



51
YEARS OF
LEGACY

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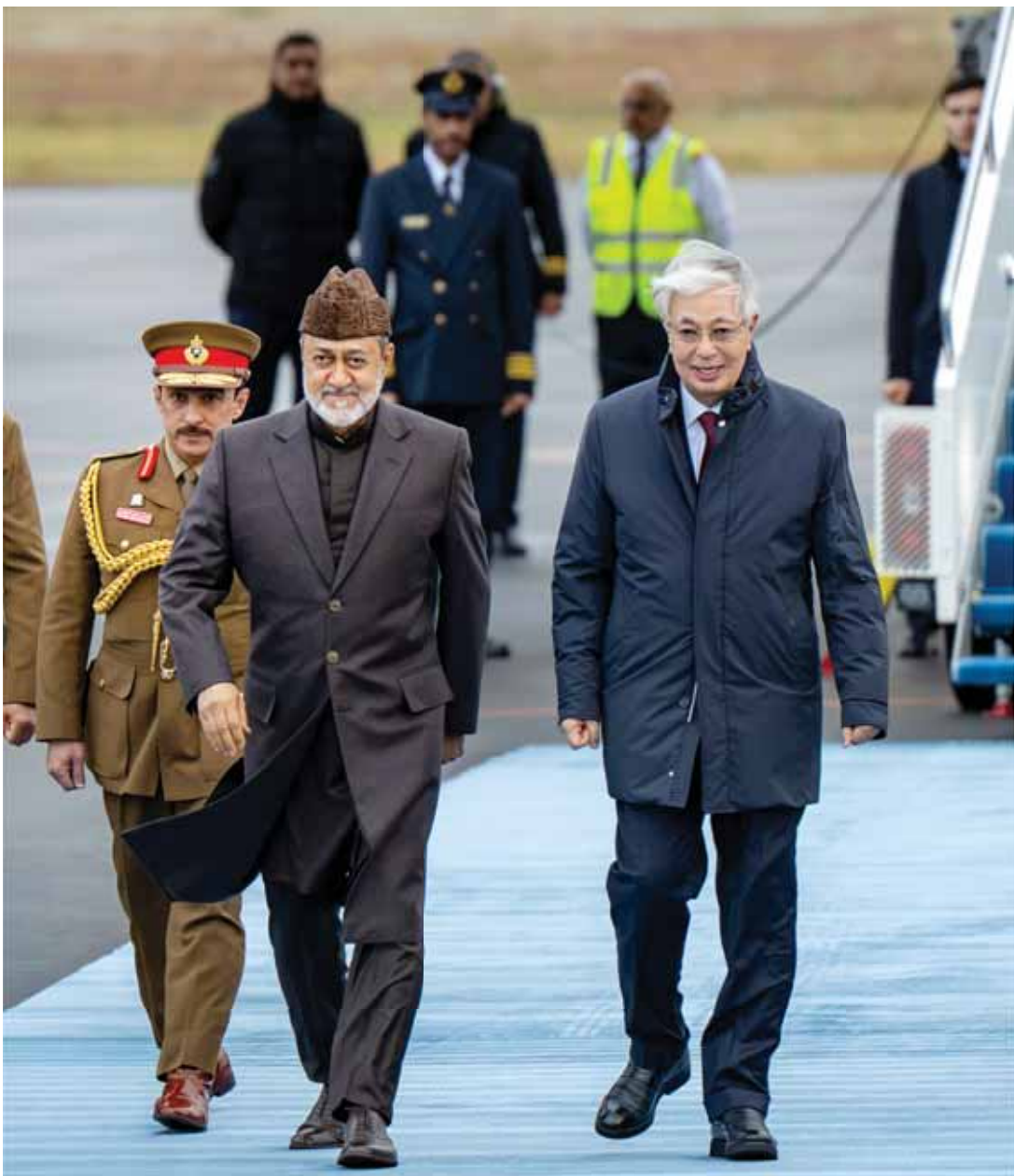


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HM ARRIVES IN KAZAKHSTAN

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan led the welcoming party for His Majesty

ASTANA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik arrived in Astana yesterday on a two-day state visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan led the welcoming party for His Majesty at Nursultan Nazarbayev International Airport in the Kazakh capital, Astana. The President wished His Majesty and his accompanying delegation a pleasant stay and a successful visit. Afterwards, His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with the welcoming party from the Kazakh side and the members of the Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in Astana. Then, the President shook hands with the delegation accompanying His Majesty. After that, His Majesty the Sultan and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan viewed the parade of the Guard of Honour. As the plane carrying His Majesty the Sultan entered Kazakh airspace, it was escorted by military aircraft of the Kazakh Air



Forces, in a manifestation of warm welcome for His Majesty's gracious visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan. An Official reception ceremony will be held for His Majesty the Sultan at the Palace of Independence in the Kazakh capital, Astana on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, His Majesty left for the Republic of Kazakhstan on a two-day state visit during which he will meet President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan. This visit comes in response to a gracious invitation extended to His Majesty the Sultan from the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The visit reflects the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries. The visit aims to extend new bridges of partnership and investment in a manner that realises mutual benefit for the two countries. Upon departure, His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at the Royal Airport by some of their highnesses, ministers and military commanders. His Majesty the Sultan is accompanied during the visit by a high-level official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs; Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court; Lt.Gen Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office; Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance; Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office; Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, President of Oman Investment Authority; Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Sheikh Dr. Salah bin Salim Jaaboub, the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan. — ONA ● See also >A4

Oman's trade surplus reaches OMR5.5bn by end of July

MUSCAT: The trade balance of the Sultanate of Oman recorded a surplus of OMR5.5 billion by the end of July 2026, compared to a surplus of about OMR3.6 billion during the corresponding period in 2025. Preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated that the total value of merchandise exports of the Sultanate of Oman reached OMR15.9 billion by the end of July 2026, recording an increase of 17.8 percent compared to about OMR13.5 billion during the corresponding period in 2025. Conversely, the value of mer-



chandise imports rose by 5.2 percent to stand at OMR10.4 billion, compared to about OMR9.9 billion by the end of July 2025. The value of oil and gas exports reached OMR10.4 billion by the end of July 2026, recording a rise of 21.6 percent compared to around

OMR8.6 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year. The value of non-oil exports also rose to nearly OMR4.3 billion, compared to about OMR3.9 billion during the same period in 2025. The value of re-exports from the Sultanate of Oman recorded a growth of 13.6 percent, rising from OMR1 billion by the end of July 2025 to about OMR1.1 billion by the end of July 2026. The United Arab Emirates topped the list of destinations for Oman's non-oil exports, with a value reaching OMR1.4 billion, followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at OMR418 million, and India at OMR402 million, while the value of non-oil exports to the United States of America and the Republic of South Korea reached OMR286 million and OMR179 million, respectively. As for merchandise imports, the United Arab Emirates topped the list of supplying countries to the Sultanate of Oman, with a value of OMR2.9 billion, marking an increase of 23.4 percent compared to the same period in 2025, followed by China at OMR1.4 billion, Türkiye with a value of OMR745 million, India with a value of OMR744 million, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a value of OMR649 million. — ONA

OMAN 'Tamkeen' forum begins in South Al Batinah

1 The Department of Endowments and Religious Affairs in South Al Batinah Governorate began a forum codenamed 'Tamkeen'. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. >A2

SPORTS Impressive campaign by Oman Sailing team

2 The Oman National Sailing team concluded its campaign at the 2026 Asian Games with two highly-impressive performances. >A8

MARKET Opportunities for business reviewed

3 The Civil Aviation Investment Forum reviewed investment opportunities, highlighting the importance of partnerships. >B1

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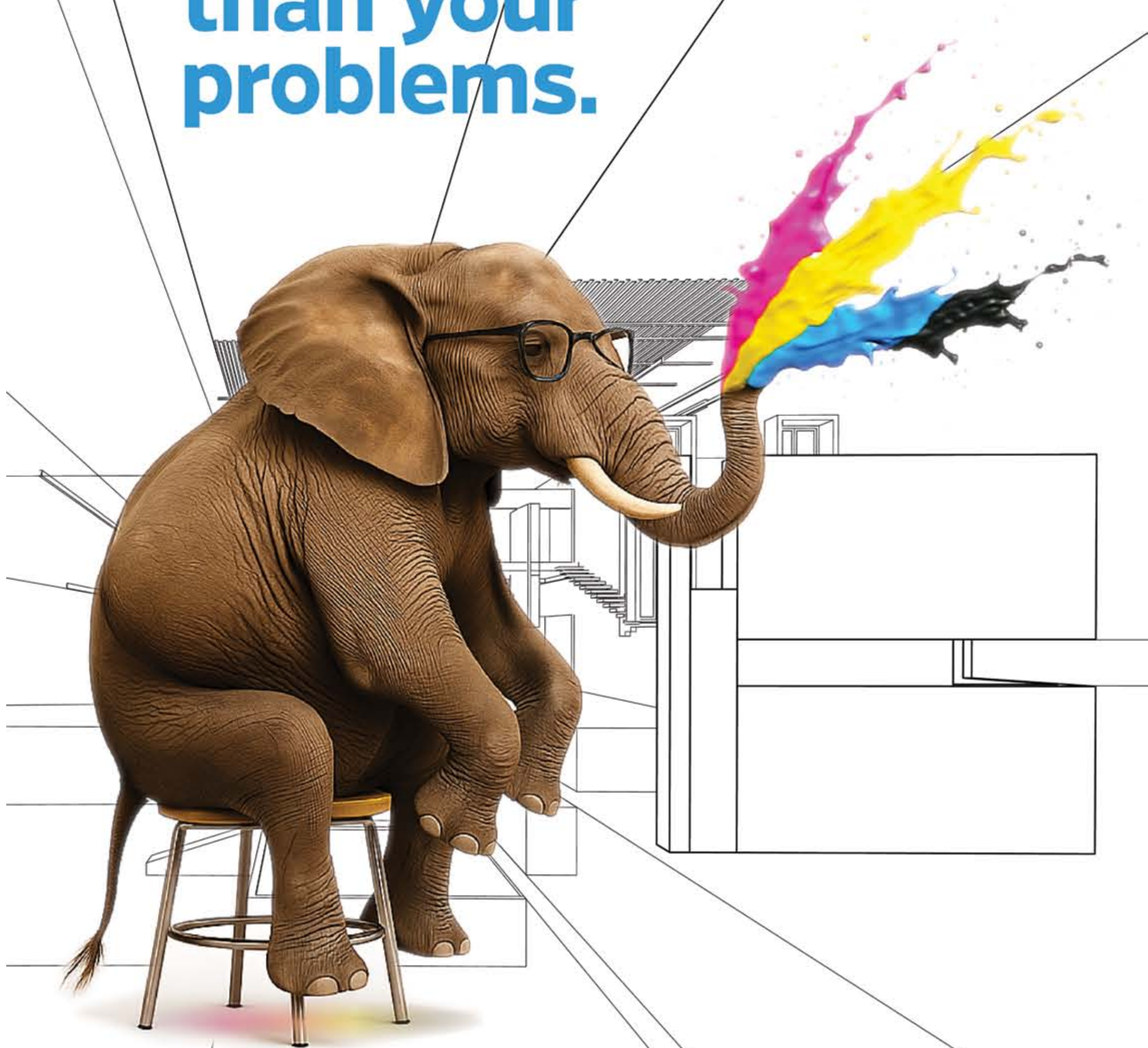
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BILATERAL TIES

Shura Council delegation visits Jordan to strengthen institutional cooperation and exchange expertise

Times News Service

AMMAN: A delegation from the staff of the Shura Council's Secretariat General, headed by Musalam bin Said Mosin, Assistant Secretary-General for Committees and Information, paid a visit to the House of Representatives of Jordan, as part of a series of reciprocal visits with various fraternal legislative councils, aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation frameworks and exchanging legislative, administrative and technical expertise, thereby contributing to the development of competencies.

During the visit, Awwad Al Ghuwairi, Secretary-General of the House of Representatives, received the visiting delegation and discussed with them ways of strengthening parliamentary cooperation and exchanging administrative and technical expertise and experience.

The Jordanian Secretary-General affirmed the depth of historical



relations binding Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman, and their continuing development under the leadership of King Abdullah II and his brother His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik underscor-

ing the importance of building on these relations to expand the scope of parliamentary and institutional cooperation.

The meeting also addressed ways of developing parliamen-

tary and administrative work and keeping pace with digital transformation, alongside the exchange of expertise and successful practices that contribute to raising the efficiency of work within the two

councils' Secretariats General.

Al Ghuwairi noted that the House of Representatives is working to develop its institutional work system and enhance administrative and technical performance by updating parliamentary work tools, advancing digital transformation, and employing modern technologies, digital platforms and social media, thereby contributing to the development of mechanisms for engaging with citizens and more effectively showcasing the Council's work and activities.

For his part, the Assistant Secretary-General for Committees and Information commended the Jordanian parliamentary experience, describing it as pioneering and rich, and affirming the potential to draw on it in developing parliamentary procedures and practices.

He noted the contribution of Jordanian legal, economic and parliamentary expertise to supporting Oman's development drive during the 1970s and 1980s.

e added that the exchange of practical experience contributes to improving procedures and performance, citing as an example the benefit drawn from the Jordanian experience in setting statutory time limits within certain draft laws.

The Shura Council delegation was briefed on the working mechanisms and competencies of a number of directorates and the stages of the legislative process, including the role of the Legislation Directorate in studying and reviewing draft laws, alongside the Council's efforts in digital transformation, process automation and the deployment of artificial intelligence applications.

Members of the delegation were also briefed on the nature of financial, administrative, research, public relations and media work, including coverage of the Council's work and activities and the preparation and publication of news and media reports across media outlets and digital platforms.

