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# Oman plans to raise mango output

Oman imports around 46,211 tonnes of mangoes, valued at approximately OMR18.7 million



**MUSCAT:** The Sultanate of Oman is moving to strengthen investment in the mango crop and enhance its productive and competitive capacity. This forms part of a broader drive to increase domestic agricultural output and capitalise on the production gap by creating investment opportunities of economic value. The aim is to boost productivity, raise self-sufficiency rates, and grow the economic value of Omani agricultural products. Statistical data point to promising investment opportunities. The Sultanate of Oman imports around 46,211 tonnes of mangoes, valued at approximately OMR18.7 million. This reflects the scale of domestic demand for the crop and opens the way to redirect part of that value towards domestic production and investment. It also

supports the development of the mango value chain. Dr. Hamdan bin Salim Al Wahabi, Director General of Agricultural Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, stated that the volume of mango imports is an important economic indicator of a promising domestic market. The private sector and investors can capitalise on this market. He noted that the approach for the coming phase rests on a shift in perspective: mangoes should no longer be viewed merely as an agricultural crop, but rather as an integrated economic value chain. This chain extends from seedling production and cultivation through to packaging, marketing, and food processing, helping to substitute part of imports and enhance the product's local value. In a statement to ONA, he ex-

plained that Oman has a solid production base to build upon. The area currently cultivated with mangoes stands at about 3,907 feddans, while production exceeded 17,123 tonnes in 2025. He affirmed that raising production in the coming phase will not rely solely on horizontal expansion of agricultural areas. It will also depend on increasing productivity per unit area, improving fruit quality, enhancing water use efficiency, and selecting economically viable varieties, alongside expanding the use of modern irrigation and farm management technologies. He indicated that the Agricultural Research Station in Sohar plays a pivotal role in providing the scientific foundation for expanding mango production. Its work includes variety studies, characterization assessment, and seedling production, as well as transferring

research and trial results to farms and investment projects. He noted that the mango genetic bank comprises 252 varieties and 708 trees, collected from various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman and from 23 countries. This provides an important genetic base for selecting the varieties best suited to local conditions and strongest in terms of productivity and marketability. He added that research studies and trials have led to the selection of more than 30 promising varieties in terms of productivity and quality. This enhances prospects for well-considered expansion into varieties capable of better economic returns and responsive to market requirements in quality, quantity, and production seasons. He affirmed that the mango production localisation plan for the period 2026-2030 aims to achieve a qualitative leap in domestic production volume. This will be achieved by expanding the cultivated area to about 10,300 feddans and raising production to nearly 44,785 tonnes, with an estimated production value of around RO 17 million. He noted that 2026 will see the launch of investment opportunities in mango production. This reflects a transition from identifying the import gap to utilizing it economically through productive

and commercial projects capable of growth and sustainability. He affirmed that the economic opportunities linked to mangoes are not limited to tree cultivation and fruit production. They extend across an integrated value chain encompassing seedling production, agricultural inputs, modern irrigation systems, and agricultural services, as well as sorting and grading, packaging, refrigeration, storage, and transport, through to mango-based food and processing industries. Dr. Hamdan affirmed that developing these activities would raise the local value realized from the crop. It would also open new opportunities for small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs, and generate economic activities and jobs linked to agricultural production, logistics services, marketing, and manufacturing. He believes that the success of this approach requires integrated roles among research, the private sector, farmers, and financing and marketing entities. Research outcomes and the selection of promising varieties must translate into sustainable commercial projects, and investment decisions must be built on clear indicators of production, demand, and markets. He added that a market currently absorbing more than 46,000 tonnes of imported mangoes annu-

ally provides investors with a clear indicator of demand volume. It also reduces investment risks tied to market search, provided that the local product is able to compete in terms of price, quality, and continuity of supply. The Director General of Agricultural Development affirmed that mangoes can serve as a practical model for transforming an import gap into an investment opportunity. This can be achieved by directing investment towards a product with existing domestic demand, drawing on available research capabilities and genetic resources, and building a value chain that generates economic returns beyond the farm. He indicated that the coming phase requires linking agricultural investment more closely with market and demand indicators. The objective is not merely to increase cultivated areas, but to build a productive and competitive sector capable of achieving sustainable economic returns, enhancing food security, creating jobs, and raising agriculture's contribution to economic diversification. These directions fall within the national pathway to enhance production of food commodities with import gaps and to capitalise on opportunities to increase local value and maximise the economic impact of the agricultural sector. -ONA

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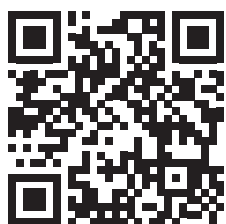
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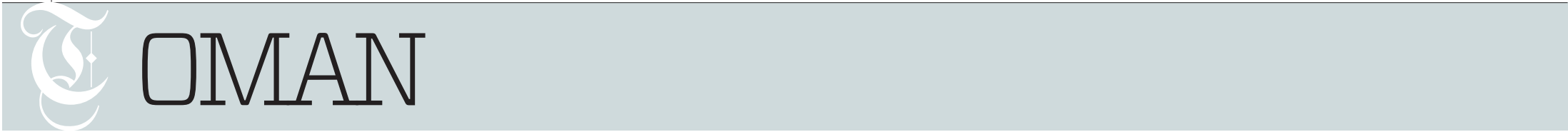
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# His Majesty the Sultan receives warm welcome in Botswana



The President of Botswana welcomed His Majesty the Sultan and the accompanying official delegation

**GABORONE:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, arrived in the Republic of Botswana on Wednesday afternoon on a two-day state visit. Upon His Majesty's arrival at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in the capital Gaborone, President Duma Gideon Boko of the Republic of Botswana, led the welcoming party for His Majesty at the foot of the ramp. The President of Botswana welcomed His Majesty the Sultan and

the accompanying official delegation, expressing his profound delight at this gracious visit, as the artillery fired a twenty-one-gun salute in honour of His Majesty. His Majesty the Sultan and the President of Botswana then ascended the dais of honour, where the Royal Anthem of Oman and the Botswana National Anthem were played, followed by His Majesty's inspection of the Guard of Honour. Thereafter, His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with the Botswana's officials assembled to greet him, while the President of Botswana shook hands with the members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty. A welcoming tableau of traditional Botswanan arts was then presented in celebration and warm welcome of His Majesty the Sultan. The motorcade of His Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by the President of Botswana, then set off for the Presidency Headquarters.

Earlier in the day, His Majesty left for the friendly Republic of Botswana on a two-day state visit, in response to a gracious invitation from President Duma Gideon Boko of the Republic of Botswana. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan during the visit is 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; Gen-

eral Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office; Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; 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 Ali bin Said Al Kathiri, Head of the Sultanate of Oman's Mission in the Republic of South Africa. — **ONA**



# Female students outnumber male counterparts in Dhofar

The total number of students is 70,686, comprising 34,904 male students and 35,782 female students, distributed across 243 schools



**SALALAH:** Dhofar Governorate is witnessing growth in construction and developmental projects in the educational sector, aimed at expanding the absorptive capacity of schools and meeting current and future requirements through the implementation and follow-up of various projects, additions, and maintenance works at a total cost exceeding OMR19 million.

Dr. Mizoon Bakhit Al Shahri, Director General of the Directorate General of Education in Dhofar Governorate, stated in an interview with Oman News Agency (ONA) that the Directorate continues to implement and follow up on a wide package of projects across various wilayats of the governorate.

The total number of students is 70,686, comprising 34,904 male students and 35,782 female students, distributed across 243 schools.

These include 50 boys' schools,

22 girls' schools, and 97 co-educational public schools, in addition to 74 educational institutions.

This comes as part of the Ministry of Education's efforts aimed at developing the infrastructure of the educational system, raising the readiness of school buildings, and improving the educational environment to meet the current and future needs of students and educational staff.

She added that the total value of these projects amounts to approximately OMR19.224 million, distributed among construction, development, additions, restoration, and maintenance projects, as well as improvements to the educational environment.

**Integrated school buildings**

She pointed out that integrated school buildings are at the fore-

front of these projects, with a cost of about OMR13.161 million.

This includes the construction of a number of modern schools with large absorptive capacities in several wilayats of the governorate to serve areas with high demand and student growth.

