	-21.28	-0.28%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,831.08	13,737.63	13,766.56	13,794.76	-28.20	-0.20%
Industry Index	10,058.83	9,991.38	9,997.88	10,017.69	-19.82	-0.20%
Services Index	3,039.48	3,020.29	3,027.19	3,023.20	3.99	0.13%
MSX Shariah Index	631.12	627.16	628.62	627.61	1.01	0.16%
MSX TR INDEX	12,018.89	11,919.51	11,932.91	11,965.17	-32.26	-0.28%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	17,004.59	16,893.65	16,925.27	16,959.94	-34.67	-0.20%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,921.53	12,834.89	12,843.24	12,868.69	-25.45	-0.20%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,196.34	4,169.85	4,179.38	4,173.87	5.51	0.13%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	0.00	0.00%

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
171,752,649	49,367,034	16,524	39,233,237,169	26	23	20	69

MSX DAILY BULLETIN AS ON 19/10/2026

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

OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	7,254	3,822	5	0.519	0.530	0.519	0.530	0.505	0.025	4.950	0.530	0.510	0.555	0.100	26,681,460
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	27,796	4,308	2	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.150	0.005	3.333	0.155	0.155	0.159	0.100	24,800,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	20,000	5,100	2	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.250	0.005	2.000	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.100	10,924,963
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	285,169	28,630	17	0.109	0.109	0.107	0.109	0.107	0.002	1.869	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.100	19,075,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	670,396	189,903	47	0.280	0.285	0.280	0.285	0.280	0.005	1.786	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.100	272,053,006
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MRKTNG	3,250	4,453	2	1.370	1.370	1.370	1.370	1.350	0.020	1.481	1.370	1.370	1.450	0.100	94,530,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,150	727	3	0.630	0.645	0.630	0.645	0.636	-0.009	1.415	0.645	0.636	0.650	0.100	213,412,898
OM0000003661	VOLT/AMP ENERGY	1,368,410	258,160	95	0.186	0.190	0.185	0.189	0.187	0.002	1.070	0.189	0.182	0.189	0.010	189,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	6,793,086	9,253,827	163	1.356	1.365	1.356	1.364	1.356	-0.008	0.590	1.364	1.364	1.364	0.100	1,023,000,000
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	72,482	14,356	20	0.199	0.199	0.197	0.198	0.197	-0.001	0.508	0.198	0.178	0.199	0.100	141,452,454
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,575,149	723,945	2	0.412	0.412	0.412	0.412	0.410	0.002	0.488	0.412	0.410	0.415	0.100	462,615,813
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	23,450,834	5,240,079	2,571	0.224	0.225	0.223	0.224	0.223	-0.001	0.448	0.224	0.201	0.224	0.100	970,059,758
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	192,799	43,380	1,072	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.224	0.001	0.446	0.225	0.230	0.225	0.100	683,954,670
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	59,634	18,743	19	0.318	0.318	0.312	0.316	0.315	0.001	0.317	0.316	0.315	0.316	0.100	205,698,377
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	100	32	1	0.323	0.323	0.323	0.323	0.323	0.000	0.000	0.323	0.000	0.335	0.100	33,915,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	147,950	30,774	15	0.208	0.209	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.000	0.000	0.208	0.206	0.208	0.100	63,901,960
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	10,242	891	2	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.100	30,983,075
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	2,000	1,380	1	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.000	0.000	0.690	0.690	0.000	0.100	82,800,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	60,386,639	11,252,850	2,728	0.186	0.189	0.185	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.000	0.186	0.185	0.186	0.100	1,427,737,055
OM00000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	10,000	1,820	4	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.100	36,333,679
OM0000000983	PHOENIX POWER	2,127,090	447,562	52	0.210	0.212	0.209	0.210	0.210	0.000	0.000	0.210	0.209	0.210	0.100	307,146,307
OM00000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	13,503	2,282	3	0.165	0.169	0.165	0.169	0.169	0.000	0.000	0.169	0.164	0.169	0.100	12,793,218
OM0000000834	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,102,050	482,005	1,055	0.439	0.439	0.437	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.000	0.438	0.444	0.438	0.100	337,347,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	471,831	182,990	54	0.390	0.391	0.383	0.388	0.389	-0.001	-0.257	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.100	77,600,000
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	166,185	45,543	13	0.275	0.275	0.274	0.274	0.275	-0.001	-0.364	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.100	64,776,340
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	4,572	2,303	3	0.504	0.504	0.500	0.500	0.502	-0.002	-0.398	0.500	0.500	0.503	0.100	812,973,178
OM00000004925	ALBATTINAH POWER	63,253	12,483	16	0.197	0.199	0.197	0.197	0.198	-0.001	-0.505	0.197	0.197	0.200	0.100	132,952,824
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	4,000	19,710	4	3.435	3.435	3.420	3.420	3.440	-0.020	-0.581	3.420	3.100	3.440	0.100	306,774,000
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	20,149	3,029	8	0.151	0.151	0.150	0.150	0.151	0.001	0.662	0.151	0.150	0.151	0.100	335,542,955
OM00000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	41,892	6,200	10	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.149	-0.001	-0.671	0.148	0.147	0.148	0.100	22,200,000
OM00000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	25,150,184	6,409,685	2,777	0.256	0.257	0.252	0.253	0.255	-0.002	-0.784	0.253	0.252	0.253	0.040	875,251,185
OM00000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	14,308,746	7,070,306	334	0.485	0.486	0.481	0.481	0.485	-0.004	-0.808	0.481	0.491	0.491	0.010	1,928,000,000
OM00000010120	ASTAD SHIPPING	4,332,582	976,264	1,789	0.229	0.229	0.223	0.224	0.226	-0.002	-0.885	0.224	0.224	0.233	0.000	1,168,758,719
AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	1,615,410	169,131	86	0.106	0.107	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.106	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.100	0.106	0.100	1,910,000
OM00000001509	DHOHAR INT'L DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	104,526	29,831	14	0.285	0.287	0.285	0.287	0.292	-0.005	-1.712	0.287	0.287	0.297	0.100	142,268,112
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,987,032	1,712,674	2,214	0.435	0.435	0.424	0.424	0.435	-0.011	-2.529	0.424	0.424	0.424	0.100	3,182,712,354
Total		36	148,759,325	44,643,750	15,203											