'Tamkeen' forum to boost institutional performance

The forum, which is attended by 300 employees, aims to enhance professional knowledge and hone practical skills in areas like institutional governance and sustainability



ments in a manner that contributes to performance efficiency, improved service quality and sustainable institutional impact, in line with the goals of the "Year of Proficiency" (2026), which is designated by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

Dr. Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Siyabi, Director of the Department of Endowments and Religious Affairs in South Al Batinah, gave a speech in which he outlined the forum's objectives and key themes. The opening programme included the screening of a video titled "When Empowerment Begins", a visual display titled "From Plan to Impact: Towards an Integrated Strategic System" and a panel discussion titled "From Empowerment to Sustainable Institu-

tional Impact". The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Bakhit Al Shibli, a consultant in institutional performance development.

The first day of the forum also included four working papers. The first working paper was presented by Basma Al Bassami, Director of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Office at the Ministry. The paper dealt with "Institutional Empowerment and Enhancing Performance Efficiency".

The second working paper was presented by Sami Al Jahdhami, Head of the Remote Training Section at the Ministry. It focused on "Institutional Empowerment in the Training and Qualification Sector."

The third working paper was

presented by Dr. Hazza Al-Bakari, Head of the Governance Section at the Ministry's Governance and Institutional Performance Department. The paper elaborated on factors of "Institutional Governance: From Framework Building to Creating Sustainable Impact".

The fourth working paper was presented by Laila Al Harthi, Senior Manager of Culture and Change Management at Omantel. It outlined the company's experience in the field of establishing a work environment that enhances the quality of work life to sustainable performance.

The programme concluded with a discussion that explored ways to improve institutional practices and boost the efficiency of performance in the workplace. -ONA

AUDIT AUTHORITY

Meeting held on measurement of performance

MUSCAT: The State Financial and Administrative Audit Authority hosted on Monday a Training Meeting on the Supreme Audit Institutions Performance Measurement Framework (SAI PMF).

The event was held under the auspices of Zahir Sulaiman Al Salmi, Deputy Chairman of the Authority for Audit on Government Units, with broad participation of representatives from audit institutions across various Arab countries, aimed at enhancing joint audit work and exchanging professional expertise.

The meeting aims to familiarise participants with the strategic importance of the Performance Measurement Framework and its vital role in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of audit institutions, as well as consoli-

dating the understanding of the framework's domains and exploring best practices and tools for implementing it efficiently within audit institutions.

The meeting includes a series of working sessions reviewing several topics, including independence and the legal framework, internal governance and ethics, alongside quality control and reporting.

The meeting also examines domains of Supreme Audit Institutions performance measurement in financial management, assets, support services, human resources affairs, and training, alongside communications and stakeholder management, reporting, and measurement results, in addition to reviewing experiences in Supreme Audit Institutions performance measurement. -ONA



SQU

Oman hosts meeting of e-learning officials from GCC



MUSCAT: Represented by Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), the Sultanate of Oman on Monday hosted the 25th meeting of the Committee of e-learning Officials from GCC universities and higher education institutions.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Dr. Fahad bin Al Julanda Al Said, Vice-Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University.

The meeting, which saw the participation of representatives of 32 universities and higher education institutions from GCC states, sought to enhance cooperation and

coordination for facilitating the exchange of expertise and practices on developing e-learning and teaching systems. It also outlined future approaches envisaged by the Committee.

In a speech on the occasion, Salim bin Jabir Al Waeli, Director of the SQU Educational Technologies Centre, said that the meeting aimed to underscore the importance of consolidating frameworks for cooperation and coordination among GCC higher education institutions.

He pointed out that exchanging expertise and best practices in e-

learning constitutes a cornerstone to keep pace with rapid advancements in the field of technology and digital transformation.

Such steps support efforts for establishing a more integrated and innovative educational system that meets current demands and explores future requirements, he added.

The meeting followed up recommendations and decisions from the previous session of the Committee and reviewed the latest e-learning developments and initiatives at participating universities and institutions. -ONA

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

SQU explores impact of AI in translation work

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University, represented by the Department of English Language and Translation at the College of Arts and Social Sciences, organised an academic and professional event on the occasion of International Translation Day 2026 under the title: "Translation between Education and Practice: Envisioning the Future of Translation Programmes in the Age of Artificial Intelligence."

The event sought to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on the translation profession and the transformations in translators' roles and career paths, to identify the practical applications of AI tools in translation, and to examine the opportunities and challenges associated with their use.

It also discussed the extent to which academic translation programmes align with labour market requirements amid rapid technological developments, and the enhancement of communication among academics, professional translators and students.

The event included a lecture delivered by Professor Dr. Lynn Booker from the Department



of Languages, Linguistics and Translation and holder of the Canadian Research Chair in Translation, entitled "The Cognitive Challenge in Translator Training Programmes in the Age of Artificial Intelligence."

In her lecture, she addressed the importance of integrating "deliberate cognitive challenge" into translation education by placing learners before cognitive challenges that drive them toward critical thinking and away from reliance on machine output.

The event included a panel discussion entitled "The Future of Translation Programs: What Does the Labour Market Need

from Translation Graduates in the Age of the Machine?" with the participation of a group of academics, practitioners and specialists in the field of translation.

It focused on the impact of artificial intelligence on the translation market, the anticipated transformations in translators' roles and career opportunities, and the competencies required by the labour market.

It also addressed the implications of these transformations for academic translation programs and ways to develop their curricula and outputs in line with professional and technological developments. -ONA

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COMMENTARY

Youth in Mind: The Novelist Who Made Patience Taste Sweet

On Thursday, September 24th, the Omani literary community mourned the passing of novelist Mohammed Eid Al-Araimi, a literary giant whose name became forever linked to his landmark debut, *The Taste of Patience*.

“The Taste of Patience” marked his formal entry onto the cultural landscape with a groundbreaking venture bearing his literary name, Mohammed Eid Al-Araimi. It is a well crafted literary work that blends the genres of autobiography and novel. The unique nature of his human experience and narrative brilliance captivated readers, who eagerly devoured “The Taste of Patience.” Some finished it in a single day, while others completed it in two, driven by a profound sense of curiosity and human empathy.

The book was written nearly twenty years after that fateful accident, a long gestation period during which countless thoughts and visions invaded his mind, and conflicting emotions surged in his chest. Eventually, this broke the long standing wall of his silence, rendering him unable to keep the secrets of that experience, its intricate details, and its profound impact on his life and the lives of those around him.

During this time, Mohammed took up the pen to bare the depths of his experience and to release the sighs of his pain. He began to pen page after page, hoping to ease the crushing weight of his deep anguish and unhealed wound. He embodied a human experience laden with the bitterness of suffering and the harsh awakening of a new reality, a reality that forced him to adapt and navigate through uncharted terrain. He found himself facing an existence entirely foreign to the world he had dreamed of upon returning from the United States as only the second Omani to hold a bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering, joining Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), marrying, and preparing to live out the chapters of life he had so meticulously envisioned.

Returning from a family holiday in Sur toward Muscat and then to Marmul oilfields, a tragic collision with a highway camel left him with permanent quadriplegia. Plunged into a fierce internal struggle and a harsh new reality, he faced an irreversible ordeal that accompanied him for the rest of his life.

He underwent an extensive period of medical treatment, followed by rehabilitation, and subsequently a profound professional transformation. Once an engineer traversing field sites with strides of physical vitality and ambitious ideas, he transitioned into a translator, meticulously handling every assignment entrusted to him. He drank deeply from successive cups of bitter patience.

Yet, his unwavering willpower, attachment to hope, and deep faith in Allah enabled him



to look out at the world through literature, echoing the sentiment to see beauty in the world despite adversity. He turned writing into a window to document human imagination and craft “another taste” altogether, a profound trial to which he refused to surrender, even when psychological turbulence battered his heart and mind like violent waves crashing against the shore before retreating in a warrior’s respite.

Through this journey of expression, personal pain transformed into raw material for writing, bridging humanity, place, and memory. Following “The Taste of Patience,” he continued his literary evolution in “Tightening the Shackles” (Haz Al-Qaid), where physical constraints evolved into an inquiry into freedom and the human outlook. He then expanded his narrative scope into Omani geography and folklore in “Between Desert and Water” (Bayna Al-Sahra’ wal-Ma’), before turning to the intimate details of everyday life in the short story collection “Rainbow” (Qaws Quzah). By extending his exploration through “The Tales of Younis Haim” and “Testimony from a Time of War,” he steadily widened his literary footprint beyond autobiography into memory, history, and expansive storytelling.

Mohammed never let adversity or physical confinement define his journey; instead, he transformed hardship into a springboard for discovery, moving from silence into the power of storytelling and authorship. The true value of his creative legacy lies not merely in his published volumes across genres, but in the distinct human voice he contributed to the Omani cultural landscape, a voice that seamlessly bridges the personal and the universal. By carrying his experiences beyond their original language to reach new cultures, he proved that true resilience turns life altering challenges into a last-

ing testament of creation and connection

Ultimately, Mohammed’s journey confronts us with a question far larger than literature itself: What does a person do when life leads them down a path they never chose? Do they surrender to the new reality? Do they remain frozen at the moment of the fall? Or do they search for another window through which to view life? These profound questions, and the answers arrived at by the contemplative reader, elevate literature from mere entertainment to a masterclass in the human condition.

Viewed holistically, Mohammed’s literary and human journey offers Omani youth a lesson that transcends the boundaries of literature. It teaches that the paths we chart for ourselves may shift, that the dreams we plan may not materialize as intended, and that one day we may face an unexpected and unchosen reality. Yet, this does not mean the journey is over. The new path may hold vistas invisible from the old road; within adversity may lie an undiscovered talent, within pain the birth of a new awareness, and within silence words waiting to see the light.

He conquered adversity not by forgetting it, but by transforming hardship into a tangible literary legacy of sheer willpower. Though the novelist who made patience taste sweet has departed, his words endure as a powerful declaration that some write simply because they have known life’s harshness and chosen to say, “I am still here.”

May Allah shower his mercy upon this knight of patience, who stepped down with dignity, leaving an imprint as enduring as the ancient ships of Sur that braved every storm to reach distant shores.

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

Sharifa Al Harthy Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award



Sharifa Al Harthy, Board Advisor at MB LLC and Chairwoman of the Mohammed Al Barwani Foundation, was felicitated with the ‘The Origin Lifetime Achievement Award’ at The Origin – Women Forum & Awards 2026, held at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat.

With a distinguished career spanning more than four decades, Sharifa has played an important role in the growth and development of the MB Group of Companies since its inception in 1982. Her contribution has been particularly significant in shaping human resources policies, developing people and supporting the organisational foundations behind the Group’s growth.

Beyond the corporate world, Sharifa has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to philanthropy and community development. As Chairwoman of the Mohammed Al Barwani Foundation, she supports initiatives across education and youth



empowerment, women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship, healthcare, social welfare and civil society.

Her leadership has also contributed to advancing opportunities for women, both within the workplace and the wider community, making her an inspiring example of Omani women’s growing influence in business and society.

The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates Sharifa Al Harthy’s enduring contribution to business, people development, philanthropy and community empowerment. Her journey reflects decades of leadership and service, creating an impact that extends across organisations, communities and generations.

The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents, recognising exceptional women, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful impact across industries and communities.

For more information, contact: 78471944/97221630

31ST MEETING

Oman participates in GCC meeting on power, water

MANAMA: The Sultanate of Oman participated on Monday in the 31st meeting of the GCC Electricity and Water Cooperation Committee, held in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman was headed by Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals.

Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary-General of the GCC, affirmed that the electricity and water sectors represent a strategic priority and a fundamental pillar in the journey of joint Gulf action, given their pivotal role in enhancing resource sustainability, securing the needs of GCC countries, and elevating readiness to face changes and challenges. -ONA



ENHANCE TRADE

Oman-Bahrain chambers of commerce discuss investments

MANAMA: A delegation from Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Sunday began a visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During the visit, the OCCI team conferred with members of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the two chambers discussed ways to enhance trade

and investment cooperation.

Rashid bin Amer Al Maslahi, First Deputy Chairman of the OCCI Board of Directors, held a meeting with Nabeel Khalid Kano, Chairman of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).

The meeting discussed cooperation in the sector of logistics and

road transport, as well as steps to realise the smooth flow of goods between the two countries in a manner that lends support to traders and owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the two countries.

Sectoral committees

The discussions also covered

means of leveraging the experience of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in activating sectoral committees and fostering cooperation with the OCCI, with a view to centres that were established by the latter.

A number of board members from both chambers attended the meeting. -ONA



IN PICTURES



Kazakhstan President welcomes His Majesty the Sultan in Astana



Meeting held for ‘Duqm Waterfront’ project

The meeting reviewed the key features of the project’s master plan, the nature of the areas it covers, its components in the hospitality, residential, commercial, and entertainment sectors

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) organised on Monday an investment meeting for the “Duqm Waterfront” project, reviewing the master plan, components, and investment opportunities of the project before developers, investors, and operators, as part of its participation in the Urban October Exhibition 2026 at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The meeting reviewed the key features of the project’s master plan, the nature of the areas it covers, its components in the hospitality, residential, commercial, and entertainment sectors, and the proposed vision for its phased development.

The meeting also included a visual presentation of the project, followed by a discussion session with developers, investors, and operators on investment opportunities, ways to participate in their development, market needs, and requirements associated with project execution.

Eng. Ahmed Ali Akaak, CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), stated that the Duqm Waterfront project represents an extension of the integrated development path witnessed by SEZAD, adding a new dimension to its investment opportunities by developing a coastal destination that combines resi-



dential, hospitality, commercial, entertainment, and tourism uses, thereby enhancing quality of life and elevating Duqm’s attractiveness for investment, work, residence, and visits.

He added that through its participation in the Urban October Exhibition 2026, the Authority seeks to open broader horizons for partnership with developers, investors, and operators, and to introduce the opportunities offered by the project, taking advantage of Duqm’s advanced infrastructure, strategic location on the Arabian Sea, and connectivity with the airport, port, road network, and existing economic and industrial projects.

He pointed out that developing the Duqm Waterfront comes within a long-term vision that considers the nature of the location and market needs, working to achieve integration between urban development, economic activities, services, and public facilities, thereby supporting the sustainable growth of the region and boosting its contribution to economic diversification.