These projects are distributed across the stages of implementation, issuance of work orders, and budgeting procedures.

Regarding expansion projects in existing buildings, she reported that the Directorate is following up on the implementation of 16 school addition projects at a total cost exceeding OMR3.229 million.

These include the construction of new classrooms, halls for male and female teachers, laboratories, and service facilities, as well as the preparation of sports fields, in addition to accompanying modifica-

tion and maintenance works.

A number of these have been received, while work continues at the remaining sites according to the executive status of each project.

The Director General of Education in Dhofar indicated that the total number of educational staff members in public schools for the current academic year 2026/2027 stands at 6,715 male and female teachers, comprising 2,320 male teachers and 4,395 female teachers.

She added that the Directorate has completed the procedures for appointment, transfer movements, and the distribution of new appointments to fill vacancies according to actual need.

This is alongside the implementation of the induction programme for new teachers, which targeted

more than 1,200 male and female teachers.

Furthermore, the distribution of school formations has been completed, and the readiness of 21 targeted schools for external review by Oman Authority for Educational Quality Assurance is being monitored through integrated plans for support and follow-up.

Regarding the latest developments in the travel and tourism major within the vocational and technical education track in Dhofar Governorate, she affirmed that the Directorate continues this year to expand the implementation of the major by adding a new batch comprising 100 male and female students.

This consists of 50 students in each of the two schools implementing the programme: Al Said-ia School for Boys in Salalah and

Khawla bint Hakeem School for Girls.

She explained that the current academic year marks a new phase in the programme's journey in the governorate, as its implementation now encompasses students in grades eleven and twelve, after being limited to grade eleven in its first year.

This reflects the continuity of the programme and the gradual expansion in the numbers of benefiting students.

The Director General of Education in Dhofar also emphasised the continuous follow-up on construction and developmental projects and educational programs, as well as the monitoring of the educational field's needs to ensure that efforts and resources are directed according to educational priorities in the governorate. -ONA

ASTANA

## Oman envoy to Kazakhstan presents copy of credentials

**ASTANA:** Sheikh Dr. Salah Salim Jaaboub presented a copy of his credentials as Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Kazakhstan to Arman Issagaliyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

This took place when the ambassador was received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the capital city, Astana.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties.

He expressed his confidence that the Ambassador's efforts will contribute to consolidating the relations of friendship between the two countries and expanding the areas of cooperation between them.

For his part, the Ambassador expressed his appreciation for the warm reception, affirming his keenness to build upon the existing cooperation between the Sul-



tanate of Oman and the Republic of Kazakhstan and to develop mutual interests, in a manner that meets the aspirations of the leaderships of the two countries. -ONA

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

## Oman marks World Ozone Day

**MUSCAT:** The Sultanate of Oman yesterday joined the global community in observing the "International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer" (World Ozone Day), which falls on 16 September every year.

Oman's observation of the event marks its commitment to protect the environment and underlines its dedication to international obligations under the Montreal Protocol and updates to the same, including the Kigali Amendment.

To this effect, Oman is pressing ahead with the establishment of its first national centre for the recycling of refrigeration gases and air-conditioning gases.

The initiative constitutes a significant step towards the sustainable management of such gases, the



promotion of the concept of circular economy and the reduction of carbon footprints and greenhouse emissions.

Over the past years, the Environment Authority achieved milestones in cutting down the consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

Represented by the National

Ozone Unit, the Environment Authority has enhanced the monitoring of the import and handling of these substances through licensing systems.

It also developed electronic procedures via "Bayan" system in coordination with the Directorate General of Customs. These measures have contributed to regulating imports, boosting regulatory efficiency and improving data management.

As part of its efforts to develop the sector of refrigeration and air conditioning, the Environment Authority is engaged in consolidating the system of certification of professional competency (for workers in the sector), to help curb gas leakage and minimize environmental impacts. -ONA

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

ASU's Tender Committee is pleased to invite specialized companies to participate in the following tender:

**Tender details:**

| Tender No.     | Description                                                                                           | Targeted Company       | Document Collection Deadline | Site visit          | Bids Submission Deadline | Document fees | Company Grade   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| (ASU/02/26/27) | Tender for Construction of the Student Accommodation Building for A' Sharqiyah University (PHASE - 2) | Construction Companies | 24/09/2026                   | 24/09/2026 At 10 AM | 15/10/2026               | 1,300 OMR     | Excellent Grade |

❖ Specialized companies interested in participating in the tender should obtain the tender document during the official working days from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

❖ **Tender collection process:** The interested companies shall follow the following steps:  
1- The payment should be made directly to ASU under the following bank account:

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| Account Name   | AL SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY |
| Account Number | 0423010693610011        |
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2- After payment, send the receipt to [zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om](mailto:zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om) along with the reference number, title of the tender and CR of the company.

3- Participating companies will receive the tender document via email.

4- Companies that hold Riyadh certificate are exempted from tender document fees. Companies should send Riyadh certificate to [zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om](mailto:zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om), along with the reference number, title of the tender and CR of the company

❖ ASU general terms and conditions of tenders shall apply on all submitted bids.  
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❖ ASU is not bound to accept the lowest bid.

❖ For further details, please don't hesitate to contact us at: [zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om](mailto:zayana.alaamri@asu.edu.om) or Tel 25401116.

PRE-QUALIFICATION INVITATION ANNOUNCEMENT

As part of the Industrial Opportunities Localization Initiative, Nama Dhofar Services invites companies to participate in the pre-qualification process for the following subject:

| Invitation No     | Subject                                                                                       | Closing Date for Submission of Documents |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| DISC/M/2026/002-2 | Localization of Manufacturing of Ring Main Unit (RMU) Equipment Used in Distribution Stations | 28 September 2026                        |

All companies, manufacturers, suppliers, and interested parties may obtain the pre-qualification documents and requirements by sending an Expression of Interest (EOI) letter to: [hasano@nds.nama.om](mailto:hasano@nds.nama.om) [mohsinm@nds.nama.om](mailto:mohsinm@nds.nama.om)

Pre-qualification documents must be submitted before 03:00 PM on the specified closing date.

Applicants must review all requirements and attach all requested documents.

Any inquiries related to the pre-qualification may be submitted via the email addresses above.

Nama Dhofar Services invites all companies and establishments to register on the Tawteen Platform.

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# Wujood Nasser Al Zadjali Wins Social Change Champion Award



Wujood Nasser Al Zadjali, Founder of Al Wujood Oman, was felicitated with the 'The Origin Social Change Champion Award' at The Origin – Women Forum & Awards 2026. The awards presentation was held at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat, bringing together women leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs and changemakers from across Oman and the region.

Driven by a commitment to women's empowerment and positive social change, Wujood has dedicated her efforts to creating opportunities that enable women to develop their capabilities, strengthen their professional confidence and participate more actively in the workforce and wider community.

Through Al Wujood Oman, she has helped build an initiative centred on empowering women through professional development, skills building, mentorship and community support. By creating a supportive environment where women can connect, learn and grow, the initiative seeks to help women navigate their professional journeys and realise their potential.



Wujood's work extends beyond individual development, reflecting a wider belief in the power of community to create sustainable change. Her efforts in supporting women through entrepreneurship and skills development demonstrate how mentorship, collaboration and access to opportunities can create meaningful impact that extends across communities.

Her recognition as Social Change Champion celebrates her dedication to turning purpose into action and her contribution towards creating a more inclusive and empowering environment for women. Through Al Wujood Oman, she continues to encourage women to build their skills, pursue opportunities and support one another as they progress personally and professionally.

The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents. The awards recognise exceptional women, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful impact across industries and communities, while advancing leadership, empowerment, inclusion and progress.

For more information, contact: 78471944/97221630

## MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

### Eco-freindly bikes

**MUSCAT:** Muscat Municipality is transitioning toward sustainable municipal operations with the integration of electric motorbikes into its daily cleaning services.

Designed to lower carbon emissions, reduce operational costs, and boost service efficiency, the new fleet features an operating range of 140 to 160 kilometres and uses high-safety Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries with a total capacity of 5.6 kWh.