Parallel Market

OM00000003711	SOHAR POWER	2,000	484	1	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.242	0.220	0.022	10.000	0.242	0.225	0.242	0.100	4,840,000
OM0000007407	DHOHAR GENERATING	24,900	1,918	4	0.077	0.079	0.077	0.079	0.076	0.003	3.947	0.079	0.077	0.081	0.100	17,556,960
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	55,000	7,640	4	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.140	0.137	-0.003	2.190	0.140	0.137	0.147	0.100	13,860,000
OM0000003168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	98,450	14,738	23	0.149	0.149	0.147	0.148	0.147	0.001	0.680	0.148	0.148	0.161	0.100	32,560,000
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	257,500	51,600	6	0.200	0.201	0.200	0.201	0.200	0.001	0.500	0.201	0.194	0.211	0.100	558,436,474
OM00000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	19,762	42,358	12	0.215	0.215	0.213	0.215	0.214	0.001	0.467	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	139,899,510
OM00000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	145	85	1	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.583	0.002	0.343	0.585	0.585	0.641	0.100	105,204,879
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	3,682,217	24,738	8	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.065	0.070	0.100	20,578,804
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	6,842	5,467	2	0.799	0.799	0.799	0.799	0.799	0.000	0.000	0.799	0.770	0.798	0.100	75,905,000
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	58,350	3,443	9	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.055	0.059	0.100	14,750,000
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	18,588,479	3,984,712	1,018	0.214	0.216	0.213	0.213	0.213	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.213	0.213	0.000	1,424,836,875
OM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	17,135	10,110	4	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.592	-0.002	-0.338	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.100	102,449,813
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	42,481	3,951	5	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.100	14,466,187
OM0000003380	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,016,690	289,926	27	0.288	0.288	0.282	0.286	0.290	-0.004	-1.379	0.286	0.282	0.286	0.100	585,702,254
OM00000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	1,000	105	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.108	-0.003	-2.778	0.105	0.105	0.108	0.100	29,787,532
OM00000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	2,000	188	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.097	-0.003	-3.093	0.094	0.094	0.106	0.100	6,582,800
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	1,538,171	209,067	143	0.132	0.143	0.120	0.127	0.132	-0.005	-3.788	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	10,795,000
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	102,143	15,884	7	0.158	0.158	0.155	0.155	0.163	-0.008	-4.908	0.155	0.155	0.170	0.100	31,462,828
Total		18	22,378,575	4,666,412	1,276											

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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, chanthusureshbabu92@gmail.com

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

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Looking for job in Accounts with D/L, Contact: 92092486

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

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

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE
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

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Some 2,400 arrested after looting, arson during protests in France

The unrest has sharpened tensions ahead of France's 2027 presidential election, as anger over living costs collides with tight limits on government spending. Clashes, fires and looting broke out in several cities during Saturday's demonstrations. The country's Interior Ministry said about 1,000 officers were injured

PARIS: Almost 2,400 people were arrested across France following riots, looting and arson during cost-of-living protests, France's authorities said.

The unrest on Saturday has sharpened tensions ahead of France's 2027 presidential election, as anger over living costs collides with tight limits on government spending.

Clashes, fires and looting broke out in several cities during Saturday's demonstrations. The country's Interior Ministry said about



1,000 officers were injured.

Paris police reported 855 arrests, describing the figure as a record. Prosecutors said 517 people remained in custody, including 171 minors. Those figures were provisional, with arrests continuing until early Sunday.

Most arrests in the capital were linked to suspected handling of stolen goods, participation in a group intending to commit violence, and vandalism. In central France, rioters set fire to Limoges' historic town hall, leaving much of it gutted. Mayor Guillaume Guerin condemned the destruction.

"There are no words to condemn what happened, so appalling is

it," he told broadcaster LCI. "The country is in chaos."

Authorities reported attacks on public buildings and shops in Marseille, Lyon, Avignon and Grenoble. Police used tear gas, batons and water cannon in several cities.

Demonstrators were also reported injured. The newspaper Le Figaro reported that a 17-year-old lost a hand to a grenade fired by police in Saint-Etienne.

What have leading French politicians said?

President Emmanuel Macron addressed the nation due to the protests, saying "nothing justifies the violence."



"Tonight, we feel anger and shame," Macron said in a speech, adding that there needs to be a separation between protesters with what he called "legitimate demands" and people who "destroyed, smashed and looted."

The France leader also promised "full transparency" on police's response to the protests.

Opposition politicians seeking to succeed Macron in presidential elections in April and May also responded to the unrest.

Far-right candidate Marine Le Pen accused the party of her far-left rival Jean-Luc Melenchon of having "legitimized the violence." She pledged to protect the

French "from the violence of the extreme left."

Melenchon, who had backed the demonstrations and preceding student protests, urged demonstrators to stay away from looting, calling it "contrary to our methods."

The demonstrations brought together grievances over fuel prices, low wages and problems facing farmers and firefighters. School and university students demanding better learning conditions also participated.

The interior ministry put nationwide turnout at 550,000, including 110,000 in Paris. The CGT trade union gave a higher national

estimate of 800,000.

France's high debt and budget deficit limit the government's ability to meet demands for additional spending.

Online calls to revive the yellow vest movement have added to government concerns that student demonstrations could grow into broader unrest.