The “Duqm Waterfront” project forms one of the most prominent

projects showcased at OPAZ’s pavilion at the exhibition, presenting the master plan, components, and investment opportunities as a multi-use coastal destination within SEZAD that combines residential, tourism, commercial, entertainment, and cultural uses.

The project’s master plan extends over an area of approximately 31 square kilometres, with a waterfront length reaching nearly 15 kilometres on the Arabian Sea, taking advantage of the site’s nature and its diverse terrain encompassing beaches, rock formations, highlands, and sea views, enabling the development of diverse and integrated zones and experiences.

The project’s developmental vision includes hotels, resorts, and residential units, alongside commercial, cultural, and entertainment facilities, marine activities, and eco-tourism projects, in addition to public spaces, facilities, and services that enhance quality of life and support Duqm’s growth as an integrated city for business, residence, and tourism.

Upon completion, the project is expected to feature more than 2,600 hotel hospitality units,

over 3,700 residential units, more than 63 thousand square meters of commercial space, and cultural and entertainment facilities exceeding 1 million square meters in area, while the waterfront is projected to receive approximately 370 thousand visitors annually by 2040.

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones is showcasing a group of investment opportunities in real estate and urban development at its exhibition pavilion, with the participation of Salalah Free Zone, Khazaen Economic City, and Sohar Free Zone.

The Authority’s participation comes as part of its efforts to highlight available opportunities in the areas under its supervision, enhance direct communication with developers, investors, and operators, and build partnerships that contribute to developing qualitative and integrated projects, utilizing the strategic locations, advanced infrastructure, and supportive investment environment enjoyed by these regions.

It is noteworthy that the Authority reviewed the master plan of the “Duqm Waterfront” project before a group of developers and businessmen last June, while its participation in the “Urban October Exhibition 2026”, which continues through 8 October 2026, provides a broader platform to introduce the project and its investment opportunities, and to explore partnership prospects with developers, investors, and entities interested in developing integrated urban destinations and projects. -ONA

Oman participates in forum on social responsibility

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in the second edition of the International Social Responsibility Forum hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. The 2-day forum, which began today, takes the theme “From Commitment to Impact.”

Oman’s delegation at the forum is led by Dr. Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

The forum features international experiences and best practices in social responsibility, discusses shared challenges and ways to enhance their developmental impact and elaborates on the role of social responsibility in supporting sustainability and fostering partnerships among government, private and non-profit sectors.

In particular, the sessions of the forum underscores the role of social responsibility, as a global measure, in empowering education and development, developing effective cross-sector partnerships, accelerating the growth of sustainable businesses and making optimum use of digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI) to maximise benefits to humanity across the planet.

Dr. Laila participated in a ministerial session on the promotion of social responsibility on a global scale. During the session, she highlighted the continuous evolution of social responsibility in the Sultanate of Oman—both in terms of awareness and practice—driven by the growing roles of the public and private sectors in supporting initiatives and enhancing their impact.

During the meeting, Dr. Laila laid emphasis on the importance of fostering integration and partnership across sectors and aligning initiatives with national priorities. She also underscored the need to institutionalize the concept of social responsibility, enhance the sustainability of initiatives and measure their impact within the concept of lending support and encouraging companies to adopt measures that are conducive to sustainable practices and national progress.

On the sidelines of the forum, Dr. Laila held a meeting with Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş, Minister of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye. The meeting addressed areas of joint cooperation between the two countries regarding development and family affairs, as well as the exchange of relevant expertise and experiences. -ONA



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RAS AL HADD TURTLE RESERVE

Foreign nationals penalised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Court of First Instance in Sur (Criminal Circuit) has convicted two foreign nationals of disturbing nesting turtles at the Ras Al Hadd Turtle Reserve and publishing content deemed prejudicial to public order.

The court found the first defendant, Vadim, and the second defendant, Olena, guilty of

harming and disturbing nesting turtles by touching, approaching, and climbing onto the backs of large turtles, as well as handling smaller ones while they moved along the reserve's beaches.

The defendants were each fined OMR100 for the wildlife offence. Additionally, they were sentenced to one month in prison for using information technology to produce and publish content

prejudicial to public order, after investigations revealed they filmed their actions and uploaded the video to the first defendant's Instagram account.

The court ordered the penalties to be merged, suspended the execution of the custodial sentence, and mandated the publication of the judgment. Following the completion of investigations, the defendants were referred to the competent court.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health (Al Buraimi Hospital) invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tender:

Ref:	Description	Last date for collection of bidding document	Last date for submission of tenders	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non Refundable)
2026/3382	Tender for Supply, installation, and commissioning of an automated loading system (Power Load System) for the ambulance stretcher at Al Buraimi Hospital.	Before 2PM On 20/10/2026	Before 10AM On 16/11/2026	Specialized companies registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority	10 R.O Small & Medium Enterprises 25 R.O Local Companies

Please note the following:

- Companies wishing to participate in the Tender can purchase the tender documents electronically through the website (etendering.tenderboard.gov.om), provided that they are registered in the system.
- Companies must submit their bids electronically via the above-mentioned website, provided that a Bid Commitment Declaration, and bids received without the required Declaration will not be considered.
- The ministry is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid.
- For inquiries related to the above tender, please contact through the website of the Esnad system for electronic tendering: (etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)



إعلان مناقصة Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tenders:

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
(125/2026/ MTCIT)	Upgrade AD Audit, Exchange reporter, and purchase AD manager and ITAM	04-10-2026	18-10-2026	15-11-2026	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE PROJECT, TENDERS AND LOCAL CONTENT AUTHORITY (ALL GRADES)	(= 25/-) TWENTY FIVE OMANI RIALS (LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMPANIES) (= 10/-) TEN OMANI RIALS (SMEs) NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:

Tel: +968 24402200 E-mail: etenderhd@gstb.gov.om



www.mtcit.gov.om

Internal Tenders Committee

Shura Council discusses Environmental Law bill referred by government

The meeting reviewed various articles and provisions of the Environmental Law bill, with specialists from the Environment Society of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Health and Social Affairs Committee of the Shura Council met on Monday with several specialists from the Environment Authority and the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) to discuss the Environmental Law bill referred by the Government to the Shura Council, within the Committee's mandate and its role in studying draft laws and offering its views on them, in a manner that contributes to developing the legislation governing the environmental sector and enhancing its effectiveness in keeping pace with environmental changes and challenges.

At the outset of its proceedings, the Committee held a meeting with specialists from the Environment Society of Oman, during which Hamed Al Sawakhroon, Chairman of the Health and Social Affairs Committee, welcomed the Society's representatives, commending the role it plays as a non-profit civil society institution concerned with environmental affairs, and its ef-



forts in environmental awareness and in contributing to the conservation of Oman's environment, the protection of biodiversity and natural resources, as well as its role in promoting community participation in environmental issues.

The meeting reviewed various articles and provisions of the Environmental Law bill, with specialists from the Environment Society of Oman presenting a set of views and observations on several of the bill's articles, in addition to proposing a number of amendments and suggestions they considered worth taking into account. Committee members also discussed with the specialists the rationale behind these proposals and their legislative and practical implications.

Separately, and as part of the Committee's proceedings on the same day, it met with specialists from the Environment Authority, where the Committee Chairman welcomed the Authority's representatives, commending its efforts in protecting Oman's environment, conserving its natural resources and biodiversity, strengthening compliance with environmental requirements and standards, and addressing the various challenges

and pressures facing the environment. His Excellency affirmed the importance of hearing the Authority's views, given its role as the competent body for environmental affairs and the entity responsible for implementing relevant legislation and regulations, noting that hosting the specialists was intended to examine the rationale behind a number of the bill's articles and provisions, and to discuss the queries and observations raised by the Committee, so as to help form a comprehensive legislative vision regarding the bill.

The meeting with the Authority's specialists addressed several articles and provisions of the bill, including discussion of its objectives in establishing a comprehensive legislative framework regulating environmental protection and the conservation of its components and natural resources, promoting the sustainable management of resources, curbing practices and activities with adverse environmental impacts, organising responsibilities and competences related to environmental affairs, and strengthening compliance with environmental requirements and standards, in line with recent developments and requirements

in the field of environmental protection and sustainability.

The Committee also discussed with the specialists various aspects relating to the mechanisms for implementing the proposed provisions and their consistency with practical realities, so as to ensure the clarity and enforceability of the legislative texts, and to enhance the effectiveness of the legal framework in protecting the environment and achieving a balance between the requirements of economic and social development and the goals of environmental sustainability.

The discussion of the Environmental Law bill forms part of the legislative role undertaken by the Health and Social Affairs Committee of the Shura Council, and its commitment to hearing the views of the various entities and institutions concerned with the draft laws referred to the Council, and to drawing on the views of specialists and experts when studying the proposed texts and provisions, with a view to reaching views and recommendations grounded in the relevant legal, technical and practical considerations.

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Oman participates in meeting in Bahrain

MANAMA: The Sultanate of Oman participated on Monday in the 37th meeting of the Petroleum Cooperation Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held in the Bahraini capital, Manama.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman at the meeting was headed by Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary-General of the GCC,

affirmed that energy security now extends beyond production capacity to encompass ensuring the delivery and continuity of supplies under various circumstances, explaining that GCC states are working to diversify energy export outlets and ensure the continuity of supply chains, thereby enhancing the resilience of the Gulf energy system and its readiness to face rapid changes.

— 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.

Award Categories:

- Business Leader of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Young Business Leader of the Year
- Woman Business Leader of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- SME of the Year
- Company of the Year...and more



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*AI generated images

Israeli occupation destroyed 82% of buildings in Gaza Strip

The number of damaged housing units in the Gaza Strip reached approximately 328,627, amid continued displacement and the worsening of the population's housing and humanitarian needs.

GAZA: Data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics showed that some 201,290 buildings in the Gaza Strip have been damaged by the Israeli aggression from 7 October 2023 until 16 June 2026, equivalent to about 82 per-



cent of the total buildings in the Strip. The Bureau explained, in a statement marking World Habitat Day and Arab Housing Day, that the latest satellite assessment prepared by the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)

showed the complete destruction of some 134,422 buildings, while 13,848 buildings sustained severe damage. It noted that the number of damaged housing units in the Gaza Strip reached approxi-

mately 328,627, amid continued displacement and the worsening of the population's housing and humanitarian needs. The Bureau affirmed that the reality of Palestinian housing faces unprecedented challenges, as a result of the

widespread destruction that has affected homes and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, alongside the continuation of home demolitions and forced displacement in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. It explained that World Habitat Day, which falls on the first Monday of October each year, comes this year under the theme "Adequate Housing for All," to affirm the importance of providing safe, adequate and affordable housing, alongside basic services. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics stressed the need for an integrated humanitarian and developmental response to address the housing crisis in Palestine, given the scale of destruction and the population's growing needs, particularly in the Gaza Strip. As for the West Bank, the northern governorates have experienced extensive destruction. In Jenin Refugee Camp, the total number of damaged structures reached 680, representing approximately 53% of the total structures. In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, 434 structures were damaged, accounting for 55% of the total structures, while in Tulkarm Refugee Camp, 407 structures were damaged. — Agencies

Lula calls meeting to chart strategy

SAO PAULO: Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party (PT) is set to hold a meeting with political allies in Brasília on Monday, October 5, to discuss his campaign strategy for the presidential runoff against Liberal Party (PL) candidate Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, as reported by Brasil 247. According to Brasil 247, the meeting is likely to be held in the afternoon and could bring together politicians who contested Senate and state governor elections in the first round. The development follows Lula's second-place finish in the vote count reported by g1, a Brazilian news portal. As the campaign moves into the runoff phase, Lula has indicated that his team will focus on reaching voters who stayed away from the first round. More than 33.3 million voters abstained in the October 4 election, representing 21.07 per cent of the electorate. Lula has identified this group as an important constituency for the next phase of his campaign as he seeks to broaden his support ahead of the runoff. Speaking about the upcoming contest, Lula described the second round as a direct race between the two candidates.

YAS ISLAND ABU DHABI

The ultimate short-break destination for GCC families

Times News Service

MUSCAT: For families across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the ideal getaway doesn't have to mean travelling far. Whether it's a long weekend, a school holiday or simply an opportunity to spend quality time together, Yas Island Abu Dhabi brings together everything guests need for a memorable escape. And with the October half-term school break approaching, it's the perfect opportunity for families to plan a quick getaway closer to home. From record-breaking attractions and immersive entertainment to world-class hospitality and dining experiences, this is the ideal all in one destination.

At Yas Island, every day can bring something different. World-class theme parks, hotels, dining experiences and year-round entertainment are all just minutes apart, making it easy to experience more in every visit. Chase adrenaline one day, step into the worlds of favorite characters the next, or discover marine life, with plenty of memorable flavors to enjoy along the way.

With the Kids Go Free offer running until December 31, 2026, families have even more reason to plan their next Yas Island escape. Children aged 11 and under can stay, play and dine for free, including complimentary stays when sharing a room with their parents at participating hotels, free meals on the same meal plan and unlimited access to Yas Island's award-winning theme parks.

At Ferrari World Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the excitement begins with record-breaking rides and high-speed thrills inspired by the legendary racing spirit of Ferrari. Guests can take on Flying Aces, reaching speeds of up to 120 km/h as they soar through the world's highest non-inverted loop, or experience Mission Ferrari, the world's most immersive mega-coaster. Beyond the rides, guests can put their racing skills to the test at the world's first Ferrari-themed Esports Arena, featuring advanced racing simulators alongside the latest gaming technology.