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**EDITORIAL:** Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com  
**ADVERTISING:** Telephone: 22009004, E-mail: amcoman@choueirigroup.com  
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## EMPOWERING STUDENTS

# Education Ministry signs pact for career guidance

**SOHAR:** The Ministry of Education signed on Wednesday an agreement to implement joint programmes in career guidance and the energy sector with OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company, contributing to developing and empowering students to acquire advanced scientific skills and enhancing their understanding of various work environments through three programmes: the "Work Experience" programme for students, the training programme for career guidance specialists, and the awareness campaign on the future of the oil and gas sector.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Ministry of Education by Dr. Intisar Abdullah Ambusaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry for Supporting Educational Programmes, while it was signed on behalf of OQ Company by Faisal Ahmed Al Balushi, Chief Human Resources and Technology Officer at OQ.

The cooperation programme signed yesterday includes the execution of joint programmes represented in the work experience program, under which students are attached to the second party's sites for training in technical and administrative skills, and the specialists' training programme through organising specialised workshops



for career guidance specialists on the future of energy.

The programme also includes executing a comprehensive media and educational campaign on the future of the oil and gas sector, developing training and awareness content in proportion to the target groups.

It also includes continuous evaluation and follow-up on the effectiveness of the executed programmes, establishing joint mechanisms to periodically assess students' performance and measure the extent to which programme goals are achieved, preparing periodic joint reports on the workflow in the programme, identifying challenges, proposing solutions and recommendations, and reviewing the cooperative programme and all related programmes in general at the end of each operational phase or when needed, with the aim of developing and improving it to ensure its continuity and effectiveness. -OMA

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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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Sayyid Badr meets his counterpart in Botswana

**GABORONE:** Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, met with Dr. Phenyio Butale, Minister of International Relations of the Republic of Botswana.

The meeting took place within the framework of the state visit paid by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to Botswana. The two ministers explored ways to enhance bilateral relations, build upon existing cooperation, and leverage the momentum generated by His Majesty's visit to develop mutual interests and expand economic partnership, particularly in the fields of investment, energy and mining.

This, in turn, will support the development priorities in the two countries.

The meeting also underscored the continuation of coordination and follow-up between relevant entities and exchanging visits between officials to transform cooperation opportunities into mutual benefits. On the political front, the two ministers touched upon a spectrum of regional and international issues of common concern.



— ONA

— ONA

IN JEDDAH

Approaches in auditing projects in emergency situations discussed

**RIYADH:** The State Financial and Administrative Audit Authority participated in the Regional Workshop on Capacity Development in Project Financial Management, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The workshop aimed to develop practical solutions to common challenges by leveraging innovative global best practices and emerging technologies.

It features a number of specialised sessions with Supreme Audit Institutions, addressing the Islamic Development Bank's audit requirements for project financial management, trends in project financial management practices at both country and project levels across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, as well as the challenges and issues facing multilateral development banks in the financial audit of projects in the MENA region.

The workshop also discussed



the approaches adopted by state audit institutions in auditing projects in emergency situations and fragile environments. It also includes a session on emerging trends in SAI auditing, in terms of developments in regulations and standards as well as the use of technology. Furthermore, the workshop highlights the importance of collaboration among multilateral development banks,

international organisations, and SAIs to identify solutions and provide recommendations for improving project financial management.

The workshop was participated by Zaher Sulaiman Al Salmi, Deputy Chairman for Audit of Government Units in the State Financial and Administrative Audit Authority.

— ONA

FIRST EVENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Oman to host Middle East Ironman 70.3 Championship

**Nice:** The Sultanate of Oman will host the Middle East Ironman 70.3 Championship in February 2027. This will mark the first event in the Middle East within the new championship season, which brings together an elite group of the world's leading endurance sports stars.

The announcement of Muscat hosting the championship came during the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism's participation in the Ironman 70.3 World Championship, held in the French city of Nice. An official delegation is attending, led by Sayyid Ibrahim Said Al Busaidi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism.

Sayyid Al Busaidi met with a number of senior executives at the Ironman Group and international partners. The ministry's delegation was also briefed on the operational, logistical, and media systems used in managing the championship. These insights will support the Sultanate of Oman's preparations to host upcoming international championships.

The selection of Muscat to launch the new global season represents an important milestone in the Sultanate of Oman's sports tourism journey. It also reflects international confidence

in Oman's organisational capabilities, its infrastructure, and its accumulated expertise in organizing and hosting major international sporting events, alongside its diverse natural terrain and modern urban environments.

The Ironman series is among the world's most prominent professional endurance racing series. Its 2027 season includes eighteen main events across the Ironman and Ironman 70.3 races, held in a number of international destinations.

Professional athletes compete throughout the season to accumulate points based on their results in the various races. The aim is to improve their positions in the overall standings and compete for prize money totalling \$2 million at the end of the season.

On the sidelines of the championship in Nice, the "Explore Oman" pavilion provides a window to showcase the Sultanate of Oman's distinctive natural, cultural, and heritage assets. It presents adventure experiences and tourism activities available across various governorates.

The pavilion also highlights the international races hosted by the Sultanate of Oman and tourism packages designed for athletes and their families. — ONA

NORTH AL BATINAH GOVERNORATE

Seminar organised

**SOHAR:** Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) branch in North Al Batinah Governorate organised on Wednesday a seminar titled "Vocational and Technical Education in Private Schools".

The event was participated by a number of specialists and experts, aiming to enhance integration between the educational sector and the labour market and to qualify students with skills aligned with future jobs.

Raising awareness

The seminar aimed to raise awareness about the importance of vocational education as a strategic choice, introduce students and parents to its pathways and opportunities, and strengthen

the partnership between private schools and the labor market in both the public and private sectors.

The seminar included three specialised work

The event concluded with several recommendations, most notably preparing a unified national framework to ensure the quality of vocational and technical education in public and private schools specifying licensing and evaluation requirements, preparing a clear guide for graduates' pathways to higher education institutions, establishing a national system to track graduates, developing an institutional partnership with employers, and enhancing early career guidance. — ONA

# Honouring Excellence in Social Impact

**Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026** honours individuals, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful difference to communities across Oman through their contributions to social progress, environmental responsibility and economic well-being.

Last date for nominations submission  
**20th SEPTEMBER 2026**

Awards presentation  
**30th September, 2026**  
JW Marriott Hotel Muscat

## AWARD CATEGORIES

- Biodiversity Conservation Initiative
- Environment Protection Initiative
- Environmental Advocacy and Action Initiative
- Clean Energy Initiative
- Community Healthcare Initiative
- Community Education Initiative
- Specially-abled Support Initiative
- Youth Engagement Initiative
- Women Empowerment Initiative
- Financial Inclusion Initiative
- SMEs Development Initiative
- Community Development and Empowerment Initiative
- Public-Private Partnership for Community Development
- Public Engagement Initiative
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative
- In Country Value (ICV) Initiative
- Outstanding Omanisation Achievement
- Skills Development Initiative
- Social Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Leadership in Sustainable Business Practice
- Leadership in ESG
- Leadership in ICV
- Leadership in CSR
- Social Impact Leader of the Year and many more ...

For partnerships, table bookings or award nominations, contact:  
Syed Amir Saleem: [syed.amir@tevents.om](mailto:syed.amir@tevents.om) | +968 78471944  
Sanjeev Rana: [sanjeev@tevents.om](mailto:sanjeev@tevents.om) | +968 97221630  
Shamik Rao: [shamik.rao@tevents.om](mailto:shamik.rao@tevents.om) | +968 79333149

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SPORTS



# Oman flag raised at 2026 Asiad

The flag raising ceremony in Nagoya, Japan, on Wednesday marked the official presence of Oman at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The Oman flag was raised at the Athletes' Interaction Area next to the Sports Village in Nagoya, Japan, on Wednesday, marking the country's official presence at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

The flag raising ceremony, held in rainy conditions, was attended

by members of Oman's administrative delegation and also featured the raising of the flags of Qatar, the Maldives and Bhutan.

Representatives of the four countries took part in the ceremony before the Omani national anthem was played and the national flag raised.

Naoki Matsuo, deputy director of accommodation for the Games

organising committee, welcomed the delegations and pledged support to ensure their stay and participation ran smoothly. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Oman delegation head Mohammed Al Rahbi exchanged commemorative gifts with representatives of the organising committee.

The Sports Village is accommodating thousands of athletes and officials, with several facilities constructed using temporary structures.