The yellow vest movement began in 2018 over planned fuel tax increases and grew into wider protests over living costs and inequality. Named after the high-visibility vests worn by demonstrators, it brought months of nationwide demonstrations, some marked by violent clashes with police. —**rw**

UKRAINE CONFLICT



Putin proposes three-way summit with Trump and Xi

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a trilateral summit with US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping next month to discuss the Ukraine conflict, aiming to negotiate a peace deal favourable to Moscow, according to media report.

The proposal reflects an effort by Putin to capitalise on improving relations with President Trump, a move that has raised concerns in Ukraine and among Washington's European allies, especially the lack of representation from Ukraine, the report said.

Citing a former Russian intelligence official who briefed on the matter, WSJ reported that Putin initially raised the idea of a trilateral meeting during an October 9 telephone conversation with Trump. The same call resulted in an agreement allowing the US to purchase Russian diesel fuel and facilitate its distribution on global markets.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed to WSJ that discussions about a possible meeting were underway.

"There is no clear understanding yet regarding the meeting itself or its potential agenda, although all three parties acknowledge the hypothetical possibility of such a meeting taking place," Peskov told WSJ.

While a senior US official told The Wall Street Journal that

Trump has not formally agreed to the summit, the official indicated the US President might be open to the proposal given his push to resolve the war.

Sources familiar with the negotiations informed The Wall Street Journal that the Kremlin suggested hosting the trilateral talks alongside the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Sources close to recent discussions between Moscow and Beijing told The Wall Street Journal that Russian diplomats presented the proposal to Chinese officials, who signalled they would not object as long as Trump agreed to participate.

On Sunday, Trump claimed that negotiations to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict were making "great progress", while defending his administration's diplomatic approach towards Moscow and accusing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of failing to secure a better deal two years ago.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump described his strategy to strike a deal between the warring nations as a simple one which he said includes ensuring that Russia is not, "foolishly", driven away from the bargaining table.

Trump said that the diplomatic process is making great strides, touting that he can sign the document that involves ongoing hostage negotiations "anytime that I want." — **ANI**

MUD-STAINED HOPE

Nepal's flood survivors search for stability in shadow of loss

NUWAKOT [Nepal]: Inside the tin-thatched room, Nangsi Tamang smears the floor with the red clay. As the soil dries, she and her husband, Singhbir Tamang, will have a new home to stay in after their settlement in Khalte of Rasuwa got swept by the ice, water and debris on August 26.

The couple were left with nothing except their wearables for that particular day when the flood warning came from their relatives via a call.

The elderly couple, along with others living in the riverside settlement, quickly moved to the highest ground, being able to save their lives.

"My house is gone; I am in deep worry. Now I don't have anything. We don't have anything to wear—even the slippers; everything was washed away. We neither have clothes nor slippers to wear when we came here. We didn't even get anything to eat for two days; to save our lives, we came here," Nangsi told ANI as she fetched water from the tap.

It has been over six weeks since she moved to Bada Chautara Temporary Shelter, first taking refuge in a donor-provided tent, but now she is moving to a tin-thatched room built by a donor organisation.

Nangsi, along with her husband and fellow survivors of the August 26 disaster, has crossed many hills before ending up in this temporary shelter. This is her second displacement in just over one decade.

At first, the displacement was triggered by the 2015 earthquake, which had ravaged the mountain villages of Mailung, Tiru, Haku and Gogane in Rasuwa district. The shaken land due to the 7.8-magnitude earthquake started losing grip, prompting landslide risks and forcing the Tamang settlement to relocate to the river embankment of Khalte.

At the time, 250 households had relocated themselves to the riverside settlement that too was



prescribed by the government as a temporary relocation and, over time, turned out to be permanent. With August's ice and rock avalanche, the community has ended up in temporary shelter in Nuwakot.

"We fled from Rasuwa on 10 Bhadra (August 26), then in the course of time we reached Nilkantha Municipality and then returned to Ladey; there we became determined that we cannot survive without proper electricity and salt. We made our way through the Mahabir, climbing up the hill and reached Simle; thereafter, we came further down, finally ending up at the Tamang block here. The local body of Bidur-04 made temporary arrangements for us, and thereafter we have been moved to Bada Chautara (current location), which is government-owned land and are being settled here," Singhbir, husband of Nangsi, told ANI.

In the disaster, this Tamang couple has also lost a few of their relatives in the flood who are yet to be traced. Meanwhile, other settlers have lost 32 next of kin in the disaster and are struggling to cope with the trauma.

Tamang are one of Nepal's major indigenous communities. The

communities have long maintained strong connections with their land, settlements, livelihoods, culture, language, traditions and social and cultural ties.

One of the marginalised communities of the Himalayan nation, this particular ethnic community has been subjected to longstanding disparities. The disparity is more evident during disasters such as the 2015 earthquake, when, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs, about 34 per cent of the victims were from the Tamang community.

This Tibetan-Burma community, which holds about 6 per cent of the total population of the Himalayan Nation, has been constantly forced to move from one location to another, despite their adaptive nature.

At the camp of Bada Chautara, a total of 511 people are taking shelter, out of which 139 are females, 160 males, 115 boys and 97 girls below the age of 18. All those taking shelter at the temporary camp are worried that they have to move to another place again.

"It was also monsoon, and rainfall was immense; as we are the ones with the trauma of the flood, the rain added more peril while

we stayed in the tent. After we get a better shelter under tin, we expect it won't be similar to that of the tent, but the question of how long they will let us stay here is consuming us day by day. If they ask us to move out from here, then where will we go? Where shall we stay is also worrying us," Singhbir told ANI.

The survivors here are constantly looking for employment opportunities to have some assurance to survive in the coming days. The uncertainty has gripped those living along the riverside in Nuwakot. At Devighat, Gopal Bahadur Shariki lost his shoe shop in the flood.