The Ferrari experience extends to the dining table too. At Gran Tour Emilia, the park's newest dining offering, guests can embark on a culinary journey through Italy's Emilia-Romagna region, the birthplace of Ferrari, with traditional dishes celebrating its culinary heritage. Families craving Italian comfort food can head to the award-winning Mamma Rossella for authentic pizzas and pastas, or if coffee, gelato and Italian pastries are more your thing, then Rossella Dolci offers a sweet break between adventures. Families can then swap racetracks for waterslides at Yas Waterworld Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, which holds the Guinness World Record for the most waterslides in a waterpark. Following its latest expansion, which in-



roduced 11 new experiences, the waterpark now features more than 70 rides, slides and attractions. Among the highlights is the UAE's tallest waterslide, offering a thrilling plunge from more than 40 metres, alongside high-speed racing experiences, interactive slides and attractions designed for families to enjoy together.

The waterpark also brings familiar regional flavours into the experience. At Dana's Diner, guests can enjoy dishes inspired by Emirati and Mediterranean cuisine, from hot and cold mezze to Machboos and traditional Luqaimat. When it's time to recharge before the next splash-filled adventure, Dockside Dining, the park's indoor restaurant, serves handcrafted pizzas and fresh pasta overlooking the action, while Skinny's Frozen Treats offers frozen lemonade, fresh juices and artisanal ice cream for a refreshing break.

At Warner Bros. World Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, some of the world's most beloved stories and characters come to life inside the region's largest indoor theme park. Families can explore immersive lands, enjoy live entertainment throughout the day and meet favorite DC Super Heroes and iconic



characters including Batman, Superman, Scooby-Doo and The Flintstones. DC fans can also step inside a globally exclusive Super Hero story with Kryptonite Collider, the park's newly launched ride located within the streets of Metropolis, the iconic home of Superman. The immersive experience places guests at the center of Lex Luthor's latest experiment to unlock superhuman abilities in ordinary people, bringing the world of DC to life through powerful motion, dynamic visuals, onboard audio and lighting effects.

Even mealtimes become part of the story. Guests can step into Hollywood's Golden Age at The Starlight, an Art Deco-inspired restaurant serving an international

menu, or travel back to the Stone Age at Bronto Burgers and Ribs, a Flintstones-inspired diner serving oversized burgers, ribs and steaks. In Gotham City, the Hall of Doom takes guests inside an abandoned subway station for Southeast Asian dishes served in suitably villainous surroundings, turning a break from the rides into another immersive experience.

The journey continues at SeaWorld® Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, where guests can discover the interconnected story of life on Earth and our oceans through eight uniquely themed realms. Across the world's largest indoor marine-life theme park, families can experience more than 100 animal experiences and presenta-

tions, up-close animal encounters, thrilling rides and inspiring entertainment. Dining at SeaWorld Yas Island, Abu Dhabi is equally immersive. At Fathom 11, guests can enjoy an upscale meal alongside sharks and rays through dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows, while Splash Burger, set inside an underwater cave, pairs smashed burgers with views of dolphins swimming through their habitat. For flavours closer to home, Matbakh Ummi serves comforting regional favorites including shawarma, kebabs and kunafa overlooking the Ocean realm. With 17 international dining outlets across the park, guests can discover everything from Asian cuisine and Mexican flavors to sweet treats as they journey between realms.

For those looking to take the adventure even higher, CLYMB Yas Island, Abu Dhabi offers gravity-defying indoor skydiving inside the world's widest flight chamber, alongside a state-of-the-art climbing wall with challenges suitable for everyone from first-time climbers to seasoned adventurers.

Throughout October school break, visitors can enjoy a packed calendar of family entertainment across Yas Island, including

seasonal fun during Spooktober, alongside a line-up of major live events at Etihad Arena. The excitement continues with the return of the Abu Dhabi Comedy Season, featuring globally renowned comedians including Russell Peters, Mo Amer, Maz Jobrani and Mina Nader, while music fans can look forward to performances by regional superstars Ramy Sabry, Tamer Hosny and Tamer Ashour. Looking beyond the school break, Yas Island will also host the highly anticipated Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2026 in December, before rounding off the year with a vibrant festive season, making it a destination for world-class entertainment and family experiences right through to year-end.

For GCC families, Yas Island offers an easy regional escape where every visit can be different, bringing together world-class theme parks, water adventures, award-winning attractions, dining and entertainment in one destination. With experiences designed for families, friends and all ages, Yas Island remains a destination that visitors can return to time and again, discovering new and memorable experiences with every trip.

SPORTS

Oman National Sailing team proud of its performance at 2026 Asian Games



Competing against Asia’s elite sailing talent under the umbrella of the Oman Olympic Committee, both teams from Oman Sail narrowly missed out on podium positions against the very best sailors from across Asia

MUSCAT: The Oman National Sailing team concluded its campaign at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya with two highly-impressive performances. Competing against Asia's elite sailing talent under the umbrella of the Oman Olympic Committee, both teams from Oman Sail narrowly missed out on podium positions against the very best sailors from

across Asia but demonstrated their skill and progression across both youth and high-performance skiff teams. Making their Asian Games debut, the 29er Youth Team of Feras Haitham Al Nabhani and Tamim Sulieman Al Balushi secured an impressive fourth place finish. As a crew relatively new to the demanding 29er class, this milestone

result marks a significant achievement in their ongoing development and underscores their strong potential to compete for medals on the international stage in the future. In the high-performance 49er class, established duo Ahmed Gharreeb Al Hasani and Waleed Issa Al Kindi finished in fifth place. Facing a high-level international fleet, the team consistently showcased grit and tactical skill, reinforcing their position among the region's top skiff sailors. The team's preparations and campaign at the Games were made possible through the valued support of Gold Partner ELB&T Ltd company with their local strategic partner Al Ramooz National, whose ongoing collaboration plays a vital role in enabling Omani sailors to train, compete, and excel at major continental and global regattas. Abdul Aziz Salim Al Shidi, Mem-

ber of the Oman Maritime Sports Committee, expressed immense pride in the teams' achievements and outlook. He said, "The performances of both teams at the 2026 Asian Games represent another significant step forward for Omani sailing. For Feras and Tamim to earn fourth place in their first Asian Games appearance in the 29er class is an outstanding milestone that validates the work being done across our youth development programmes. Likewise, Ahmed and Waleed demonstrated true high-performance capability against a formidable 49er field. The top-tier competition experience gained here provides vital momentum as we continue refining our pathway toward future regional and international milestones, including our longer-term Olympic ambitions. We are also deeply grateful to ELB&T Ltd for their steadfast

partnership, which continues to empower our athletes to realise their potential." Dr. John (Young III) Kim, Group Chairman of ELB&T Ltd, and Mr. Ali Saheb, Chairman of AL Ramooz National LLC, said praised the athletes' dedication and progress, adding: " ELB&T Ltd and AL Ramooz National LLC are thrilled to celebrate the strong performances and inspiring determination of the Omani sailors at the 2026 Asian Games. Seeing both the 29er youth crew and the 49er team achieve such competitive finishes reflects the exceptional discipline, effort, and vision behind Oman Sail's development strategy. Supporting these talented athletes as they gain world-class experience aligns perfectly with our commitment to encouraging excellence and youth empowerment. We congratulate the entire delegation on a successful campaign and look forward to

standing alongside them in their future endeavours." Mr. Ali Saheb, Chairman of AL Ramooz National LLC, said: "We are proud of the determination and competitive performance shown by the Omani sailors at the Asian Games. Their results reflect their continued progress and the value of competing at the highest level. Our partnership reflects our commitment to supporting talented Omani youth and helping them gain the experience needed to achieve further success on the international stage." With invaluable high-pressure experience gained in Japan, Oman Sail remains focused on utilising these results to propel the next generation of sailors forward, honouring the nation's rich maritime legacy while continuing to build a world-class sailing pathway for teams to perform at the highest level.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Pakistan officially withdraw from WCL Season 3

NEW DELHI : Pakistan officially withdrew from the World Championship of Legends (WCL) Season 3 on Monday due to unforeseen circumstances, bringing an end to its participation in the tournament. After their opening match was postponed due to technical reasons, the Pakistan Champions officially announced their withdrawal from the ongoing 2026 season, bringing their campaign to an early end. "Pakistan Champions will not be participating in WCL Season 3 due to unforeseen circumstances. WCL Season 3 continues with six teams. The game is still on. The legends continue," as per a statement from WCL. The Pakistan Champions finished runners-up in the tournament's first two editions, losing to India in the 2024 final and South Africa in the 2025 summit clash. In the previous edition, India Champions players declined to take the field against Pakistan Champions, citing geopolitical tensions and public sentiment in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. India Champions refused to play their scheduled semi-final against Pakistan Champions in the 2025 WCL, allowing Pakistan Champions to advance directly to the final. The Indian squad, featuring former internationals such as Yu-



vraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Harbhajan Singh, Piyush Chawla, Yusuf Pathan, and Robin Uthappa, opted not to take the field amid tensions between the two countries. It was the second time in the tournament that India Cham-

pions withdrew from a fixture against Pakistan Champions. The two sides had initially been scheduled to meet in the group stage, but that match was also called off after India Champions declined to participate. -ANI

UNBEATEN RUN

China Open: Djokovic rallies past Zverev for record 32nd victory

BEIJING: Novak Djokovic extended his remarkable unbeaten run at the China Open to 32 matches here on Sunday, rallying past top seed Alexander Zverev 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 to claim a record once held by Rafael Nadal. The 39-year-old Serbian, a six-time China Open champion, began with two double faults in the opening game to drop serve, and Zverev won the first set 6-4. Though the German unleashed 19 aces, Djokovic broke him in the 10th game of each of the next two sets, sealing the contest on his second match point in two hours and 35 minutes. "This is probably one of the two best matches that I played this year, next to the one against Sinner in the semi-finals of the Australian Open. Just obviously very thrilled to win against probably the best player in the world at the moment," Djokovic said. The victory lifted Djokovic to 32-0 at the tournament, the best start by a men's singles player at a single event in the Open Era, surpassing Nadal, who had won his first 31 matches at Roland Garros. The Serbian will face fellow former world No. 1 Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals. Medvedev edged Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo 7-6 (4), 6-3 in the quarterfinals. Also in the men's draw, fifth seed Alex de Minaur shrugged off a crushing opening set to reel off 12 of the remaining 17 games and turn aside Russia's Andrey Rublev 1-6, 6-2, 6-3. Hubert Hurkacz edged



Karen Khachanov 7-6(2), 6-2 in one hour and 33 minutes. Women's second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus was knocked out in the third round, falling 6-4, 6-3 to 26th-seeded Nikola Pietrangeli as the women's event lost both its top-two seeds before the round of 16. The 20-year-old Czech, ranked 34th and making her tournament debut, broke in the opening game and saved all five break points she faced - all in the first set - before serving out the opener. She broke twice more in the second set and closed out the win in one hour and 35 minutes, avenging a three-set defeat to Sabalenka in Berlin in

June. Fourth seed Mirra Andreeva and fifth seed Linda Noskova eased into the women's round of 16 in straight sets. French Open champion Andreeva defeated Polina Kudermetova of Uzbekistan 6-4, 6-1 to set up a meeting with Ukraine's Daria Snigur. Wimbledon champion Noskova dropped only three games in a 6-2, 6-1 win over Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic to face Ekaterina Alexandrova in the next round. China's Zheng Qinwen and Sun Xinran will continue their campaigns in the top half of the women's draw, with Zheng facing Marie Bouzkova and Sun taking on world No. 4 Coco Gauff. -Xinhua

'HITMAN'

I personally would like Rohit to have more ODI hundreds than his age: Gavaskar

NEW DELHI: Legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar shared his thoughts on Rohit Sharma's 92-run knock against West Indies in the third and final ODI. Gavaskar expressed disappointment at India's star opener falling for 92, saying he wants the 'Hitman' to have more ODI centuries than his age when he eventually calls time on his international career. Gavaskar noted that a 36th ODI hundred would have brought Rohit closer to that milestone and reflected on his own desire to match his Test centuries with his age at retirement. Sharma has scored 35 centuries in ODI cricket so far. Team India clinched the three-match ODI series 2-1 despite losing the third and final ODI, as the West Indies successfully chased down 352,

powered by captain Shai Hope's unbeaten 162. In the third ODI against West Indies on Saturday, with captain Shubman Gill (1) and Virat Kohli (0) dismissed cheaply, the 'Hitman' once again rose to the occasion. Coming off a century in the second ODI, Rohit Sharma produced another commanding knock, smashing 92 off 85 balls, studded with 10 fours and three sixes. "The reason I was disappointed with Rohit getting out on 92 is that he didn't get a hundred, and he might possibly quit international cricket after the end of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027. And at that particular point of time, when he decides to call it a day, I personally would like Rohit to have more ODI hundreds than his age. Had he gotten a century in the third ODI, he would have



moved closer to achieving that feat with his 36th hundred. For me, it's a special thing when a player's hundreds outnumber his age at retirement. It shows the kind of career they have had and the standard they have kept for so many years.

That is why I really want Rohit to reach that mark. In my last year of international cricket, I wanted to get as many Test centuries as my age, and I got out in the 90s thrice. If I'd got those hundreds, then my centuries would have matched the age of my retirement, which was 38," Gavaskar said on JioStar. Gavaskar also noted a shift in Rohit Sharma's batting approach since the 2023 ODI World Cup, with the opener now placing greater value on preserving his wicket and converting starts into big scores. While he continues to score quickly, the change allows him to build towards centuries, which benefits India's scoring rate and shields him from criticism over slow batting. "A slight change has appeared in the batting template of Rohit that

he himself set as the captain for the 2023 ODI World Cup, where he was going bang-bang from the first ball, irrespective of the possibility of getting out sooner. Now he recognises that his wicket is valuable. In that 2023 World Cup, he got the team off to great starts, but he's not a batsman who will score just 30-40 runs. He's a hundred-maker! And therefore, I'm happy to see him score big runs. Yes, I know he missed out on a well-deserved ton in this match, but he got a hundred in the previous game. So, the fact that he's recognising that his job as a batter is also to get a hundred, and if he scores big, he gets a hundred in 70-80 deliveries, which is helpful for the team because that is a great scoring rate in a 50-over game and it also keeps him away from the social media critics of

slow batting," Gavaskar said. Rohit Sharma's golden patch continued during India's recent ODI assignments. Amid speculation that the third ODI against England at Lord's could be his final international appearance, having already retired from T20Is and Tests, the 'Hitman' responded in emphatic fashion. He smashed a sensational 138 off 110 balls, including 17 fours and five sixes, in India's 388-run chase, reminding everyone of his match-winning ability despite the team eventually falling short by 27 runs. Rohit finished the three-match England ODI series with 175 runs at an average of 58.33 and a strike rate of 98.31. He then carried that form into the ongoing ODI series against the West Indies, amassing 225 runs in three matches. -ANI

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$110.24. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$1.72 from the price of Friday, which was \$108.52. -ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7729.87 points, up by 0.68% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.71% at 634.28 points. Sohar Power, up 10%, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development & Investment Holding, down 8.45%, was the top loser.