The organisers have also provided floating accommodation aboard the cruise ship Costa Serena.

The flag-raising came as Oman's teams continued their final preparations, with the sailing delegation arriving in Nagoya on Wednesday and the hockey team scheduled to

hold its final training session on Thursday.

The hockey team, coached by Mohammed Hobeis, will train at Asahi University before beginning its Asian Games campaign. The squad has been in Japan early to adapt to the conditions after a period of training camps and preparatory matches.

**Sailors arrive**

The sailing delegation arrived at Chubu Centrair International Airport on Wednesday and, after completing accreditation procedures, headed to its accommodation.

The four sailors are Ahmed Al Hasani and Waleed Al Kindi in the 49er class, and Firas Al Nabhani and Tamim Al Balushi in the 29er class.

They are accompanied by coach Zakariya bin Sulaiman Al Wahabi and team manager Hashim Al Rashdi. Fabrice Jaunet is with the team as 29er coach.

The sailors recently completed a training camp in Al Musannah, focusing on tactical and technical development, boat handling, physical conditioning, crew coordination and decision-making during races. They also attended several training camps in Europe during the summer.

Oman's sailors will hold a final training camp in Japan from September 17 to 23 before beginning competition. Sailing events are scheduled to start on September 26. The team will seek to build on Oman's historic sailing performance at the Hangzhou Asian

Games, where Musab bin Mohammed Al Hadi and Waleed Al Kindi won silver in the 49er class — the country's first Asian Games medal in sailing.

The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games officially open on Saturday and run until October 4, although some competitions began earlier. The Games feature a record 43 sports, with athletes from 45 countries and regions expected to compete.

Nagoya, the capital of Aichi Prefecture, is hosting the Asian Games for the third time in Japan after Tokyo in 1958 and Hiroshima in 1994. The city is one of Japan's major industrial and technology centres and will serve as the main hub for the Games, with competitions also taking place across the wider Aichi region.

WON BY 119 RUNS

## Brook hits century as England crush Sri Lanka in first T20I

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Hosts England beat Sri Lanka by 119 runs in the first of three T20 internationals on Tuesday after a batting masterclass by captain Harry Brook, who hit a brilliant century off 42 balls in an unbeaten career-best 114-run knock.

England set Sri Lanka a mighty target of 255, but the visitors were soon struggling, ending the powerplay at 32-3 after Pathum Nissanka, Kamil Mishara and Lahiru Udara all went cheaply.

The rout continued with a steady flow of wickets as Sri Lanka reached 71-5 at the halfway mark under the floodlights compared to England's 134-1.

Sonny Baker, playing on his home Southampton ground in his second T20 international, had a standout evening with the ball and ended his stint with figures of 3-12.

England debutant Aneurin Donald hit the first six of the evening at



the Utilita Bowl off his fourth ball, surviving an LBW call on his second, but was caught for 12 off five balls after Sri Lanka had won the toss and opted to bowl on a dry pitch.

Brook replaced him at the crease, and the rout began in an electric partnership that left the visitors wondering what had hit it. England were 90-1 at the end of the powerplay, their second highest in T20s, and Jos Buttler reached his 50 off 29 balls.

Player of the Match Brook scored 30 runs in the space of one over — a six followed by two fours, two sixes and another four — and chalked up his half century off 20 balls.

Buttler's breathtaking stint ended at 80 with Dunith Wellalage taking a simple catch off leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga as England were 159-2. They were 195-3 when Tom Banton was caught by Dasun Shanaka off Dushmantha Chameera.

Brook was unstoppable, celebrating his second T20 international century and also equalling the second fastest 100 by an England player in the format.

He ended with his highest score in T20 internationals, 114 from 49 deliveries.

**Brief scores:** England 254/4 (Brook 114\*, Buttler 80) beat Sri Lanka 135 in 19 overs (Wellalage 33, Baker 3-12) by 119 runs. - Agencies

FORMULA ONE CALENDAR

## F1 to have 10 sprint races in 2027, including Monaco

**LONDON:** Formula 1 has increased the number of sprint races from six to 10 for the 2027 World Championship.

Sprint events, which feature a shorter race on Saturday and an extra qualifying session on Friday, will be held for the first time in Bahrain, Australia, Japan, Monaco, and Abu Dhabi.

The other sprints will be in Canada, Britain, Italy, Brazil, and Qatar, it was revealed as the calendar was formally announced. The maximum number of sprints previously in a season has been six. The 2027 season is scheduled to start in Bahrain on 12-14 March, followed by Saudi Arabia a week later, but both events will remain in doubt amid the current turmoil in Middle East.

The British Grand Prix will be on July 2-4, and the 2027 season re-introduces races in Portugal and Turkiye, returning for the



first time since they were used as placeholder events during the pandemic.

F1 president and chief executive officer Stefano Domenicali said: "We are thrilled to welcome Portugal and Turkiye to the championship and to expand sprint racing to 10 events, giving our fans even more intensity, drama, and the wheel-to-wheel action that make our sport so special."

Mohammed Ben Sulayem, the president of F1's governing body

the FIA, said: "The 2027 FIA F1 World Championship calendar is a strong reflection of the global appeal and continued growth of our sport."

**2027 Formula 1 calendar**

12-14 March: Bahrain; 19-21 March: Saudi Arabia; 2-4 April: Australia; 9-11 April: Japan; 16-18 April: China; 30 April-2 May: Miami; 21-23 May: Canada; 4-6 June: Monaco; 18-20 June: Portugal; 2-4 July: Britain; 9-11 July: Austria; 23-25 July: Belgium; 30 July-1 August: Hungary; 3-5 September: Italy; 10-12 September: Spain; 24-26 September: Azerbaijan; 1-3 October: Turkiye; 8-10 October: Singapore; 22-24 October: USA (Austin); 29-31 October: Mexico; 5-7 November: Brazil; 18-20 November: Las Vegas; 3-5 December: Qatar; 10-12 December: Abu Dhabi. - Agencies

FOR WEST INDIES SERIES

## Dhir, Nabi get maiden India ODI call-ups

**MUMBAI:** Naman Dhir and Auqib Nabi have earned maiden India ODI call-ups for the upcoming three-match series against West Indies, starting on September 27.

Ravindra Jadeja is also back in the ODI fold, having last played a 50-over international against New Zealand in January.

With Hardik Pandya yet to get fitness clearance from the Centre of Excellence, Nitish Kumar Reddy has been withdrawn from the Asian Games squad and included in the ODI side.

Dhir, who was initially picked

for the Australia A one-dayers, had a chart-topping Sher-E-Punjab T20 league, where he smashed 655 runs in ten games at a strike rate of 217.61 and a best of 173.

With Shreyas Iyer leading a side in the Asian Games, he has been picked for a middle-order role, as has Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Dhruv Jurel has also been included as a back-up wicketkeeper to KL Rahul.

The three-match ODI series will end on October 3 and it will be followed by five T20Is, from October 6-17.

With the Asian Games assignment concluding on October 3, Iyer and Co will be back by then.

Apart from the regulars, Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav have also been included for the West Indies T20Is.

Both were part of the T20I side that toured Zimbabwe earlier this year. Jasprit Bumrah, who made his return with the ongoing T20I series against Afghanistan, is not part of either squad.

**India's ODI squad:** Shubman Gill (capt), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul (vice-

capt), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Mohammed Siraj, Auqib Nabi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Naman Dhir.

**India's T20I squad:** Shreyas Iyer (capt), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma (vice-capt), Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav. - Agencies



BANKING FORUM

BankDhofar organised a Corporate and Institutional Banking Forum in Dhofar Governorate, attended by senior bank officials and members of the executive management, as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with the business community.

MARKET  
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,550.18 points, down by -0.85% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.75% at 617.85 points. Gulf Mushroom Products, up 6.29%, was the top gainer while, Salalah Mills, down 8.03%, was the top loser.