54 days after the flood, Gopal has set up a temporary shop within the ravaged area of Devighat amid uncertainty. There is no trace of his previously owned shop, and this temporary shop is set up on the dusty premises amid the rubble.

"I owned a shop here (Devighat). I managed to close the door of one side but couldn't close the other side. I did love my shop, but I had to prioritise my life; the flood wiped out the shop. Now I am running my shop in this situation here to survive," Gopal said, pointing towards his temporary makeshift shop.

Nepal on August 26 witnessed a "Himalayan Tsunami" triggered by a rock-and-ice avalanche, which has so far killed over 1400 people while more than 6000 are yet to be accounted for.

Search and recovery efforts are underway in parts of flood-affected areas, as widespread destruction by the flood has left more than 70,000 people directly affected, rendering them homeless.

In the August flood, the settlements on high-lying slopes bordering Tibet were completely washed out by the intensity of the flood that accelerated following the sudden outburst of a glacier. The Timure and Syafru Besi- the major settlements have been wiped clean by the flash flood that swept through with intensity. — **ANI**



MUSCAT AND LONDON:

Deep-rooted diplomacy and institutional cooperation bolstering regional security

MUSCAT: The political and diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom are among the most deeply rooted bilateral relations in the region, their foundations extending over more than two centuries. This relationship is described as “deep, historic and firmly established,” and the friendship between the two countries rests upon the “Treaty of 1800,” which laid the foundations of their strategic partnership.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries continue through high-level visits and regular mechanisms, with His Majesty the Sultan's Royal visit to the United Kingdom representing the first state visit since 1982. Regular mechanisms have likewise been an important factor in the evolution of diplomatic relations, foremost among them the Oman-UK Joint Working Group, which held its 18th round in Muscat in September 2025.

The two countries also signed the Comprehensive Agreement on Enduring Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation in 2019, described as a strong indicator of the mutual commitment to elevating bilateral relations, extending back centuries, into a new era of cooperation.

The relationship between the two countries transcends the bilateral dimension to encompass coordination on issues of regional security and stability. All these indicators affirm that the Omani-British relationship is not merely a historical legacy, but an effective and continuing political and diplomatic partnership, renewed through high-level visits, institutional mechanisms and continuous coordination on regional and international challenges.

In statements to Oman News Agency (ONA), a number of researchers and specialists in political affairs and international relations affirmed that the Royal visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Kingdom reflects the level of the firmly established historical relations between the two friendly countries across numerous fields, particularly diplomatic and political, noting that the dimensions of this visit will be reflected positively in the future of bilateral cooperation between the two sides during the coming phase.

Awadh bin Said Baqwaair, a member of the State Council, said that Oman and Britain enjoy firmly established historical



ties extending over more than two centuries, as the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom are bound by relations of friendship through the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation of 1798 in the era of the Sultan Sultan bin Ahmed Al Busaidi. He explained that Muscat and London have maintained those close relations in terms of political consultation and coordination, and through reciprocal visits between senior officials of the two countries.

He noted that the strategic maritime location of the two countries contributed pivotally to commercial communication, particularly over the past decades, especially since the dawn of the Omani Renaissance in 1970, as well as during the era of the Renewed Renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman possesses a strategic location on the open seas, with the Sea of Oman and the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the north, and the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to the east, centre and south of the Sultanate of Oman, while the United Kingdom has a unique maritime location with the North Sea. He affirmed that the maritime link between the two countries played a major role in commercial and civilisation communication.

He explained that the foreign policy of the two friendly countries witnesses harmony and continuous political consultation, whether on the geopolitical issues of the region, on the Sultanate of Oman's positive role in matters of securing maritime navigation, or on diplomatic communication on all regional and international issues, particularly as the political and historical legacy of the two friendly countries is substantial and extends over



more than two centuries.

He noted that the Omani-British Friendship Association plays a prominent role in continuing cooperation, and that the continuous visits between officials of the two countries, and in support of the fields of defence, economic and educational cooperation and in the field of technology transfer, have made the relations of cooperation and friendship a distinguished model in the relations of the two countries.

He said: “The course of historical relations between the two countries has contributed to creating stability and peace in the region for long decades, and there is no doubt that the international order has witnessed major changes. Hence, the two friendly countries contribute to the matter of de-escalation and finding political solutions to all conflicts, particularly the Palestinian cause and also the situation in the Arabian Gulf region.”

He explained that, in light of this, Muscat and London continue consultations and contacts between the two leaderships and at the level of foreign ministers in finding political solutions, particularly as diplomacy has become the first option for ending regional conflicts, which is affirmed by both the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom. He noted that geopolitical developments in the region fall within the framework of major challenges that require the wisdom of diplomacy and dialogue, which requires the coordination of continuous diplomatic and political efforts.

For his part, Dr. Abdullah bin Saleh Baabood, an academic specialising in international relations and Gulf and Middle East affairs, noted that the Royal visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Kingdom is a clear expression of



the depth and importance of the historical relationship between the two friendly countries. The visit, he added, represents an ideal and timely opportunity to deepen and develop the strategic relations and develop their instruments.

He explained that the Omani-British relationship is unique in the fabric of regional alliances, for it is neither a traditional alliance nor a simple historical connection, but a deeply rooted historical partnership reflecting an evolved understanding of how to protect national sovereignty amid mounting regional pressures.

He added that relations between the two friendly countries encompass cooperation in numerous political, diplomatic, economic, commercial and military fields, crowned in 2019 by the two countries signing the Joint Defence Agreement, and that these bilateral relations possess a legal depth extending over more than two centuries.