Forum highlights investment potential around Oman’s airports

Civil Aviation

Investment Forum also addressed opportunities related to free zones and airport-related logistics services, in support of the objectives of the National Aviation Strategy 2040 linked to Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Investment Forum reviewed investment opportunities in the sector, the enhancement of partnership between the public and private sectors, and investment opportunities related to land development and the commercial and logistical activities surrounding Muscat, Salalah and Sohar airports, as well as enhancing their role as integrated economic hubs.

It also addressed opportunities related to free zones and airport-related logistics services, in support of the objectives of the National Aviation Strategy 2040 linked to Oman Vision 2040.

The forum was organised on Monday by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at its headquarters in Muscat, with the participation of a number of government entities, operators, investors and small



diversification and supporting the objectives of the National Aviation Strategy 2040.

A number of agreements and memoranda of understanding were inked during the event. The Civil Aviation Authority signed a concession agreement with Oman Airports for the operation, management and development of Muscat International Airport, Salalah Airport and Sohar Airport for a period of 35 years. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Authority by Eng. Naif Ali Al Abri, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, and on behalf of the Company by Haitham Nasser Al Taie, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Oman Airports.

The agreement aims to manage the civil airports of the Sultanate of Oman in accordance with the best global practices in the management of air facilities and ground services, to ensure the highest levels of safety and security, and to transform the airports into integrated logistical and commercial hubs that support economic diversification and are consistent with Oman Vision 2040. It also aims to develop the traveler experience

for Aviation, for cooperation in training students of Oman Aviation Academy.

In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed between GMF AeroAsia and Mac Aerospace International to develop business in the fields of aircraft, wheel and brake maintenance and training, thereby enhancing strategic cooperation between the two sides and supporting the development of these fields.

The forum includes a review of operation and foreign investment opportunities in the Omani airports system and investment models in emerging technologies and advanced air mobility (AAM), as well as efforts to redesign and improve the investor experience in the aviation sector, simplify procedures and enhance integration among relevant entities.

The forum also focuses on investment in human resources by reviewing models in training, qualification and national capacity building, in line with the sector's future needs and in support of the readiness of national competencies.

The forum featured a panel discussion entitled “Investment in the Civil Aviation Sector: Opportunities and Enablers,” which addressed the investor's journey from discovering the opportunity to establishing and operating the project, and the role of capital, partnerships and national competencies in enabling investments in the sector.

The session addressed a number of themes, including: from opportunity to operation – the investor's journey; capital and partnership – who invests and how; and national competencies as an enabler of investment, along with a quick overview entitled “One Step 2030,” which reviews the practical steps that can contribute to enhancing investment in the aviation sector. -ONA

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING SERVICES

Financial Services Authority warns audit firm for violating professional standards

MUSCAT: Following the identification and documentation of shortcomings in several audit procedures, the Financial Services Authority (FSA), represented by the Professional Conduct Committee, issued a warning to “Account for Accounting and Auditing Services” for the failure of certain audit files to meet the required professional standards. The observations included the adequacy of audit evidence and the documentation of the nature and extent of procedures performed during audit engagements, in contravention of the principles governing the accounting and auditing profession and the requirements of the applicable International Standards on Auditing. The Committee also decided to require the two owners of the office, within a period of three months,



to implement several regulatory directives aimed at enhancing professional competence and improving the quality of the office's work, thereby ensuring compliance with the provisions of the law and international standards and raising the standard of professional practice in accounting and auditing activities

SECURED FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Oman’s central bank raises OMR19.7 million through treasury bills

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR19.7 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills include OMR16 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.979 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.975 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.09497% and 4.13721%, respectively.

Additionally, treasury bills amounting to OMR3.7 million for a maturity period of 182 days was also allotted on Monday. The average accepted price reached OMR98.016 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR97.925 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.97847% and 4.05905%, 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% while the discount rate on the treasury bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.00%.

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



INVESTING IN PEOPLE

PDO celebrates graduation of 366 job seekers under Emdad programme

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) celebrated on Monday in Muscat the graduation of the 21st batch of the Emdad programme, which comprises 366 Omani youths among its graduates. The graduation ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaiddi, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth.

The implementation of this programme comes through a partnership between Petroleum Development Oman and the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), with the participation of a number of private sector contracting companies, embodying the shared commitment to developing national capabilities, increasing job opportunities for Omani youth in the labour market, and supporting in-country value (ICV) in the energy sector.



The programme combines theoretical qualification of national competencies with practical experience in the workplace environment, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills required by the sector and preparing them to enter the labour market.

Dr. Aflah Said Al Hadhrami, Director General of Petroleum Development Oman, said: “At PDO, we believe that investing in people is an investment in the future of Oman, and our youth, with their ambition and competence, are the cornerstone of this future. It is

our responsibility to provide them with opportunities that hone their skills, enrich their experiences, and enable them to build successful careers.”

Al Hadhrami explained that this programme is held within an integrated system for in-country value

at Petroleum Development Oman, which includes empowering and employing Omani talent, supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and localising domestic industries, thereby contributing to creating sustainable economic value within the Sultanate of Oman. Over the past ten years, the direct economic value generated by the company's in-country value programme reached more than OMR7 billion and contributed to providing over 17,500 job opportunities for Omanis, reflecting the impact of these initiatives in supporting economic and social development and building national capabilities.

This batch of the Emdad programme included several specialised disciplines required in the Omani energy sector, namely the Health, Safety and Environment

(HSE) Professionals Training for Employment Programme, the Planning Engineering Training for Employment Programme, the Lifting Equipment Inspection Training for Employment Programme, the Practical Training Programme with Contracting Partners, the Vocational Apprenticeship Programme, the Drilling Fluids Engineers Programme, the Explosion Protection Equipment Inspectors Programme, the Electrical Technicians Programme, and the Mobile Crane Operators Programme.

It is worth noting that all graduates of this 21st batch have joined employment across 54 companies, embodying the direct impact of the program in linking qualification with employment opportunities and supplying the sector with qualified national competencies. -ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Sohar Power, up 10%, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development & Investment Holding, down 8.45%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7729.87 points, up by 0.68% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.71% at 634.28 points. Sohar Power, up 10%, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development & Investment Holding, down 8.45%, was the top loser.

Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 12,156 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 75.07 million, with more than 242.94 million shares changing hands.

Out of 78 traded securities, 38 advanced, 21 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 967K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 687K, followed by foreign investors for RO 309K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,797.44 points, up 0.49%. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, Oman United Insurance, Al Madina Investment Holding, Takaful Oman, and Muscat Insurance were up by 5.28%, 4.69%, 3.66%, 3.39%, and 2.06% respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development, Oman & Emirates Investment Holding, Liva group, Al Sharqiya Investment Holding, and Sohar International bank were down by 8.45%, 4.07%, 2.86%, 1.92%, and 0.52% respectively.



Industrial Index closed at 10,172.58 points, up 0.08%. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Muscat Thread Mills, Omifco, Voltamp Energy and Oman Flour Mills were up by 3.64%, 2.97%, 2.60%, 1.61%, and 1.55% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, ASaffa Foods, Gulf International Chemicals, Raysut Cement, and Oman Cables Industry were down by 4.09%, 1.81%, 1.39%, 0.53%, and 0.15% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.89% before closing at 3,111.07 points. Prices of Sohar Power, ONEIC, Asyad Shipping, Barka Desalination, and OQEP were up by 10.00%, 7.43%, 4.46%, 3.68%, and 2.73% respectively. Prices of Oman Oil Marketing, SMN Power, National Gas, Muscat City Desalination, and Renaissance Services were down by 5.71%, 2.63%, 2.44%, 1.08%, and 0.72% respectively. -United Securities

OMAN STOCKS									
MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE									
INDICES									
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%			
MSX 30 INDEX	7,746.29	7,675.13	7,729.87	7,677.90	51.97	0.68%			
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,801.43	13,696.65	13,797.44	13,730.76	66.69	0.49%			
Industry Index	10,209.25	10,137.30	10,172.58	10,164.55	8.04	0.08%			
Services Index	3,118.31	3,083.57	3,111.07	3,083.57	27.50	0.89%			
MSX Shariah Index	635.49	629.59	634.28	629.81	4.47	0.71%			
MSX TR INDEX	12,009.76	11,899.43	11,984.30	11,903.73	80.57	0.68%			
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,968.14	16,839.32	16,963.24	16,881.25	81.99	0.49%			
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	13,075.45	12,983.31	13,028.50	13,018.20	10.29	0.08%			
SERVICES TR IDX	4,186.93	4,140.29	4,177.21	4,140.29	36.92	0.89%			
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		
242,941,981	75,074,508	12,156	39,729,244,224	38	21	19	78		

MSX DAILY BULLETIN AS ON 05/10/2026

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENG G & INVESTMENT	21,100	3,213	5	0.150	0.159	0.148	0.159	0.148	0.011	7.432	0.159	0.152	0.158	0.100	23,850,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,000	333	2	0.330	0.335	0.330	0.335	0.330	0.005	1.498	0.335	0.310	0.335	0.100	35,175,000
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	7,285,546	1,695,989	993	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.234	0.234	0.000	4.464	0.234	0.202	0.234	0.000	218,846,162
OM0000000870	BARKA DESALINATION	100	17	1	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.163	0.006	3.681	0.169	0.165	0.170	0.100	12,763,218
OM0000000979	QO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	26,341,735	12,713,806	991	0.478	0.496	0.475	0.490	0.477	0.013	2.725	0.490	0.489	0.490	0.010	3,920,000,000
OM0000000961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	2,673,563	546,697	104	0.189	0.191	0.187	0.189	0.186	0.003	1.813	0.189	0.188	0.189	0.010	189,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	61,849	15,600	29	0.252	0.255	0.252	0.255	0.251	0.004	1.594	0.255	0.253	0.255	0.100	10,924,963
OM0000000267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	5,458	2,699	10	0.491	0.495	0.491	0.495	0.488	0.007	1.434	0.495	0.495	0.500	0.100	24,919,477
OM0000000125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	1,116,755	416,701	47	0.375	0.380	0.370	0.380	0.375	0.005	1.333	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	76,000,000
OM0000000420	BANK NIZWA	74,293	11,625	16	0.156	0.158	0.155	0.158	0.156	0.002	1.282	0.158	0.155	0.158	0.100	353,438,579
OM0000000398	OOREDOO	49,625	15,847	23	0.317	0.320	0.317	0.320	0.316	0.004	1.266	0.320	0.316	0.320	0.100	208,302,154
OM0000000274	UNITED FINANCE	33,651	2,958	4	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.100	30,983,075
OM0000000478	MADINA TAKAFUL	167,730	18,747	40	0.111	0.113	0.110	0.112	0.111	0.001	0.901	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.100	19,600,000
OM0000000296	BANK MUSCAT	39,438,912	16,630,610	1,210	0.422	0.427	0.421	0.425	0.422	0.003	0.711	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.100	3,190,218,751
OM0000000593	PHOENIX POWER	1,330,154	379,273	122	0.285	0.289	0.283	0.287	0.285	0.002	0.702	0.287	0.286	0.288	0.100	419,766,619
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	851,851	194,533	437	0.216	0.218	0.216	0.217	0.216	0.001	0.463	0.217	0.216	0.217	0.100	659,036,281
OM00000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	14,554,570	3,251,839	1,760	0.222	0.225	0.222	0.223	0.222	0.001	0.450	0.223	0.223	0.224	0.100	965,729,134
OM00000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	33,243,737	8,760,318	2,047	0.263	0.265	0.262	0.264	0.263	0.001	0.380	0.264	0.264	0.269	0.040	913,305,584
OM00000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	810,053	231,554	63	0.285	0.288	0.285	0.285	0.284	0.001	0.352	0.285	0.285	0.286	0.100	272,053,006
OM00000001509	DHOFAH INTL DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	98,399	28,573	20	0.285	0.285	0.280	0.280	0.289	0.001	0.346	0.285	0.293	0.293	0.100	143,856,281
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,398,217	6,025,061	131	1.368	1.371	1.364	1.370	1.367	0.003	0.219	1.370	1.503	1.370	0.100	1,027,500,000
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	5,106	4,774	1	0.935	0.935	0.935	0.933	0.933	0.002	0.214	0.935	0.915	0.935	0.100	116,779,593
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	540,700	268,024	9	0.492	0.492	0.492	0.492	0.492	0.000	0.000	0.492	0.492	0.492	0.100	799,965,607
OM00000001533	OMINVEST	4,613	1,849	2	0.400	0.403	0.400	0.403	0.403	0.000	0.000	0.403	0.403	0.415	0.100	452,510,128
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,240	6,595	2	0.645	0.645	0.644	0.644	0.644	0.000	0.000	0.644	0.644	0.644	0.100	213,082,025
OM00000004925	ALBATTINAH POWER	639,194	128,125	24	0.200	0.202	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.197	0.200	0.100	134,977,486
OM00000004923	AL SUWADI POWER	427,845	85,764	25	0.200	0.204	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.196	0.201	0.100	142,861,268
OM00000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	3,000	10,310	5	3.440	3.440	3.435	3.435	3.440	-0.005	-0.145	3.435	3.500	3.435	0.100	308,119,500
OM00000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODCTS MKRGT	1,100	1,378	1	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.255	-0.005	-0.398	1.250	1.223	1.255	0.100	86,250,000
OM00000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	66,442,169	12,700,028	1,678	0.191	0.192	0.191	0.191	0.192	0.001	0.521	0.191	0.191	0.191	0.100	1,496,117,084
OM00000008934	ABUJARI ENERGY SERVICES	4,919,451	2,050,965	701	0.418	0.424	0.411	0.414	0.417	-0.003	-0.719	0.414	0.416	0.414	0.100	318,862,800
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	94,601	25,923	21	0.275	0.275	0.273	0.274	0.276	-0.002	-0.725	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.100	64,776,340
OM00000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	9,194	4,482	13	0.705	0.705	0.705	0.705	0.718	-0.013	-1.811	0.705	0.705	0.705	0.100	84,600,000
OM00000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	15,000	1,530	2	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.104	-0.002	-1.923	0.102	0.101	0.104	0.100	8,180,000
OM00000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	6,000	1,110	8	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.190	-0.005	-2.633	0.185	0.185	0.190	0.100	36,992,586
OM00000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	269,835	31,864	26	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.118	0.123	-0.005	-4.065	0.118	0.119	0.122	0.100	15,100,313
OM00000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	504,100	460,205	3	1.450	1.450	1.320	1.320	1.400	-0.080	-5.714	1.320	1.320	1.450	0.100	80,893,000
Total		37	206,449,396	66,881,893	10,576											