# Oman crude oil price jumps \$3.61 to \$132.09 a barrel

The monthly average price of Omani crude oil for September delivery stood at \$76.36 per barrel, down by \$2.73 compared with the August delivery price

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The official price of Oman crude oil for November delivery rose by \$3.61 to reach \$132.09 per barrel on Wednesday. The monthly average price of Omani crude oil for September delivery stood at \$76.36 per barrel, down by \$2.73 compared with the August delivery price. Meanwhile, in Asian trading oil prices fell following an unexpected rise in US crude inventories, as investors assessed supply risks after Saudi Arabia suspended oil loadings at Yanbu port following an attack on its East-West pipeline to the Red Sea. Brent crude futures fell 93 cents,



or 0.86 percent, to \$107.82 a barrel, and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped 97 cents, or 0.92 percent, to \$104.86 a barrel. The futures contracts for the two benchmark crude oils closed

more than \$3 higher on Tuesday, hitting their highest levels since May 19, as the suspension of loading at Yanbu increased supply concerns, while Saudi Arabia reduced oil shipments to Europe. Market sources reported on

Tuesday, citing data from the American Petroleum Institute (API), that crude oil, gasoline and petroleum product inventories rose in the United States last week. Vijay Valecha, Chief Investment Officer, Century Financial,

said: "Oil dropped on Wednesday's session as a rally driven by supply disruptions left gains looking overdone, and a US industry report pointed to a rise in stockpiles." "Now, Saudi Arabia is ramping up prompt spot sales of crude from

outside the Strait of Hormuz. Saudi Aramco has sold about 20 million barrels to Asian refiners this week that can be picked up this month and next from just outside Hormuz," he pointed out. "The buyers included Chinese state-owned and independent processors, and other importers in East Asia. Further, the industry-funded American Petroleum Institute reported that US crude inventories rose by 7.1 million barrels last week, while holdings of gasoline and distillates also expanded," he further added. Oil has still rallied sharply this year as the war between the US and Iran spread across the Middle East, while the conflict between Russia and Ukraine dragged on.

Gold edges lower

Meanwhile, gold prices edged lower on Wednesday as investors held back from making large bets ahead of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decision, with markets widely expecting an interest rate hike. Spot gold fell 0.1% to \$4,288.48 an ounce, after touching its lowest level in more than a month on Monday. US gold futures for December delivery slipped 0.1% to \$4,328.10 an ounce. Among other precious metals, spot silver was little changed at \$63.67 an ounce, while platinum fell 0.3% to \$1,770.47. Palladium rose 1% to \$1,301.61 an ounce.

MAJOR MILESTONE



## Airbus delivers first aircraft from its new assembly line in China

**TIANJIN:** Airbus on Wednesday delivered the first aircraft assembled at its new Final Assembly Line (FAL) for A320 family aircraft in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin, the second of its kind in both China and Asia. The delivery represents a major milestone in Airbus' industrial footprint expansion in China and across its global industrial system, the company said. China Eastern Airlines took delivery of the A320neo aircraft. Currently operating the largest Airbus fleet in the Chinese mainland, the airline in 1985 took delivery of an A310, China's first Airbus aircraft. "The delivery underscores Airbus' long-term commitment to our Chinese partners and our confidence in the continuous growth of China's civil aviation market," said Philippe Mhun, Executive Vice President Programmes and Services of the Commercial Aircraft business at Airbus. He Xiaogun, vice president of China Eastern Airlines, said the two companies have worked together for more than four decades, with their cooperation expanding from aircraft acquisition to areas including operational support, maintenance engineering and technical services. Mhun added that the second FAL in China, which was put into operation last October, is a critical facilitator for the company's global A320 Family ramp-up trajectory toward a production

rate of 75 aircraft per month, and provides the necessary flexibility and capacity to meet strong market demand. Since the inauguration of the first FAL in Tianjin in 2008, Airbus' first commercial aircraft assembly line outside Europe, the facility has assembled and delivered over 800 A320 Family aircraft. Chinese airlines now operate over 2,300 Airbus aircraft, about one-third assembled and delivered in Tianjin. China, the country with the largest air-travel population, is Airbus' largest single-country market for civil aircraft. Airbus said its fleet share in China has risen from about 20 percent in 2008 to more than 50 percent today. According to Airbus' latest Global Market Forecast, China's demand for new passenger aircraft is expected to reach 8,830 units over the next two decades, accounting for more than 20 percent of the estimated global total of 42,060 units. "Looking ahead, we will continue to enhance our industrial footprint in China, underscoring our unwavering trust and deep-rooted cooperation with our Chinese partners," said Erik Buschmann, chief operating officer of Airbus China. He added that the first delivery from the new assembly line stands as a "vivid testament to the long-term partnership, mutual achievement, and shared success between China and Europe." -xinhua

FUTURE COOPERATION PRIORITIES

## Meeting explores enhancing economic and statistical cooperation between Oman, SESRIC

**MUSCAT:** Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Minister of Economy, received on Wednesday Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC). During the meeting, the two sides discussed enhancing dialogue and understanding among the member states of the organisation. They also discussed intensifying cooperation and solidarity across various political, economic, social, and cultural fields, as well as combating terrorism and extremism. The meeting commenced with a welcoming speech and a visual presentation on Oman Vision 2040 and its strategic goals. The meeting also addressed the economic performance of the Sultanate of Oman during the period (2021-2026) and the course of joint cooperation between the Ministry of Economy and SESRIC. Furthermore, the meeting witnessed a review of future cooperation priorities between the two



sides, affirming the centre's role in driving social and economic development and enhancing intra-cooperation in the fields of statis-

tics, economic and social research, training, and technical cooperation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Maawali,

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, along with a number of officials and relevant personnel from the ministry. -ONA

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## Oman, Jordan sign MoU to enhance joint cooperation

**SALALAH:** The Ministry of Social Development and the Kingdom of Jordan's Ministry of Social Development on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for enhancing joint cooperation and exchanging expertise in the field of social development. The signing of the MoU took place on the sidelines of the 4th session of an initiative on enhancing independent living for persons with disabilities. The session is currently being held in the city of Salalah, Dhofar Governorate. The MoU was signed by Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, and Wafaa Bani Mustafa, Minister of Social Development in the Kingdom of Jordan. The MoU provides for the formation of a joint technical committee comprising specialists from both ministries. The areas of cooperation cover the rehabilitation and social care for persons with



disabilities, the exchange of legislation and successful practices in the employment of persons with disabilities and sharing expertise on the transition from institutional care to family-based care. The MoU also deals with the exchange of expertise and technical advice on developing handicrafts and handmade products and coop-

eration in organizing exhibitions to showcase the products of outstanding families. In addition, the MoU outlines areas of cooperation on care for the elderly and the management of associations, volunteering initiatives, corporate social responsibility activities and cash assistance programmes. -ONA

BENEFITS

## New Zealand Parliament passes trade bill, cuts tariffs on India exports

**NEW DELHI:** New Zealand's Parliament has passed legislation to implement the country's free trade agreement with India, paving the way for the elimination or significant reduction of tariffs on about 95% of New Zealand exports to the Indian market. The legislation was approved by 93 votes to 29, with the opposition Labour Party supporting the measure. More than half of the products covered by the agreement will become duty-free from the day the pact enters into force. New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay said the agreement would provide immediate and substantial benefits for exporters and is expected to take effect later this year, subject to completion of ratification procedures by both countries. -Agencies

# MARKET

## MSX index ends lower



Gulf Mushroom Products, up 6.29%, was the top gainer while, Salalah Mills, down 8.03%, was the top loser

**MUSCAT:** The MSX index closed at 7,550.18 points, down by -0.85% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.75% at 617.85 points. Gulf Mushroom Products, up 6.29%, was the top gainer while, Salalah Mills, down 8.03%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 6451 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 26.26 million, with more than 97.51 million shares changing hands.

Out of 75 traded securities, 11 advanced, 41 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 811K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 617K, followed by domestic investors for RO 194K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,526.25 points, down -0.65%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, and Oman & Emirates Investment

were up by 3.90%, and 2.44% respectively. Prices of Oman United Insurance, DIDIC, Al Shargia Investment, Al Batinah Development Company, and Bank Nizwa were down by 3.03%, 2.01%, 1.96%, 1.43%, and 1.31% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,812.92 points, down -0.92%. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, National Detergent, and Dhofar Foods and Investment were up by 6.29%, 5.37%, and 5.22% respectively. Prices of Salalah Mills, Oman Fisheries, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cement, and Al Anwar Ceramics were down by 8.03%, 4.35%, 3.25%, 0.65%, and 0.64% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.81% before closing at 3,014.13 points. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, and Sembcorp Salalah were up by 4.00%, and 1.16% respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Jazeera Services, Al Suwadi Power, OQ Gas Networks, and Barka Desalination were down by 2.50%, 2.34%, 2.00%, 1.82%, and 1.24% respectively.