He noted that 2019 constituted a watershed in the course of bilateral relations with the Joint Defence Agreement, then the Comprehensive Agreement on Enduring Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation, as the relationship moved to a multidimensional institutional structure encompassing technology, education, health, culture, economy and innovation. In January 2022 came the Sovereign Investment Partnership. He affirmed that each new agreement means that the relationship is not static but based on effective and vital common interests.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom agree on numerous files and current regional issues, as Muscat and London support UN efforts towards a political and diplomatic solution to these

issues. He said in this regard: “On the Palestinian file, the Sultanate of Oman welcomed Britain's decision to recognise the State of Palestine as a step towards justice, and in the current regional crisis, Britain has commended Omani efforts to find diplomatic solutions.”

He believes that the Sultanate of Oman's relationship with the United Kingdom may be the clearest example of the Omani method of managing international relations, founded upon positive neutrality, non-interference in the affairs of others, support for dialogue and keeping channels of communication open with all, an approach followed by Omani policy.

He noted that the Omani distinctiveness in managing international relations lies in the ability to separate partnership from alignment, for a close defence and strategic partnership with a major power does not mean adopting its policies or its antagonisms. He added that Oman draws this distinction with precision, granting some states military and logistical facilities but refusing to turn its territory into a platform for any party against another. Friendship with one party in Omani philosophy does not mean enmity towards another.

He explained that the transition from the era of the Blessed Renaissance to the era of the Renewed Renaissance added a clear economic dimension to the bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom, as Britain is now the largest investment partner of the Sultanate of Oman with more than 50 percent of foreign direct investment, and British companies lead five of eight green hydrogen concessions. This links the partnership directly to Oman Vision 2040, so that the relationship is no longer merely military or political but is expanding and deepening across all fields and levels.

He said that at a critical moment in the region's history, when old orders are fracturing and new alliances are emerging, the Omani-British partnership plays a strategic role, noting that the Sultanate of Oman is among the states that always seek to keep channels of communication open with all parties to regional conflicts in order to resolve thorny issues through political and diplomatic means. In this regard, he believes that strengthening the Omani-British partnership is not a diplo-

matic luxury so much as a strategic necessity.

He explained that the Omani-British relationship does not revolve around historical legacy alone, but reflects an evolved understanding of how a state preserves the independence of its political decision in a rapidly changing international order, and how another power, in a world heading towards multipolarity, maintains its importance through partnerships that respect independence rather than demanding loyalty, as he put it.

Dr. Omran bin Mohammed Al Abri, Head of the Department of Political Science at the College of Economics and Political Science at Sultan Qaboos University, said that the Omani-British relationship is one of the oldest continuous relationships in the region, but it was not a single relationship so much as successive relationships whose content changed with the shifting balance of power.

He noted that the relationship between the two friendly countries was a mirror of the international order: in the era of British hegemony, London was the near-sole partner; with the Cold War, it turned into a security partnership; then the British withdrawal from east of Suez during the period between 1968 and 1971 came as a true turning point in the course of bilateral relations.

He explained that the Omani approach with Britain is a clear example of what he termed positive neutrality and compound hedging. The features of this approach centre on three matters: the separation of files, so that disagreement on one issue does not obstruct cooperation on another; strategic silence, that is, managing differences away from the media; and transforming the relationship into a mediation asset, as happened in the files of British detainees. Thus, the Sultanate of Oman has become, for Britain, a strategic partner.

He said that he looks to the future with realistic optimism, for Britain today, in his view, is a power seeking reliable partners, and Oman is a state seeking economic diversification within the Oman Vision 2040, which contributes to finding genuine points of convergence. The promising fields, in his estimation, are green hydrogen and renewable energy, Duqm as a logistical and industrial platform, maritime security amid the turbulence of the corridors, education and scientific research, and financial and technical services.

SPORTS

Arsenal claim sixth win of the season as Brighton put five past Crystal Palace

Arsenal enjoyed more than 70 percent of possession but struggled to create clear chances, relying too often on long passes

LONDON: Arsenal won 1-0 away to Nottingham Forest on Sunday to remain three points behind Manchester City in the Premier League title race. Noni Madueke scored a deflected winner in the 80th minute of a game that was high on effort but

low on quality. Arsenal enjoyed more than 70 percent of possession but struggled to create clear chances, relying too often on long passes. Madueke's goal arrived after he was allowed to drive at the home defence before shooting. His effort took a slight deflection and went past Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Matz Sels. It was Arsenal's only shot on target. The result leaves Mikel Arteta's side on 18 points from a possible 21, three points behind Manchester City. Leeds United and Manchester United drew 1-1 in a fiery encounter at Elland Road. Bryan Mbeumo opened the scoring for the visitors before Dominic Calvert-Lewin leveled in the 51st minute, controlling a corner delivery and firing home. Brighton continued its excellent start to the season with a 5-0 demolition of Crystal Palace, taking complete control after racing

into a 3-0 lead in the opening 10 minutes. Jaydee Canvot scored an own goal after just four minutes, and Diego Gomez produced a sensational long-range lob three minutes later, spotting Palace goalkeeper Walter Benitez off his line from roughly 50 meters. Yasin Ayari added a third in the 10th minute, taking advantage of an assist from Charalampos Kostas. Kostoulas made it 4-0 early in the second half and Jack Hinshelwood completed the rout with a late strike. Bournemouth went into its home game against Sunderland bottom of the Premier League but secured a comfortable 2-0 victory, with goals from Marcus Tavernier and Evanilson, taking its first league win of the campaign. The result leaves Sunderland second from bottom and at risk of dropping to last depending on Monday's Tottenham Hotspur vs. Coventry City result. **Xinhua**



FOOTBALL 2-1

No Vinicius Jr no problem as Real Madrid beat Sevilla 4-1 at home

MADRID: Real Madrid beat Sevilla 4-1 at home on Sunday to stay within six points of FC Barcelona ahead of next week's first Clasicos of the season. Arda Guler opened the scoring with an unstoppable first-time finish in the 30th minute. Kylian Mbappe doubled the lead shortly afterward and converted a penalty in the 63rd minute to make it 3-0. Manu Bueno pulled one back for Sevilla in the 80th minute, before Yan Diomande wrapped up the win with a late strike eight minutes from time. Vinicius Jr missed the match as he began a four-game suspension. In Sunday's other matches, Celta Vigo won 2-1 at home to Deportivo Alaves, with all three goals coming in the second half. Ferran Jutgla opened the scoring in the 53rd minute with a first-time finish from Javi Rodriguez's assist, and Rodriguez doubled the lead himself in the 71st minute. Hugo Novoa pulled one back for Alaves with an individual effort late in the game.