Parallel Market

OM00000003711	SOHAR POWER	100	21	1	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.190	0.019	10.000	0.209	0.190	0.209	0.100	4,180,000
OM00000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,185,298	416,788	184	0.341	0.370	0.341	0.359	0.341	0.018	5.279	0.359	0.354	0.359	0.100	718,984,857
OM00000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	517,263	43,559	66	0.082	0.086	0.081	0.085	0.082	0.003	3.659	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	3,663,500
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	20,112	5,705	8	0.275	0.285	0.275	0.285	0.275	0.010	3.636	0.285	0.280	0.285	0.100	15,675,000
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	28,445	1,701	9	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.061	0.059	0.002	3.390	0.061	0.059	0.061	0.100	15,250,000
OM00000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	25,848	6,209	4	0.239	0.243	0.239	0.243	0.236	0.007	2.966	0.243	0.243	0.245	0.100	4,496,678
OM00000001151	OMIFCO	29,557,066	6,926,383	838	0.231	0.237	0.231	0.237	0.231	0.006	2.597	0.237	0.238	0.237	0.000	1,585,381,875
OM00000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	374	184	2	0.490	0.495	0.490	0.495	0.485	0.010	2.062	0.495	0.490	0.495	1.000	5,457,398
OM00000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	20,000	2,280	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.112	0.002	1.786	0.114	0.112	0.118	0.100	32,340,749
OM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,000	1,178	1	0.589	0.589	0.589	0.589	0.580	0.009	1.552	0.589	0.535	0.589	0.100	102,276,169
OM00000002947	DHOOFAR GENERATING	2,000	1,183	2	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.363	0.082	0.078	0.081	0.100	18,223,660
OM00000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	542	33	2	0.097	0.097	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	6,653,840
OM00000004847	OMAN REIT FUND	13,156	1,405	7	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	90,064,033
OM00000001997	MAJAN COLLEGE	42,468	5,739	8	0.136	0.136	0.135	0.136	0.133	0.001	0.741	0.136	0.136	0.147	0.100	13,464,000
OM00000002186	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,232,199	367,510	145	0.166	0.168	0.162	0.164	0.163	0.001	0.613	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.100	36,080,000
OM00000001823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	6,130	6,492	3	1.055	1.060	1.055	1.055	1.049	0.006	0.572	1.055	1.055	1.060	0.000	28,933,208
OM00000001078	MUSCAT GASES	396	55	1	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.127	0.139	0.100	4,170,000
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	60,000	4,023	4	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.066	0.068	0.100	20,885,950
OM00000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	6,000	1,368	4	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	0.000	0.228	0.227	0.228	0.100	7,395,376
OM00000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	31,000	5,236	6	0.168	0.169	0.168	0.169	0.169	0.000	0.000	0.169	0.156	0.169	0.100	12,084,994
OM00000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	58,532	12,642	10	0.216	0.216	0.215	0.216	0.216	0.000	0.000	0.216	0.214	0.216	0.100	140,550,200
OM00000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	150	26	1	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.165	0.180	0.100	17,115,378
OM00000003710	AMAN REAL ESTATE	74,615	5,074	11	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	13,600,000
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	520	403	5	0.179	0.179	0.177	0.177	0.179	0.004	-0.513	0.175	0.175	0.177	0.100	73,625,000
OM00000000886	THE PEARL REEF	5,138	925	5	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.179	0.180	-0.001	-0.556	0.179	0.179	0.180	0.100	105,867,202
OM00000002695	JARALI REEF	34,000	3,637	3	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.106	-0.001	-0.001	0.107	0.105	0.117	0.100	16,117,111
OM00000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	32,254	2,983	7	0.093	0.094	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.099	0.100	14,610,637
OM00000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	61,982	4,351	10	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.398	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	14,910,000
OM00000001190	NATIONAL GAS	334,520	40,320	61	0.120	0.123	0.119	0.120	0.123	-0.003	-2.439	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.100	10,200,000
OM00000000743	LIVA GROUP	1,350	452	3	0.325	0.340	0.325	0.340	0.350	-0.010	-2.857	0.340	0.325	0.348	0.100	135,447,276
OM00000003321	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,691,522	282,257	124	0.168	0.173	0.164	0.164	0.171	-0.007	-4.094	0.164	0.164	0.171	0.100	33,289,777
Total		31	36,044,780	8,149,099	1,534											



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AT HYDERABAD HOUSE

Indian PM Modi, Swiss President Guy Parmelin hold bilateral talks

NEW DELHI: Swiss President Guy Parmelin on Monday held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House, continuing his high-level engagements in New Delhi.

Earlier in the day, President Parmelin attended a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, accompanied by his wife, Caroline Parmelin.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called on the visiting Swiss leader. Detailing the engagement in a post on X, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stated, "Pleased to call on President Guy Parmelin @ParmelinG of the Swiss Confederation, visiting India on a State Visit. Deeply appreciate President Parmelin's sentiments towards deepening our partnership, building on the promise of India-EFTA TEPA. Confident that his meeting with PM @narendramodi will further our engagement across a wide range of domains." Building upon these warm diplomatic exchanges, Swiss Confederation President Guy Parmelin stated on Monday that his visit serves as a "stepping stone" towards fortifying the "close and long-standing partnership" binding the two countries.

Marking the formal commencement of his itinerary, President Parmelin received an official ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, where he was greeted cordially upon arrival by President Droupadi Murmu alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi. —ANI

German and US scientists win Nobel Prize in medicine

The trio won the award for their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics, which combines the methods of optics and genetics to create a form of non-invasive stimulation of neurons

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine 2026 has gone to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel, the academy announced on Monday.

The trio won the award for their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics, which combines the methods of optics and genetics to create a form of non-invasive stimulation of neurons.

The Nobel Assembly said that optogenetics has fundamentally altered our understanding of the brain, as researchers have been "able to reveal neural circuits governing specific memories, feelings, and behaviours relevant



for neurological and psychiatric disorders."

"The impact of optogenetics extends far beyond understanding the healthy brain, it has also helped revealed how brain circuits are disrupted, with implications for conditions such as blindness, depression, addiction and dementia," Abdel El Manira, Nobel committee member and professor of neuroscience, said after the announcement was made.

In clinical medicine, re-

searchers are using the method in attempts to restore sight in people with visual impairment. Researchers hope that the field could lead to treatments for neurological and sensory disorders such as Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

Who are the winners?

Hegemann is considered to be the leading expert in photo-biology and one of the founding fathers of optogenetics. He is a professor

of neuroscience at the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.

Georg Nagel is a biophysicist and professor at of neuro-physiology at the University of Würzburg, Germany. Karl Deisseroth is a professor of bioengineering and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University in the US.

The trio came together as Hegemann explored how a single-celled type of green algae could swim toward light. He and Nagel discovered a particular protein that, when illuminated by blue light, opens a channel to create an electrical impulse. Putting that protein into other cells makes them light-sensitive.

Deisseroth then joined in to work with the gene that controls that protein to create a light-controlled switch for nerve cells in the brains of living mice.

Medicine is the first of Nobels announced this week

The award for medicine is the first Nobel prize to be awarded this week, with laureates set to be named in physics, chemistry, literature and peace in the days up to Friday.

Last year's prize was awarded jointly to Mary Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell of the United States and Shimun Sakaguchi of Japan for "for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance."

The prizes will be presented at ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden on December 10.

Each prize carries a cash award of 12 million Swedish kronor, which is equivalent to just over €1 million or \$1.2 million.

The Nobel Assembly said this method, now known as optogenetics, has rapidly gained global impact and has enabled researchers to identify neural circuits associated with specific memories, feelings and behaviours relevant to neurological and psychiatric disorders.

"Optogenetics provides opportunities for mapping the brain in a way that we could once only dream of," Per Svenningsson, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine, said, according to the press release.

Researchers are also using optogenetics in attempts to restore sight in people with visual impairment.

Deisseroth was born in 1971, Hegemann in 1954 and Nagel in 1953. The prize-winning discoveries were made at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Martinsried and the Max Planck Institute for Biophysics in Frankfurt, according to the release.

— Agencies

FRANCE

Hundreds of schools closed amid protests

PARIS: Several hundred schools in France closed totally or partially on Monday amid security fears following a wave of nationwide student protests, the education minister has said.

The protests by pupils complaining of poor conditions began at one Paris school on September 17 but last week mutated into sometimes violent demonstrations across the nation.

Education Minister Edouard Geffray said on Sunday that lessons would be totally or partly suspended in some 400 to 500 high schools on Monday, as the security conditions "have not been fulfilled."

According to Geffray, the schools were being closed mainly as a precaution, with more large protests planned for Tuesday.

Geffray said the number of schools remaining closed on Monday would be similar to that on Friday but that there was



planned to be a "partial, progressive return to lessons."

He said 24 schools had been "burned or ransacked" and 78 education staff members injured since the protests began.

"There are activists — particularly from the far left — who have infiltrated the high school student movement, hijacked it from the students themselves, and engaged in extreme violence," Geffray said.

"Clearly, this poses a risk to both our staff and our students," he added. —DW

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

California heat wave breaks records, raises wildfire and smoke concerns

LOS ANGELES: A prolonged heat wave continued across California over the weekend, breaking daily high-temperature records at multiple locations, while hot and dry conditions and wildfire smoke added to health and fire risks across parts of the state, according to the US National Weather Service (NWS) and state authorities.

A preliminary report from the NWS San Diego office said eight daily high-temperature records were broken and one was tied on Oct. 3 across Orange, San Diego and Riverside counties.

Santa Ana in Orange County reached 41.7 degrees Celsius, about 2.8 degrees above the previous record for Oct. 3 set in 2014, while Vista in San Diego County reached 42.2 degrees, according to the report.

San Diego International Airport reached 40.6 degrees, breaking a daily record that had stood



since 1987. The temperature was about 16.1 degrees above normal for the date, according to an NWS climate report.

Farther north, Napa Airport reached 35.6 degrees, breaking its previous Oct. 3 record of 34.4 degrees, according to the NWS San Francisco Bay Area office. In northern Nevada, Winnemucca Airport reached 32.2 degrees,

breaking its previous daily record set in 2024, according to the NWS Elko office.

The NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard office described the episode as a major and long-lasting heat wave and said unusually high temperatures were expected to persist through the coming week.

More than 34 million Californians were under heat warnings

or advisories.

Extreme Heat Warnings remained in effect through Thursday evening in parts of Southern California, including San Diego and the coasts and valleys of Los Angeles and Ventura counties and parts of Santa Barbara County.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) website listed several active incidents on Sunday, including the Bouquet Fire in Los Angeles County, which had burned 1,048 acres and was 40 percent contained, and the Dome Fire in Mariposa County, which had burned 6,826 acres and was 40 percent contained.

Across California, CAL FIRE reported 5,701 wildfires and 328,950 acres burned in 2026, with three fatalities and 157 structures destroyed.

The figures are preliminary and subject to frequent updates.

— DW

IN WEST BANK

A home in ashes, a livelihood lost amid settler attacks

RAMALLAH: With a pale face and eyes heavy with sorrow, 60-year-old Mahmoud Tubasi stands every day on the roof of his father's house in Jalud village, northern West Bank, gazing at his two burned homes from afar.

The houses, once clad in Jerusalem stone, a natural white limestone widely used in Palestinian construction, are now blackened by fire -- scars that will never fade from his and his wife's hearts.

"My wife's condition is very bad. She has suffered a mental breakdown and has hallucinations every day," Tubasi said. After a long pause, he added that he himself had lately been having nightmares of settlers attacking him.

The nightmare began when he tried to return home a few days ago.

On Sept. 29, Tubasi and his family, escorted by the Israeli army, returned to their home south of Jalud after more than 70 days away. Before the soldiers left, settlers arrived -- and set their home on fire.

The army put Tubasi and his wife in a jeep and drove them to a spot 100 metres away.



Speaking of the fire, Tubasi stared at the ground, his voice low: "My wife was crying beside me. I felt something stuck in my chest. I jumped out of the car window to stop this madness, but the Israeli army took us away from the scene."

Tubasi's family had built their home brick by brick over three years, at a cost of about 500,000 new shekels (about \$163,500).

Recalling their past life, a fleetingly smile crossed his face.

"The air was fresh, and we could

see the mountains in Jordan and, on clear days, Jericho," he said. "Our family was once the envy of the village."

"But in July this year, settlers occupied my house. I squeezed into my father's two-storey house with

my wife and daughter, and my two sons were forced to move away — one to Ramallah and the other to Kafr Yasif," Tubasi said, his eyes brimming with tears.