### OMAN STOCKS

## MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

| INDICES            | High      | Low       | Value     | Prev. Value | Diff.   | Diff%   |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------|---------|
| MSX 30 INDEX       | 7,628.68  | 7,528.31  | 7,550.18  | 7,614.87    | -64.69  | -0.85 % |
| FINANCIAL INDEX    | 13,628.49 | 13,507.43 | 13,526.25 | 13,615.38   | -89.13  | -0.65 % |
| Industry Index     | 9,907.52  | 9,778.28  | 9,812.92  | 9,903.58    | -90.67  | -0.92 % |
| Services Index     | 3,044.89  | 3,005.19  | 3,014.13  | 3,038.73    | -24.61  | -0.81 % |
| MSX Shariah Index  | 623.05    | 616.34    | 617.85    | 622.55      | -4.70   | -0.75 % |
| MSX TR INDEX       | 11,827.42 | 11,671.80 | 11,705.71 | 11,806.00   | -100.29 | -0.85 % |
| FINANCIAL TR IDX   | 16,755.52 | 16,606.68 | 16,629.82 | 16,739.39   | -109.58 | -0.65 % |
| INDUSTRIAL TRIDX   | 12,689.02 | 12,523.50 | 12,567.85 | 12,683.98   | -116.12 | -0.92 % |
| SERVICES TR IDX    | 4,088.36  | 4,035.05  | 4,047.08  | 4,080.87    | -33.04  | -0.81 % |
| 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 |
|------------|------------|--------|----------------|----|------|-------|-------------|
| 97,514,910 | 26,259,908 | 6,451  | 39,234,360,512 | 11 | 41   | 23    | 75          |

## SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 16

| SECURITY NAME  | VOLUME     | TURNOVER  | TRADES  | OPEN PRICE         | HIGH  | LOW   | CLOSE PR. | PREV. CLOSE | DIFF (RD) | DIFF % | LAST PD | LAST BD | LAST OFFER | P/B VALUE | MARKET CAP        |
|----------------|------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| REGULAR MARKET |            |           |         |                    |       |       |           |             |           |        |         |         |            |           |                   |
| OM0000002287   | 175,605    | 78,399    | 28      | 0.445              | 0.473 | 0.445 | 0.473     | 0.445       | 0.028     | 6.292  | 0.473   | 0.458   | 0.475      | 0.100     | 23,811,944        |
| OM0000001881   | 46,121     | 5,767     | 8       | 0.121              | 0.126 | 0.121 | 0.126     | 0.123       | 0.003     | 2.439  | 0.126   | 0.111   | 0.126      | 0.100     | 16,124,063        |
| OM0000004735   | 286,194    | 49,183    | 28      | 0.259              | 0.261 | 0.259 | 0.261     | 0.258       | 0.003     | 1.163  | 0.261   | 0.255   | 0.260      | 0.100     | 249,143,279       |
| OM0000001707   | 450        | 1,548     | 1       | 3.440              | 3.440 | 3.440 | 3.440     | 3.440       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 3.440   | 3.435   | 3.440      | 0.100     | 338,568,000       |
| OM0000001772   | 129,062    | 26,845    | 8       | 0.208              | 0.208 | 0.208 | 0.208     | 0.208       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.208   | 0.208   | 0.209      | 0.100     | 63,961,980        |
| OM0000002176   | 2,000      | 1,820     | 1       | 0.910              | 0.910 | 0.910 | 0.910     | 0.910       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.910   | 0.900   | 0.910      | 0.100     | 113,657,144       |
| OM0000003000   | 115        | 138       | 1       | 1.200              | 1.200 | 1.200 | 1.200     | 1.200       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 1.200   | 1.200   | 1.200      | 0.000     | 0.100             |
| OM0000004768   | 262,798    | 29,187    | 27      | 0.111              | 0.112 | 0.110 | 0.111     | 0.111       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.111   | 0.110   | 0.111      | 0.100     | 19,425,000        |
| OM0000001483   | 9,000      | 4,388     | 6       | 0.488              | 0.489 | 0.487 | 0.489     | 0.490       | -0.001    | -0.204 | 0.489   | 0.488   | 0.489      | 0.100     | 795,087,768       |
| OM0000002804   | 1,266      | 925       | 4       | 0.732              | 0.732 | 0.730 | 0.730     | 0.732       | -0.002    | -0.273 | 0.730   | 0.730   | 0.730      | 0.100     | 57,600,000        |
| OM0000003926   | 2,158,443  | 2,945,167 | 101     | 1.366              | 1.366 | 1.355 | 1.360     | 1.366       | -0.006    | -0.439 | 1.357   | 1.357   | 1.359      | 0.100     | 1,001,020,000,000 |
| OM0000002549   | 475,646    | 98,779    | 254     | 0.208              | 0.209 | 0.206 | 0.207     | 0.207       | -0.001    | -0.483 | 0.206   | 0.206   | 0.206      | 0.100     | 626,198,498       |
| OM0000008934   | 954,661    | 383,159   | 307     | 0.405              | 0.405 | 0.400 | 0.403     | 0.405       | -0.002    | -0.494 | 0.403   | 0.402   | 0.403      | 0.100     | 310,390,600       |
| OM0000003661   | 431,587    | 81,523    | 39      | 0.189              | 0.190 | 0.188 | 0.189     | 0.189       | -0.001    | -0.529 | 0.188   | 0.188   | 0.188      | 0.010     | 188,000,000       |
| OM0000003125   | 190,086    | 68,965    | 11      | 0.359              | 0.359 | 0.355 | 0.358     | 0.360       | -0.002    | -0.556 | 0.358   | 0.357   | 0.365      | 0.100     | 71,600,000        |
| OM0000003968   | 68,380     | 21,676    | 31      | 0.318              | 0.318 | 0.316 | 0.316     | 0.318       | -0.002    | -0.629 | 0.318   | 0.318   | 0.318      | 0.100     | 205,698,377       |
| OM0000001749   | 50,505     | 31,111    | 7       | 0.616              | 0.616 | 0.616 | 0.620     | 0.616       | -0.004    | -0.645 | 0.616   | 0.616   | 0.620      | 0.100     | 203,817,589       |
| OM0000003224   | 35,920     | 10,268    | 10      | 0.286              | 0.287 | 0.285 | 0.285     | 0.287       | -0.002    | -0.697 | 0.285   | 0.285   | 0.286      | 0.100     | 67,376,850        |
| OM0000003683   | 2,251,431  | 622,763   | 106     | 0.284              | 0.284 | 0.275 | 0.278     | 0.280       | -0.002    | -0.714 | 0.278   | 0.275   | 0.278      | 0.100     | 406,603,206       |
| OM0000001020   | 1,680,561  | 367,407   | 502     | 0.225              | 0.225 | 0.219 | 0.223     | 0.225       | -0.002    | -0.889 | 0.223   | 0.220   | 0.223      | 0.000     | 1,161,549,974     |
| OM0000009759   | 2,910,048  | 1,392,991 | 261     | 0.481              | 0.482 | 0.473 | 0.476     | 0.481       | -0.005    | -1.040 | 0.476   | 0.476   | 0.476      | 0.010     | 808,000,000       |
| OM0000003398   | 36,393,312 | 6,942,935 | 1,002   | 0.193              | 0.193 | 0.189 | 0.190     | 0.192       | -0.002    | -1.042 | 0.190   | 0.190   | 0.190      | 0.100     | 1,458,441,078     |
| OM0000002374   | 46,600     | 4,002     | 14      | 0.087              | 0.087 | 0.087 | 0.087     | 0.088       | -0.001    | -1.138 | 0.087   | 0.087   | 0.087      | 0.100     | 30,983,075        |
| OM0000002796   | 3,702,460  | 4,107,794 | 839     | 0.427              | 0.427 | 0.418 | 0.421     | 0.426       | -0.005    | -1.174 | 0.421   | 0.421   | 0.421      | 0.100     | 3,160,193,163     |
| OM0000009908   | 14,876,447 | 3,749,940 | 1,031   | 0.256              | 0.256 | 0.250 | 0.252     | 0.255       | -0.003    | -1.176 | 0.252   | 0.253   | 0.252      | 0.040     | 871,791,694       |
| OM0000008710   | 4,000      | 636       | 2       | 0.159              | 0.159 | 0.159 | 0.159     | 0.161       | -0.002    | -1.242 | 0.159   | 0.160   | 0.160      | 0.100     | 12,007,998        |
| OM0000004420   | 284,508    | 42,873    | 15      | 0.152              | 0.152 | 0.150 | 0.151     | 0.153       | -0.002    | -1.307 | 0.151   | 0.151   | 0.155      | 0.100     | 337,779,898       |
| OM0000009972   | 14,880,020 | 3,234,451 | 1,035   | 0.221              | 0.221 | 0.215 | 0.216     | 0.220       | -0.004    | -1.818 | 0.216   | 0.215   | 0.216      | 0.100     | 435,414,707       |
| OM0000002440   | 11,450     | 1,145     | 4       | 0.100              | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.100     | 0.102       | -0.002    | -1.961 | 0.100   | 0.099   | 0.101      | 0.100     | 9,000,000         |
| OM0000004933   | 520,862    | 102,314   | 32      | 0.197              | 0.198 | 0.195 | 0.196     | 0.200       | -0.004    | -2.000 | 0.196   | 0.196   | 0.196      | 0.100     | 140,023,643       |
| OM0000001509   | 344,848    | 385       | 152,600 | 45.143             | 21    | 0.300 | 0.300     | 0.292       | 0.292     | 0.298  | -0.006  | -2.013  | 0.292      | 0.290     | 0.297             |
| OM0000002226   | 47,583     | 11,905    | 18      | 0.252              | 0.252 | 0.249 | 0.250     | 0.256       | -0.006    | -2.344 | 0.250   | 0.249   | 0.253      | 0.100     | 10,710,748        |
| OM0000004925   | 167,875    | 33,001    | 15      | 0.198              | 0.200 | 0.195 | 0.195     | 0.200       | -0.005    | -2.500 | 0.195   | 0.190   | 0.199      | 0.100     | 131,603,049       |
| OM0000001087   | 46,100     | 14,923    | 10      | 0.320              | 0.325 | 0.320 | 0.320     | 0.330       | -0.010    | -3.030 | 0.320   | 0.314   | 0.339      | 0.100     | 33,600,000        |
| OM0000003141   | 10,700     | 1,626     | 2       | 0.152              | 0.152 | 0.151 | 0.151     | 0.158       | -0.007    | -4.430 | 0.151   | 0.150   | 0.158      | 0.100     | 24,160,000        |
| Total          | 35         |           |         | 89,237,792,434,693 | 5,765 |       |           |             |           |        |         |         |            |           |                   |