Jagoba Arrasate's second spell as Osasuna coach got off to a winning start with a 2-0 home victory over Racing Santander. Ante Budimir converted a ninth-minute penalty to give Osasuna the lead, and Asier Osambela sealed the victory in the 88th minute against a side that enjoyed more possession but created few clear chances. Malaga remains bottom of La Liga and without a win after a 5-2 home defeat to Real Sociedad. Takefusa Kubo put the visitors ahead in the third minute, and Orri Oskarsson doubled their lead before halftime.

Adrian Nino gave Malaga hope in the 54th minute, but Mikel Oyarzabal restored Real Sociedad's two-goal advantage five minutes later. Pablo Martinez pulled Malaga back to 3-2 in the 66th minute, but Oyarzabal scored his second a minute later. Goncalo Guedes then completed the scoring. Barcelona loses Garcia, Kounde to injuries ahead of PSG clash FC Barcelona confirmed Sunday that defenders Eric Garcia and Jules Kounde will miss Tuesday's Champions League match against Paris Saint-Germain with injuries, with Garcia also ruled out

of next weekend's match against Real Madrid. Garcia faces up to four weeks on the sidelines with a thigh injury, while Kounde's availability for Sunday's meeting with Real Madrid remains uncertain because of an ankle sprain. "Eric Garcia has sustained a muscle injury to the rectus femoris in his right thigh. The recovery period is expected to be between three and four weeks," Barcelona said on its official website. The injury means Garcia will also miss upcoming matches against Alaves and Aston Villa. Kounde's injury is less serious,

although the French defender will be unavailable for the Champions League clash with PSG. The club confirmed that Kounde "has sustained a sprain to his left ankle and will be unavailable for the match against PSG." Barcelona added that his availability for the Clasicos would depend on his recovery. There was better news for Gerard Martin, who was substituted at halftime during Saturday's 5-2 La Liga victory at Real Betis. The defender suffered only bruising and is expected to be available against PSG. **Xinhua**

Maza inspires Leverkusen comeback to knock Freiburg off Bundesliga summit

BERLIN: Ibrahim Maza scored and set up the winner as Bayer Leverkusen came from behind to defeat Freiburg 2-1 on Sunday, ending the visitors' unbeaten Bundesliga start and seeing Patrik Schick set a new club scoring record. Freiburg struck first in the 14th minute when Philipp Treu combined with Niklas Beste down the right before delivering a low cross for Derry Scherhant to finish from close range. Leverkusen responded five minutes later. Following a defensive misunderstanding, Schick played Maza through, and the midfielder beat goalkeeper Mio Backhaus with a precise outside-foot finish. Both teams maintained a high tempo but struggled to create further clear chances against disciplined defenses before halftime. After the restart, Leverkusen showed greater attacking intent while Freiburg defended compactly, limiting the hosts to occasional half-chances. The winner arrived in the 76th minute when Maza produced a brilliant individual run near the byline, dribbled past three defenders and cut the ball back for Schick to convert from six meters. The Czech striker became the first Leverkusen player to score in each of the opening six Bundesliga matches of a season. Only Robert Lewandowski, who scored in the first 11 rounds of the 2019-20 season, and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who scored in eight consecutive matches in 2015-16, have recorded longer runs. Leverkusen could have extended its advantage, but Nathan Tella, Maza and Schick squandered late