Tubasi later saw photos of his burned home: settlers had placed tires inside to start the fire, burning the house to the ground and leaving behind only a scarred shell.

In the West Bank, settler violence has intensified. UN data shows that in 2026 alone, about 3,800 Palestinians have been displaced by settler violence, house demolitions and evictions. More than 1,430 incidents involving Israeli settlers have been recorded this year, affecting about 260 Palestinian communities.

Tubasi lost not only his property but also about 26 dunams (about 2.6 hectares) of land — his only source of income. "The harvest season is approaching, and the trees are full of olives, but no one dares to pick them."

"I planted about 350 olive trees. Settlers cut down more than half of them, chopped down the fig and apricot trees, and uprooted the grapevines. Even the metal fence and gate I installed in the orchard

were dismantled. Nothing was left," he said.

Jalud village, located southwest of Nablus with an area of only 1,580 hectares, is almost surrounded by settlements and outposts. Tubasi's home faces a newly built settlement across a valley, at a straight-line distance of only about one kilometer.

Tubasi said Jalud had enjoyed relative calm despite nearby settlements until January, when an outpost known as Ras al-Ain appeared. A road linking the outpost to a nearby settlement runs past his home, and harassment intensified afterward.

Data from the Palestinian official body, the Wall and Settlement Resistance Committee, shows that Nablus Governorate recorded 900 settler attacks in the first half of 2026, the highest among West Bank governorates; in August alone, the governorate saw 137 attacks.

"This is not just about the house. They want to seize the whole land. They do not recognise us as the legal owners and believe the land belongs to them," Tubasi added.

— Xinhua



LIFESTYLE

WHY FARMERS

ARE PARING CROPS

WITH SOLAR PANELS

From cooler soil to paid grazing land, farmers in the US are finding that solar panels can do more than generate power

Traditionally, solar panel farms are quiet — save for the faint hum of the inverter. But on about one in 10 of American solar farms, there's a new sound reverberating through fields: baaaa.

Letting sheep roam under solar panels is just one of many forms of a burgeoning strategy called agrivoltaics, where crops grow or livestock graze in tandem with renewable energy infrastructure.

It's not only of potential benefit for the animals, which get additional shade. The panels can also protect crops from the elements as well as divert water to them, creating cooler, damper conditions that even boost yields.

And even the solar panels themselves tend to respond well to this co-existence — as the cooler they are, the more electricity they produce per watt of sunlight.

"Having concrete or something underneath the solar panels — you're going to have lower efficiency than having something like plants that are transpiring and cooling off on the land surface," Carl Bernacchi, professor of plant biology and crop sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, told DW.

While the potential is enormous, especially as climate change puts more and more heat stress on agriculture, the practice is still in its infancy. In Europe, if agrivoltaics were implemented on just 1% of available agricultural land, the continent could exceed its solar energy targets for 2030.

But uptake has been slow: agrivoltaics represents just 18.4 gigawatts of energy worldwide as of mid-2025, less than 1% of the world's solar capacity.

What thrives under the panels

The idea for agrivoltaics dates back to 1981, when two German scientists published an article titled "Kartoffeln unter dem Kollektor" (or "Potatoes beneath the collector"). But the first pilot project didn't begin until 2004 in Japan, a land-constrained

country, where there's particular concern over balancing solar deployment with the protection of farmland.

There are three main types of agrivoltaics: horizontal, where panels look directly up at the sky, vertical, where they're placed in large rows, perpendicular to the ground, and integrated, often installed atop greenhouses.

Research suggests shade-tolerant crops stand to benefit. That includes berries, grapes and tomatoes — where the panels' steel framing often doubles as trellises — as well as peaches and peppers.

The panels can also prevent water from fully evaporating, creating a more humid microclimate that benefits the soil — though humidity is a double-edged sword, sometimes introducing plant disease.

Sheep have also proven to be a particularly good match. Compared to cattle or goats, they're generally easier to manage around solar infrastructure, less likely to damage equipment, and small enough to fit comfortably beneath panels. The practice has other sustainability upsides too: sheep manure fertilizes the soil, and sites require less herbicide.

"If we look at the sheep industry, this has been a real paradigm shift for them, where instead of having to pay to lease land to graze their animals — now they're actually getting paid to graze," said Austin Kinzer, an agrivoltaics specialist at the American Farmland Trust conservation movement.

"So it completely puts the economics on its head and is a huge opportunity for the sheep industry, which is really struggling in the US pretty much since World War II."

A double climate win

Agrioltaics sit at a rare intersection of climate mitigation (cutting emissions) and adaptation (adjusting to a warming planet).

"It is both, which is pretty unique as far as climate solutions go," Kinzer said.

The practice offers one answer to where solar panels could go, helping to produce cheaper and more efficient energy, while also benefiting crops that might struggle due to rising temperatures or volatile weather.

And research suggests that climate change will only make regions grow drier, "broadening areas where agrivoltaics can mitigate crop yield penalties (even boosting yield) and improve overall profitability," writer-researchers in a journal article for Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

A dual-income stream can also offer farmers some insurance should temperature or weather knock out a season's plantings.

"Being able to have that alternate form of income, it's massive for folks who are depending on weather to make their living that is becoming



increasingly more extreme and varied," Kinzer said.

Not every farm benefits

So why has adoption been so slow?

"In theory, it's a win-win scenario," Bernacchi said. "But of course, with any technologies, there are always caveats and issues."

One reason is that agrivoltaics don't work everywhere. In America's arid West, where heat stress and less available water can threaten crops, yields stayed the same or even rose under panels. In the humid Midwest, on the other hand, panel shading limited photosynthesis and led to reduced yields in maize and soybeans.

For cash crops, where there's a very small margin for profit, even a minor reduction in yield is a no-go for many farmers.

Then there's the expense. For solar producers, every added inch to mount panels higher means more labor and steel costs. And farmers might need to find new equipment or change methods to adapt to a new system.

"Farmers want to learn from other farmers," said Kinzer, who works with farmers across the US to see how agrivoltaics are being adopted. "They want to hear from folks who are doing it. And so there's a little bit of a chicken-and-the-egg problem for farmers: In most cases, they can't just go across the street or into the next county over and see a project like this and talk to the farmers doing it."

Bridging the divide between farmers and solar

Solar power's land footprint has made it controversial in certain communities — some farming associations have protested converting farmland into acres of solar panels, arguing their members cease to be farmers and become energy producers instead.

It's a tension agrivoltaics helps to address.

One survey found that more than 80% of Americans would be more likely to support solar development in their community, if it allowed for the co-production of energy and agriculture — about 10% more than those that support solar development in general.

"There's this cultural conflict between the farmers who want to farm and the solar companies that want to produce electricity," Bernacchi said. "And agrivoltaics really does bill itself as sort of a middle ground. You can still farm and still get the electricity from the same land." -bw



SPORTS

Verstappen wins F1 Bahrain GP in Malaysia, Antonelli extends title lead

Verstappen, who started from pole position, recovered from a poor start to finish 2.3 seconds ahead of Antonelli, securing Red Bull's first victory with its own power unit



SEPANG: Max Verstappen claimed his first victory of the 2026 Formula 1 season in a rain-hit Bahrain Grand Prix at Malaysia's Sepang International Circuit on Sunday, while championship leader Kimi Antonelli took a major step toward his maiden world title after Mercedes teammate George Russell retired late in the race.

Verstappen, who started from pole position, recovered from a poor start to finish 2.3 seconds ahead of Antonelli, securing Red

Bull's first victory with its own power unit. Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton completed the podium after a remarkable recovery from a disastrous early tyre gamble.

The race, relocated from Bahrain to Malaysia because of unrest in the Middle East, was delayed by more than 90 minutes following torrential rain and a series of technical problems during the formation laps.

The conditions also represented

unfamiliar territory for the entire field, with the race marking the first time the new generation of F1 cars had been driven in significantly wet conditions. Introduced at the start of 2026 under sweeping new technical regulations, the cars had previously encountered little opportunity for teams and drivers to assess their behavior in sustained heavy rain.

Several cars, including Verstappen and Hamilton, slowed dra-

matically during the formation procedure, apparently because of a software issue caused by low-speed running in wet conditions. The resulting confusion over the starting order raised questions about race control's handling of an unprecedented situation.

When racing finally began, both front-row starters lost ground. Mercedes pair Antonelli and Russell swept into first and second, while Verstappen initially

struggled to capitalize on his pole position. Hamilton's afternoon appeared ruined almost immediately. The seven-time world champion, along with teammate Charles Leclerc and the two McLarens, gambled on starting on soft slick tyres despite the circuit remaining wet, while the Mercedes and Red Bull pair started on intermediates.

The decision proved costly, with Hamilton and the other slick-shod drivers tumbling down the order and losing almost a minute to the leaders in the opening laps.

Verstappen, meanwhile, recovered to challenge the Mercedes drivers and eventually overtook Antonelli following a safety car period, establishing control of the race as conditions improved.

The Dutchman's victory came after he had won the previous F1 race at Sepang in 2017, before the Malaysian Grand Prix disappeared from the calendar. "It's a really nice one after the year that we've had and the progression that we've made," Verstappen said. "I'm incredibly proud of everyone."

Hamilton's fortunes improved as the circuit dried. Having remained on slick tyres, he steadily recovered through the field before a late safety car allowed him to switch back to soft tyres.

He subsequently overtook Red

Bull's Isack Hadjar for third with three laps remaining, completing an unlikely podium finish.

The decisive championship development came when Russell, running third, suffered a suspected power unit failure five laps from the finish. His retirement allowed Antonelli to extend his championship lead from 66 to 84 points, dealing a potentially decisive blow to his teammate's title ambitions.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished fourth ahead of Hadjar, with McLaren's Oscar Piastri sixth and Liam Lawson seventh for Racing Bulls.

Fernando Alonso scored his and Aston Martin's best result of the season with eighth, ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris and Lawson's teammate Arvid Lindblad.

Verstappen's victory underlined Red Bull's recent resurgence following a difficult start to the season, with the team's latest aerodynamic upgrades having delivered a significant improvement in performance. The Dutchman is the sixth different Grand Prix winner so far in 2026, with Red Bull the fourth different team to have tasted victory this year.

The next round of the 2026 Formula 1 season is the Singapore Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit on October 12. *-Xinhua*

AICHI-NAGOYA

China set sight on Los Angeles after record 169 golds at Asian Games



NAGOYA: China delivered an outstanding performance at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and accomplished its mission of preparing for the Los Angeles Olympics, Zhang Xin, secretary-general of the Chinese delegation, said in a statement on Sunday.

China topped both the gold and the overall medal table for the 12th consecutive Asian Games, winning 169 golds, 89 silvers and 83 bronzes for a total of 341 medals, a record gold-medal haul for China at an Asian Games held outside China. Zhang noted the delegation's performance in Nagoya showed four main characteristics.

Zhang said China's leading position in Asian sport was further consolidated. The delegation competed in 369 of the Games' events across 38 sports and 59 disciplines, winning gold in 38 of those disciplines and medals in 47, despite fielding fewer athletes and entries than at the previous Games in Hangzhou and facing a reduced number of medal events to contest.

The quality of China's results was also notable, Zhang said, with Chinese athletes breaking five world records, 11 Asian records and 22 Games records in sports with recognized records, including shooting, archery, athletics, swimming, weightlifting and track cycling.

cling. "Winning performances in the women's javelin and hammer throw matched the gold-medal standards set at the Paris Olympics, while China's men's 200m freestyle, men's 4x100m medley relay and women's 200m individual medley all produced the world's best times so far this year," it read.

China also made gains in sports where it has traditionally lagged, according to Zhang. Triathlon delivered the country's best-ever Asian Games results across all three events, breaking Japan's long-standing dominance of the sport in Asia.

The equestrian team won its first-ever Asian Games gold in team dressage, while China reclaimed the road cycling title after a 20-year gap and the men's in-

dividual modern pentathlon gold after 12 years. Zhang stated that a new generation of Chinese athletes also emerged at the Games. Of the delegation's 815 athletes, 548, or around two-thirds, were competing at their first Asian Games.

"17-year-old Chen Yujie became Asia's youngest women's 100m champion, while 18-year-old Yan Ziyi won javelin gold with a single throw. 14-year-old Yu Zidi claimed three swimming golds, each breaking an Asian or Games record, and 19-year-old Zhang Zhanshuo equaled the Games record for individual gold medals at a single edition with seven swimming titles," he said. Looking ahead to the Los Angeles Olympics, Zhang said the Nagoya Games had served its purpose. *-Xinhua*

UPCOMING GLOBAL EVENT

Sri Lanka name 16-member ODI squad for Pakistan tri-series



COLOMBO: The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) Selection Committee has announced a 16-member ODI squad for the upcoming tri-series in Pakistan, marking a vital milestone in the nation's road to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027.

Led by captain Kusal Mendis, the unit features a blend of seasoned international campaigners and emerging white-ball talent as Sri Lanka builds its core combination ahead of the upcoming global event, as per the ICC website.

Opening batter Pathum Nissanka has been named in the 16-player conditional, though his travel remains conditional and he will only travel with the team if he is declared medically fit.

Sri Lanka's top-order options include Avishka Fernando, Kamil Mishara, and Pavan Rathnayake alongside middle-order batters Sahan Arachchige, Kamindu Mendis, and Janith Liyanage. Former captain Dasun Shanaka will provide crucial all-round depth alongside spin-bowling all-rounder Dunith Wellalage.

The bowling attack is anchored by Maheesh Theekshana and wrist-spinner Sachindu Colombage, complemented by a formidable pace unit comprising Dushmantha Chameera, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka,

and Eshan Malinga.

Following the conclusion of their three-match T20I leg against the hosts, Sri Lanka will gear up for ODI tri-series action alongside Pakistan and England, beginning October 18.