### Parallel Market

|               |                                  |           |           |     |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |            |             |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------------|
| OM0000003265  | NATIONAL DETERGENT               | 7060      | 4365      | 5   | 0.615 | 0.649 | 0.615 | 0.648 | 0.615 | 0.033  | 5.368  | 0.648 | 0.601 | 0.649 | 0.100      | 12,960,000  |
| OM0000001301  | DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT      | 655,939   | 158,285   | 20  | 0.220 | 0.245 | 0.220 | 0.242 | 0.230 | 0.012  | 5.217  | 0.242 | 0.220 | 0.250 | 0.100      | 47,837,815  |
| OM0000002275  | SHELL OMAN MARKETING             | 1,408     | 1,098     | 3   | 0.780 | 0.780 | 0.780 | 0.780 | 0.750 | 0.030  | 4.000  | 0.780 | 0.000 | 0.780 | 0.100      | 74,100,000  |
| OM0000001962  | AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING     | 130       | 10        | 1   | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.077 | 0.003  | 3.896  | 0.080 | 0.070 | 0.080 | 0.100      | 3,448,000   |
| OM0000003711  | SOHAR POWER                      | 143       | 30        | 1   | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.209 | 0.001  | 0.478  | 0.210 | 0.200 | 0.219 | 0.100      | 4,200,000   |
| OM0000001020  | OMAN CHROMITE                    | 1,000     | 4,000     | 2   | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 1.000      | 14,000,000  |
| OM0000001095  | DHOFAR INSURANCE                 | 2,762     | 939       | 1   | 0.340 | 0.340 | 0.340 | 0.340 | 0.340 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.340 | 0.340 | 0.000 | 39,559,336 |             |
| OM0000001384  | FINANCIAL SERVICES               | 32,153    | 7,717     | 2   | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.000 | 4,800,000  |             |
| OM0000001426  | OMAN REFRESHMENT                 | 374       | 411       | 1   | 1.100 | 1.100 | 1.100 | 1.100 | 1.100 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 1.100 | 1.071 | 1.100 | 0.100      | 55,000,000  |
| OM0000001590  | MUSCAT FINANCE                   | 80,307    | 5,300     | 8   | 0.066 | 0.066 | 0.066 | 0.066 | 0.066 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.066 | 0.066 | 0.070 | 0.100      | 20,271,657  |
| OM0000002028  | GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS     | 45,449    | 4,136     | 3   | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.070 | 0.100      | 1,449,000   |
| OM0000002200  | AHLI BANK                        | 3,700     | 740       | 1   | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.000 | 0.100      | 555,658,183 |
| OM0000003281  | TAKREEF FINANCE                  | 454       | 51        | 1   | 0.112 | 0.112 | 0.112 | 0.112 | 0.112 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.112 | 0.114 | 0.100 | 31,773,368 |             |
| OM0000004776  | TAKAFUL OMAN                     | 17,052    | 1,007     | 6   | 0.059 | 0.060 | 0.059 | 0.060 | 0.060 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.060 | 0.059 | 0.060 | 0.100      | 15,000,000  |
| OM0000005260  | OMAN ARAB BANK                   | 735,000   | 205,785   | 72  | 0.280 | 0.280 | 0.279 | 0.280 | 0.280 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.280 | 0.278 | 0.280 | 0.100      | 560,768,133 |
| OM0000007084  | MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION         | 66,000    | 6,265     | 8   | 0.094 | 0.095 | 0.094 | 0.095 | 0.095 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.095 | 0.094 | 0.095 | 0.100      | 1,477,788   |
| OM0000007910  | AMAN REAL ESTATE                 | 94,978    | 6,620     | 6   | 0.070 | 0.070 | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.069 | 0.069 | 0.075 | 0.100      | 13,800,000  |
| OM0000008868  | THE PEARL REIF                   | 5,780     | 1,035     | 5   | 0.179 | 0.180 | 0.178 | 0.179 | 0.179 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.180 | 0.178 | 0.180 | 0.100      | 105,867,202 |
| OM00000010823 | OMAN GATEWAY FUND                | 213       | 224       | 2   | 1.050 | 1.050 | 1.050 | 1.050 | 1.053 | -0.003 | -0.285 | 1.050 | 1.050 | 1.054 | 0.000      | 28,796,084  |
| OM0000003036  | MUSCAT THREAD MILLS              | 4,401     | 1,021     | 3   | 0.232 | 0.232 | 0.232 | 0.232 | 0.233 | -0.001 | 0.285  | 0.232 | 0.232 | 0.232 | 0.100      | 14,000,000  |
| OM0000004764  | NATIONAL FINANCE                 | 1,307,729 | 27,845    | 14  | 0.213 | 0.213 | 0.213 | 0.213 | 0.214 | -0.001 | -0.467 | 0.213 | 0.213 | 0.216 | 0.100      | 138,598,119 |
| OM0000002341  | OMAN CHLORINE                    | 200       | 34        | 1   | 0.169 | 0.169 | 0.169 | 0.169 | 0.170 | -0.001 | -0.588 | 0.169 | 0.158 | 0.169 | 0.100      | 12,084,994  |
| OM0000002168  | AL ANTWER CERAMIC                | 561,429   | 86,192    | 57  | 0.154 | 0.155 | 0.152 | 0.155 | 0.156 | -0.001 | -0.641 | 0.155 | 0.152 | 0.155 | 0.100      | 34,100,000  |
| OM0000001160  | NATIONAL GAS                     | 36,000    | 3,997     | 3   | 0.112 | 0.112 | 0.111 | 0.111 | 0.112 | -0.001 | -0.893 | 0.111 | 0.111 | 0.113 | 0.100      | 9,435,000   |
| OM0000008447  | OMAN REIT FUND                   | 8,280     | 877       | 5   | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.106 | -0.001 | -0.943 | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.100      | 88,380,593  |
| OM0000001151  | OMIIFICO                         | 4,765,580 | 1,087,304 | 352 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.219 | 0.222 | 0.225 | -0.003 | -1.353 | 0.222 | 0.222 | 0.222 | 0.000      | 148,654,041 |
| JABAL REEF    |                                  | 7904      | 830       | 4   | 0.107 | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.106 | -0.001 | -0.197 | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.100      | 16,444,000  |
| OM0000003521  | GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING | 117,138   | 17,526    | 21  | 0.152 | 0.152 | 0.148 | 0.149 | 0.154 | -0.005 | -3.247 | 0.149 | 0.149 | 0.155 | 0.100      | 2,400,290   |
| OM0000001898  | SAL ALAH MILLS                   | 50,104    | 27,556    | 2   | 0.543 | 0.550 | 0.543 | 0.550 | 0.598 | -0.048 | -8.027 | 0.550 | 0.550 | 0.600 | 0.100      | 34,354,685  |
| Total         |                                  | 7,431,757 | 1,630,220 | 610 |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |            |             |