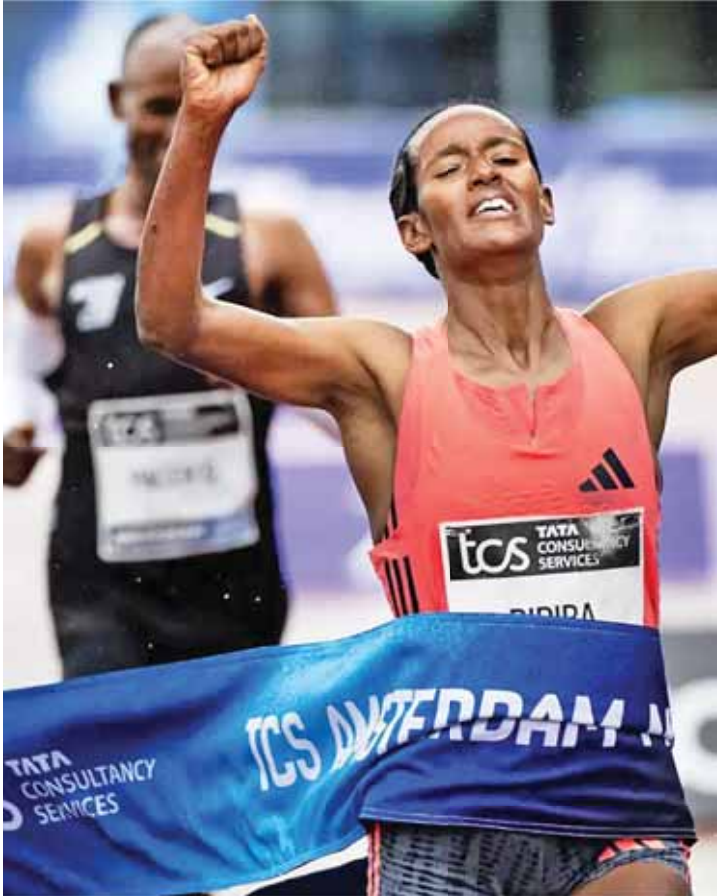


opportunities. Freiburg nearly snatched an equalizer in stoppage time when Lucas Holer headed narrowly wide from close range. "Taking a point here would have been fine. We didn't have to lose this game. I think we played well, especially in the first half, and had plenty of control after the break," Freiburg coach Julian Schuster said. The victory lifted Leverkusen to fourth on 13 points, level with third-placed Freiburg, which surrendered top spot after its first league defeat. Bayern Munich leads Borussia Dortmund on goal difference, with both teams on 14 points from six matches. Elsewhere, Hoffenheim climbed to 14th with a 2-1 victory at Borussia Monchengladbach, courtesy of goals from Bambase Conte and Alexander Prass. Gladbach remains bottom without a point after six consecutive defeats, becoming only the fourth club in Bundesliga history to make such a start. **Xinhua**

LEMI BERHANU

Ethiopian runners dominate rainy Amsterdam Marathon

THE HAGUE: Ethiopia's Lemi Berhanu won the men's Amsterdam Marathon in 2 hours, 3 minutes, 33 seconds on Sunday, narrowly missing the course record, while compatriot Buze Diriba set a women's course record of 2:16:12 despite rainy conditions. Berhanu, the 2016 Boston Marathon champion who also won last year's Beijing Marathon, was making his third appearance in Amsterdam. The Ethiopian came within three seconds of the men's course record of 2:03:30, held by Kenya's Geoffrey Kipchumba, despite rain and slippery roads. Kenya's Nicholas Kipkorir finished second in 2:03:39, six seconds behind Berhanu, while compatriot Patrick Mosin took third in 2:03:58. In the women's race, Diriba marked her Amsterdam debut by breaking the previous course record of 2:16:52, set by fellow Ethiopian Yalemzerf Yehualaw in 2024. Diriba, 32, lowered the mark by 40 seconds to lead an Ethiopian sweep of the women's podium. Aynalem Desta finished second in 2:17:06, while Meseret Belete placed third in 2:18:06. **Xinhua**



CONSTRUCTION WORK

Victoria Falls stadium nears completion ahead of 2027 Cricket World Cup 2027

HARARE (ZIMBABWE): The Mosi-oa-Tunya International Cricket Stadium in Victoria Falls is nearing completion ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027, with major construction work substantially finished as Zimbabwe steps up preparations for the global tournament. The new venue is scheduled to host Zimbabwe's final group-stage match against India on October 24, 2027, followed by three Super 7 fixtures on October 28 and 30, and November 1, according to the ICC website. Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) is now focusing on finishing work at the stadium, with the media centre, broadcast centre, changing rooms, medical facility, grandstands and grass banks substantially complete. Roofing, the installation of bucket seats and other finishing work are underway, while corporate gazebos are also set to be installed. ZC Managing Director Givemore Makoni highlighted the progress at the venue and said the remaining work was focused on completing the facilities ahead of the first trial match. "The main building works are



as good as complete and we are now concentrating on the finishes that will bring the stadium together, with all the outstanding materials having been delivered," Makoni said. "When you look at the outfield and how the facilities are taking shape, there is a real sense of excitement about how close we are to playing cricket here," he added. The stadium is targeted for full completion by mid-2027, with an international series planned to provide a more extensive test of the facilities before the World Cup. An initial trial match will help assess the playing facilities and match-day operations, Makoni added. The progress was highlighted during a recently concluded International Cricket Council (ICC)

inspection of Zimbabwe's three host cities — Harare, Bulawayo and Victoria Falls. Led by ICC Tournament Director for Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 Sarah Edgar and Zimbabwe Tournament Director Hamilton Masakadza, the inspection began at Takashinga Cricket Club in Harare, which is being considered as a potential venue for warm-up matches. The delegation also visited Harare Sports Club, the Victoria Falls stadium and Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo. Edgar welcomed the progress made across the venues and said the improvements would help bring them up to the standards required for the tournament. "We are pleased with the progress made in addressing the baseline requirements to bring the venues up to the standards necessary for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027", Edgar said. "The improvements to the stadiums and wider venue infrastructure are clearly evident and will help ensure the grounds are ready to host the tournament. Victoria Falls, in particular, is an exciting project." **ANI**

New Chery 2027 range brings new technology and ownership benefits



With more style and more technology across every segment, the all-new 2027 Chery Range includes the Arrizo 5 and Arrizo 6 sedans, the Tiggo 7 and Tiggo 9 SUVs — available in both FWD and PHEV variants — and the rugged Himla pickup

MUSCAT: Chery Oman introduces the all-new 2027 Range, bringing the brand's latest generation of vehicles to customers across the Sultanate — packed with more style, more technology and a host of exclusive offers designed to make Chery ownership more rewarding than ever. Leading the offers are attractive EMI plans starting from just OMR 47 per month on selected models. The instalment plans are calculated based on a minimum 20% down payment with the balance payable over 120 months, offer is

subject to Oman Arab Bank approval. Approval is at the sole discretion of Oman Arab Bank and subject to the customer's eligibility and applicable terms and conditions (VAT charged separately as applicable). Model-wise instalment plans for the 2027 MY range and the 2026 MY Himla, start from the Arrizo 5 Standard at RO 47/month, the Arrizo 6 Comfort at RO 63/month, the Tiggo 7 Standard at RO 69/month, the Tiggo 9 FWD at RO 102/month, the Tiggo 9 PHEV at RO 130/month, and the Himla M/T at RO 77/month.