Sri Lanka ODI squad for tri-series: Kusal Mendis (c), Sahan

Arachchige, Dushmantha Chameera, Sachindu Colombage, Avishka Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Janith Liyanage, Dilshan Madushanka, Eshan Malinga, Kamindu Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Pathum Nissanka, Pavan Rathnayake, Dasun Shanaka, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage. *-ANI*

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester City Premier League charges: What do they mean?

LONDON: Manchester City has won the English Premier League eight times over the last 14 years. Whether those titles will remain is one of a plethora of issues at stake after England's top division charged one of its most high-profile clubs with more than 100 breaches of its financial regulations.

On Tuesday, the Premier League announced that an independent commission had found City had drawn up "sham contracts" as well as "relying on sham agreements to artificially inflate the club's revenues and reduce its costs." These contracts, dubious sponsorships and a number of other methods were, according to the commission's report, used to inflate the club's revenue to the tune of about £900 million (£1.05 billion) over the period between the 2009-10 and 2017-18 seasons.

The case has been ongoing for eight years after initial revelations from Der Spiegel, a German magazine, and Rui Pinto of the 'Football Leaks' website. City continues to deny any wrongdoing.

"The Club is innocent of the accusations made by the Premier League and a comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence exists in support of all of its positions, relating to this case," read a club state-

ment. "Manchester City FC will now pursue the appeal avenues open to it, on the basis that the opinion contains clear material errors, of law, principle and fact, and is unsafe." On Friday, the club issued a further statement saying it had lodged a "comprehensive Appeal."

What was the Premier League verdict on the Manchester City charges?

The 750-page report was damning, accusing City of inflating contracts and sponsorship deals, running secondary contracts off the books, making "concerted efforts to stop and frustrate the Premier League investigation" and signing off inflated image rights deals to artificially boost their earnings. The report says all this enabled them to pass both Premier League and UEFA financial spending limits.

The Premier League's chief executive, Richard Masters, described the case "as the most significant in Premier League history," adding that the club "systematically broke Premier League Rules for nearly a decade."

Although the Premier League, the world's most commercially successful football league, has drawn some praise for its actions, others point out that it took Pinto leaking emails and media reports

to take action. The report shows that Manchester City, which had won the league once in 71 years before being taken over by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2008, were consistently posting revenues way higher than any of their more established and successful rivals.

Who are the key figures at Manchester City?

In this context, it's the owners. The Abu Dhabi United Group, essentially an investment vehicle for the UAE royal family, bought the club in 2008. Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, known simply as Sheikh Mansour, fronted the takeover. He is a member of the ruling Al Nahyan family and the UAE's vice president and deputy prime minister. Khaldoon Al Mubarak, who also holds several government positions in the UAE, was brought in as chairman.

Nation-state ownership of this type is controversial in European football. Manchester City's owners have long been criticized for the country's human rights record and using the club for sportswashing. Similar criticisms have been made of European champions Paris Saint-Germain, which Qatar owned and City's Premier League rivals Newcastle United, which is



owned 85% by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

City's CEO, Ferran Soriano, joined in 2012 as City expanded their ownership into foreign leagues, buying up clubs in the US, Japan and Australia. He replaced former head coach Roberto Mancini with fellow Spaniard Manuel Pellegrini before former Bayern Munich and Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola took over in 2016, ushering in the club's most successful period.

How did Manchester City's system work?

The club immediately started splashing out on big-money transfers after the UAE investment arrived. At the time, neither UEFA

nor the Premier League had the tight financial rules they now have. UEFA introduced its Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules for the 2011-12 season, while the Premier League followed with its Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR) in 2013-14.

City's free spending and relatively low commercial income meant they were likely to fall foul of such rules. The club was handed a conditional €60 million UEFA fine for losses in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons. They would later be banned from the Champions League on similar grounds in 2020 before being reinstated on appeal.

In an attempt to try and comply with these financial rules, City set up a system they called "Project Longbow" in 2012. The commission said much of this was genuine, but one arm of it was an agreement with a third party called Fordham that was, according to the ruling, "little more than a front." Essentially, it reads, the club's UAE owners "would be used (and were used) to enable Fordham to acquire from the club (at a sizeable, artificially inflated price) the club's entitlement to benefit financially from its players' image rights."

In other words, City's owners were pumping money into their own club through vastly inflated

sponsorship and image rights deals so their income looked higher and they could spend more, particularly on player transfers and wages. The report also claims that City paid three individuals, whose names are redacted, through a third party to keep them off the books.

What happens next?

That's the question on everyone's lips. So far, no sanctions have been imposed on City, and the appeal will likely drag proceedings out even longer. Meanwhile, the club, which is top of the Premier League, faces Liverpool on October 11, after the international break.

While there is no precedent for such a tranche of charges, clubs have previously fallen foul of the Premier League's PSR regulations. Everton were handed a 10-point penalty for a £19.5 million breach over a period ending with the 2021-22 season. This was based on a Premier League tariff of six points for the initial breach, plus an additional point for every £5 million the club overspent. Given that City's overspending is close to a billion pounds, applying that would certainly relegate them, though the Premier League does not operate England's second-tier league, the Championship. *-DW*

IN PICTURES



2026 NUIT BLANCHE EVENT HELD IN TORONTO, CANADA: An art installation is seen during the 2026 Nuit Blanche event in Toronto, Canada. Featuring over 70 contemporary works by local, national and international artists across public spaces, this annual overnight festival celebrated its 20th anniversary recently. — Xinhua

ABA BASKETBALL LEAGUE SEASON 2026/27-GROUP A CEDEVITA OLIMPIJA VS CIBONA: Noah Arthur Kirkwood (R) of Cedevisa Olimpija shoots the ball during the ABA Basketball League Season 2026/27-Group A ROUND 2 match between Cedevisa Olimpija and Cibona at Mala dvorana Tivoli in Ljubljana, Slovenia. — Xinhua



EMBODIED AI ROBOTS OF VARIOUS FUNCTIONS DRAW TOURISTS IN HEFEI, CHINA'S ANHUI: A robot makes popcorn at a store in Tunxi District of Huangshan, east China's Anhui Province. During the National Day holiday, embodied AI robots of various functions rolled out in commercial and cultural blocks have been a major attraction for tourists. Through smart interactions, they have diversified tourism offerings and experiences. — Xinhua



HOICHOI'S SEASON 10 CELEBRATION: Actress Paoli Dam poses for a picture during Hoichoi's Season 10 celebration, marking 10 years of the Bengali OTT streaming platform, in Kolkata. — ANI Photo



72ND WINDHOEK INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW HELD IN NAMIBIA: An exhibitor sews a garment at a stall during the 72nd Windhoek Industrial and Agricultural Show in Windhoek, Namibia. The expo has showcased handicrafts, clothing, processed foods, equipment and services. — Xinhua



MODELS PRESENT CREATIONS AT COLONNA PALACE IN ROME, ITALY: Models present creations from Spring/Summer 2027 collections of Chinese brand Heaven Gaia at the Colonna Palace in Rome, Italy. — Xinhua



PEOPLE VISIT WARSAW MINERAL EXPO IN POLAND: People visit the Warsaw Mineral Expo in Warsaw. The two-day expo kicked off at the Palace of Culture and Science, bringing together nearly 300 exhibitors showcasing minerals, gemstones and jewellery. — Xinhua



6TH WITCHILANO PADDLE IN VANCOUVER, CANADA: Participants dressed as witches paddle along the waterfront during the 6th Witchilano Paddle in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The annual event brings together hundreds of costumed paddlers to celebrate the upcoming Halloween on the water. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

All-new Land Cruiser FJ brings freedom and joy to Oman roads

Developed under the core concept of ‘Freedom & Joy’, the FJ series is designed to empower motorists with diverse lifestyles to explore with confidence, bridging the gap between iconic off-road capability and everyday urban agility

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive has officially introduced the all-new Toyota Land Cruiser FJ in Oman, adding a versatile new dimension to the legendary Land Cruiser family.

Developed under the core concept of “Freedom & Joy,” the FJ series is designed to empower motorists with diverse lifestyles to explore with confidence, bridging the gap between iconic off-road capability and everyday urban agility. Born from the King of the SUV heritage, the Land Cruiser FJ is built with agility for the city and beyond—pairing authentic off-road capability with the freedom to go anywhere and the joy to enjoy every journey.

Gathering automotive enthusiasts, media representatives, and members of the public, the launch event delivered a firsthand look at a vehicle crafted for those seeking to enrich their lives through new experiences. By blending the core Land Cruiser values—reliability, durability, and robust performance—into a more compact and maneuverable package, the new FJ series ensures that the spirit of adventure remains accessible for all.

“We are excited to bring the all-new Land Cruiser FJ to our customers in Oman. This vehicle is a testament to Toyota’s dedication to evolving its SUV lineup to meet changing societal demands while honoring the rugged heritage of the Land Cruiser brand. With its unique combination of size, capability, and modern technology, the FJ is perfectly suited for those who want a reliable partner for both daily commutes and weekend explorations across the Sultanate,”



said a senior representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive.

Engineering & performance

Built upon a frame inheriting the legacy of the toughest body-on-frame vehicles, the Land Cruiser FJ delivers confidence across any driving conditions. With reliability born from high quality, it challenges any terrain with confidence, while its wide stance and flexible performance expand the possibilities for adventure.

Under the hood lies a dependable 2TR-FE 4-cylinder gasoline

engine paired with a 6-speed Super ECT (Electronically Controlled Transmission). This super-intelligent automatic transmission delivers smooth shifting while balancing strong driving performance and fuel efficiency. Offered in 4WD - Mid and 4WD - High grades, the vehicle features a part-time 4WD system that normally operates in 2WD for efficient on-road driving, allowing drivers to engage 4WD when additional traction is needed on rough or slippery surfaces.

Off-road prowess is further elevated by superior wheel articulation,

generous ground clearance, a rear differential lock, Downhill Assist Control, and a practical inclinometer that shows the vehicle’s pitch and roll angles on the instrument display so drivers can understand vehicle tilt when navigating off-road terrain. A 63-litre fuel tank capacity ensures long-range capability for every excursion.

Design and versatility

A commanding Land Cruiser heritage design, combined with a tight, athletic form, conveys the Land Cruiser FJ’s high level of perfor-

mance. It features a classic square cabin silhouette that reflects the practical priorities of successive Land Cruiser generations while maximizing interior habitability. Its distinct exterior is defined by a rectangular body with chamfered edges, iconic U-shaped LED lighting, and a practical side-opening back door with a rear-mounted spare tyre.

The vehicle is available in a striking palette of exterior colors, including Attitude Black Mica, Ash, Platinum White Pearl Mica, Smoky Blue and Oxide Bronze Metallic.

Inside, the cabin focuses on

functional comfort, featuring a spacious front seating area, flexible rear-seat versatility, and generous windows that ensure a wide, open view. Clearly organized instruments enable intuitive and effortless operation, highlighted by a 7.0-inch TFT liquid crystal meter and a 12.3-inch display audio system. Practicality is further enhanced by a five-seat layout with foldable rear seats, a 40-degree rear reclining feature, convenient USB charging ports, effective air conditioning, and a generous luggage space offering up to 0.797 m3 of cargo room.

Safety and technology

Safety remains paramount, with the FJ series incorporating advanced safety technologies for your journey, including the Toyota Safety Sense package. This suite features a Pre-Collision System (PCS), Lane Departure Alert, Adaptive Cruise Control, Adaptive High-beam System and Drive Start Control to assist drivers on every journey. Complemented by SRS airbags, the Panoramic View Monitor, Blind Spot Monitor, and Parking Support Brake, the Land Cruiser FJ provides the confidence and peace of mind necessary for navigating both bustling city streets and remote off-road tracks.

The all-new Toyota Land Cruiser FJ is now available for viewing at Saud Bahwan Automotive showrooms across the Sultanate, offering a refreshing, fun and highly capable option for adventure-seekers throughout Oman.

EXCLUSIVE BANKING PARTNER

Sohar International sponsors ‘Live Oman’ campaign in London

LONDON / MUSCAT: Reinforcing its commitment to supporting the Sultanate of Oman’s economic diversification and enabling its future growth, Sohar International participated in the ‘Live Oman’ campaign in London as the exclusive banking partner.

The event showcased Oman as a premier destination for living, investment and sustainable development. Organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning from September 21 to October 4, the landmark exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Khalfan bin Said Al Shuaibi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, with Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, attending the official opening. The two-week immersive showcase brought Oman Vision 2040 to life, highlighting the Sultanate’s new smart cities, modern infrastructure, attractive investment environment and commitment to quality of life.

Sohar International’s sponsorship underscored its role as a key enabler of national development and a strategic partner in Oman’s urban transformation. As the exclusive banking partner for the exhibition, the Bank facilitated direct investment dialogue between international investors and Oman’s leading developers. Through interactive sessions, expert discussions and on-site advisory services, Sohar International presented mortgage solutions for freehold proper-



ties, investment banking insights and tailored financial guidance for landmark projects in Oman.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said: “At Sohar International, our role extends beyond banking to being a true partner in Oman’s future. Our sponsorship of ‘Live Oman’ in London represented

a strategic opportunity to showcase Oman’s economic stability, investor-friendly environment and world-class quality of life to a global audience. Oman, recognised for its high quality of life and standing among the safest countries globally, offers significant potential. We aim to help international investors ‘win’ by making their investment journey into Oman seamless, secure and rewarding. This reflects our vision to become a world-class Omani services company that helps customers, communities and people prosper and grow.”

The exhibition featured large-scale masterplan models and visual presentations of waterfront communities, family villas and business districts, alongside direct engagement with government en-

ties and private developers. The sponsorship built on Sohar International’s established track record of supporting national initiatives across tourism, housing, sports and community development, reinforcing its position as a trusted national partner contributing to sustainable development.

The initiative reflected the Bank’s role in supporting national

priorities and facilitating access to financing solutions that enable individuals and investors to participate in Oman’s growth journey. The ‘Live Oman’ campaign also reaffirmed the strong and historic ties between Oman and the United Kingdom, while positioning the Sultanate as a forward-looking destination for communities, businesses and long-term investment.



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