With more exclusive offers, customers purchasing any model except the Himla will enjoy a complimentary 5-year or 50,000 km Free Service Package (whichever occurs first), free insurance coverage, and free registration — significantly reducing the initial cost of ownership and ensuring a seamless path to the road. Adding an extra layer of value, Chery Oman is also running its Exclusive Raffle Offer — Buy a Chery and get a chance to upgrade Service Coverage of up to 10 years or 100,000 km.

With more style and more technology across every segment, the All-New 2027 Chery Range includes the Arrizo 5 and Arrizo 6 sedans, the Tiggo 7 and Tiggo 9 SUVs — available in both FWD and PHEV variants — and the rugged Himla pickup, giving customers a comprehensive choice to suit every lifestyle and need. Customers are invited to visit any Chery showroom in Oman to explore the all-new 2027 Range and take advantage of these exclusive offers. In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by New World Autos.

SPECIAL EVENT

NBO honours Omani women for their achievements and contributions



MUSCAT: To recognise the achievements of Omani women and celebrate the valuable contributions of its female employees, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) organised a special event to mark Omani Women's Day. The event was officially inaugurated by Amal Suhail Bahwan Al Mukhaini, Chairperson of NBO,

highlighting the Bank's continued commitment to recognising the achievements and contributions of Omani women. The celebration brought female colleagues together for a day of engagement and connection, reflecting NBO's commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive workplace where women are encouraged

to grow, develop and succeed. As part of the celebration, NBO hosted a marketplace featuring female-led Omani SMEs, offering local women entrepreneurs a platform to showcase their businesses, products and creativity. The initiative further reinforced the Bank's support for women entrepreneurs and their growing

The celebration brought female colleagues together for a day of engagement and connection

contributions to Oman's business community. Alongside the marketplace, employees participated in two interactive activities designed to encourage creativity, strengthen connections and bring colleagues together in a lively and engaging atmosphere. The celebration forms part of NBO's broader efforts to foster

an inclusive workplace, empower Omani talent and support the growth of local businesses. Through initiatives that bring employees and the wider community together, the Bank continues to recognise the contributions of individuals who play an important role in Oman's development and future prosperity.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat empowers its staff through dedicated workshop to mark Customer Experience Day

The celebration came as part of Bank Muscat’s ongoing dedication to developing the customer experience, in line with its vision of delivering exceptional banking services that meet the aspirations of both individuals and businesses, and reflecting its leading position as a trusted banking partner that keeps pace with the latest global trends in the sector



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, celebrated Customer Experience Day, which falls on the first Tuesday of October every year, reaffirming its firm and continued commitment to placing the customer at the heart of its corporate strategy, and reinforcing a culture of service excellence across all its channels and teams.

The celebration came as part of the bank’s ongoing dedication to developing the customer experience, in line with its vision of delivering exceptional banking services that meet the aspirations of both individuals and businesses, and reflecting its leading position as a trusted banking partner that keeps pace with the latest global trends in the sector.

In line with its belief that an exceptional customer experience begins with its employees, Bank Muscat organized an internal workshop for a group of employees, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of customer experience and the principles of financial inclusion, in addition to equipping teams with the skills and tools needed to deliver a seamless service across various customer touchpoints. This initiative reflects the Bank’s belief that investing in the development of employees’ capabilities and knowledge is a fundamental pillar for translating its customer experience strategy into tangible reality.

Bank Muscat continues to enhance its customer experience through investment in innovation and modern technologies.

The Bank has worked on developing various digital communication channels, such as its mobile banking application and internet banking services, alongside the deployment of artificial intelligence tools, automated response services and self-service options, enabling customers to access banking services with greater ease and convenience, reducing waiting times and providing a seamless banking experience across all channels.

Achievements

The bank’s celebration this year was further underpinned by a strong track record of achievements in customer experience and digital service excellence. Bank Muscat was recently honoured with the “Best Brand in Customer Experience” award in the Corporate Banking category, at the Oman Customer Experience Awards 2026, organized by Muscat Media Group in conjunction with the Oman Customer Experience Forum 2026.

The Bank also received the Leadership Award in AI-Based Digital Banking Services during the Oman Cybersecurity Conference, in recognition of its efforts in deploying modern technologies to develop banking services and enhance the customer experience. In addition, the Bank received the Platinum Award from the global institution Infosys Finacle, in recognition of its efforts in developing the modern services offered through its mobile banking application and the growth in the number of users, reflecting customers’ increasing adoption of the Bank’s digital channels. These awards represent important milestones that reflect the Bank’s approach of continuous measurement and relentless development of its service standards.

Bank Muscat affirms that its focus on customer experience represents a well-established institutional approach reflected across the Bank’s various initiatives and future plans, translating its vision of delivering service worthy of its customers’ trust, and further strengthening its position as one of the leading financial institutions committed to the highest standards of customer experience excellence in the Sultanate.

OMANI WOMEN’S DAY

Mark & Save launches campaign to celebrate Omani Women’s Day

MUSCAT: Mark & Save celebrated Omani Women’s Day at its Mabelah outlet, launching the ‘Celebrate Her’ campaign and the ‘Queens of Mark & Save’ initiative to honour women’s achievements, talents, and contributions to society.

Omani actress Maymouna bint Salem Al-Maamari attended the event as the special guest. Badriya Abdullah Al-Baloushi, Laila bint Saeed Al-Fazari, and Mark & Save Director Shahnas Basheer were also present.

As part of the ‘Celebrate Her’ campaign, Mark & Save introduced exclusive offers on women’s products, an additional 5% discount every Tuesday for female customers registered with the We Rewards app, and a free makeup counter for customers.

The ‘Queens of Mark & Save’ initiative aims to recognise and celebrate inspiring women by highlighting their achievements, talents, and personal journeys, while promoting women’s empowerment and inspiring future generations.

Through these initiatives, Mark & Save continues to strengthen its commitment to celebrating women, recognising their contributions, and supporting their aspirations.





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