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Whatsapp : 75123132

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Indian male, MBA (Finance), with +9 years of experience in Accounting & Finance, seeking a position as an Audit Associate. NOC available. Valid driving license.  
CONTACT : 72420067, 95272057

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### VACANCY

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A manufacturing company in Sohar is looking for a **Procurement Officer** with a B.E. in Mechanical Engineering and 5–8 years of relevant industrial procurement experience. The role includes sourcing materials and equipment, vendor evaluation, negotiation, purchase processing, delivery follow-up, logistics arrangements, and participation in technical evaluations. Candidates should have experience working with ERP systems. A valid Oman driving licence and willingness to travel internationally, as required, are essential. Experience in the composites industry will be an advantage.

Interested candidates may send their CV to

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Contact : +968-90114599. Email : mukesh.gurnani@gmail.com

**Indian male Senior accountant** with 11 yrs experience in Financial reporting, cost control, audit, VAT & MS office. Seeking suitable positions.  
Contact: 92719164. Email: gah489337@gmail.com

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

### ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

**Pakistani finance professional with MBA and (OACPA certified)** with 19 yrs experience in Oman since 14 yrs capable of handling all accounting-related works, with Oman D/L, NOC Contact: 99128007

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

**M.Com** with 4 yrs of experience in the accounting, admin executive. Seeks a suitable job with D/L. Presently in Oman & can join immediately. Contact: +96878585714 Email:sifath774@gmail.com

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

**Indian male, well experienced in accounts including finalization and audit** seek suitable positions, can join immediately. Contact : 92824146, 94953826

### ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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**B.E. Mechanical engineer** with 6+ yrs experience seeks job. Contact: 75270710, Email: jinsonrijo@gmail.com

### IT

**Indian male 26 yrs Software Engineer** with 2+ yrs GCC experience in full-stack web development (PHP, JS, React, MySQL). Presently in Muscat, ready for immediate joining. Contact: +96896094823 Email: sadullah2000@gmail.com

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# Eleven Palestinians killed as war-damaged building collapses in Gaza

According to local residents, more than 60 people, mostly displaced persons, were staying in the building, which had suffered structural damage and cracks due to Israeli shelling

**GAZA:** Eleven Palestinians were killed and 14 others injured, while dozens remain trapped under the rubble, following the collapse of a residential building in the Al-Sina'a area, southwest of Gaza City. The building had previously sustained damage from Israeli forces' shelling during the war. Rescue teams in Gaza reported that the six-storey residential building collapsed onto its residents and onto tents housing displaced persons set up nearby. They said crews have been working since early Wednesday to reach those trapped under the rubble amid a severe shortage of equipment and heavy machinery. According to local residents, more than 60 people, mostly displaced persons, were staying in the building, which had suffered structural damage and cracks due to Israeli shelling. The total number of fatalities since the ceasefire took effect on October 11 has risen to 1,375, with 4,686 injured and 831 bodies recovered from the rubble. The overall toll of the genocidal war waged by Israeli forces on the



Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, has risen to 73,789, with 174,798 Palestinians injured.

**Government calls for immediate access to Gaza for civil defence** Meanwhile, in Ramallah, the Palestinian Government calls for the immediate and unhindered entry into the Gaza Strip of Palestinian and international civil defence and rescue teams to rescue injured Palestinians and those trapped be-

neath the rubble of a residential building that had previously been struck by the Israeli forces and subsequently collapsed on civilians. The building was home to 10 families. Twenty Palestinians have been confirmed killed and 14 injured, while dozens remain unaccounted for, most of them women and children. The Palestinian Government extends its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to the Palestinian people. It urgently

calls on the international community to exert effective and immediate pressure to facilitate the entry of civil defence and rescue teams, together with the heavy machinery and specialized equipment needed to remove the rubble, recover the bodies of those killed, and rescue injured Palestinians and those who remain trapped beneath the ruins. The Palestinian Government stresses that every moment of delay costs more lives and places those trapped beneath the rubble at further risk, underscoring the urgent need to ensure immediate access for rescue operations.

**Israeli forces begin demolishing pastoral community near Deir Ballut** Israeli forces began demolishing, on Wednesday morning, a pastoral community in the western area of Deir Ballut town, west of Salfit. Local sources told Wafa that Israeli forces raided the area and began demolishing the community, which has been home to more than 20 Palestinians for over 20 years. — Wafa

## President Abbas meets Arab League Secretary-General

**CAIRO:** President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas, met on Wednesday with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Nabil Fahmy. During the meeting, held at the League's headquarters in Cairo, the President praised the significant role played by the League of Arab States in supporting the Palestinian cause. He commended its steadfast positions and the efforts of fellow Arab countries to uphold the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, aiming toward the achievement of their freedom and independence. President Abbas reviewed political and on-the-ground developments in Palestine amidst the dangerous escalation in the West Bank—including Jerusalem—driven by settlement expansion, settler terrorism, and attacks on holy sites. He also addressed the ongoing aggression against the Gaza Strip, which continues to face blockade, starvation, and daily killings, despite the announced ceasefire. The meeting discussed ways to enhance coordination and cooperation between the State of Palestine and the League of Arab States. Key topics included mobilizing Arab and international support for the Palestinian cause, ensuring protection for the Palestinian people, reconstructing what was destroyed by the war in Gaza, halting settlement activities,



confronting plans to displace the Palestinian people, and rallying efforts to end the occupation and realise an independent Palestinian state. The President addressed the difficult economic situation facing the State of Palestine due to Israel's continued withholding of over six billion dollars in Palestinian tax revenues, alongside measures aimed at undermining the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority. He emphasized the importance of activating the Arab financial safety net during these challenging and exceptional circumstances to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people. President Abbas also briefed the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on the achievements made by the Palestinian government in implementing the national reform program, affirming his commitment to renewing national legitimacy through elections. — Wafa

### EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION



## Russian Ambassador pledges to increase scholarships for Pakistani students

**ISLAMABAD:** Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert P. Khorve has pledged to increase scholarships for Pakistani youth, saying that Pakistani students proficient in the Russian language can benefit from the expanded opportunities for higher education, research, training and employment in Russia. He said educational cooperation between Pakistan and Russia could play a key role to further strengthen the longstanding friendly relations between the two countries. He said this while addressing the certificate distribution ceremony of the Russian Language Course at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) here on Wednesday. Appreciating the university's initiative to promote the Russian language, the Ambassador said that the promotion of languages is an effective means of bringing the peoples, educational institutions and cultures of the two countries closer. He said proficiency in the Russian language could play an important role in connecting Pakistani youth with educational and research institutions in Russia. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) said that the AIU was playing its role in strengthening Pakistan-Russia relations through the promotion of the Russian

language and culture. Congratulating the students who completed the Russian language course, he said that these young people could serve as educational and cultural ambassadors between the two countries. He said that the Open University is providing its students with opportunities to learn international languages, thereby connecting them with new opportunities in education, research and employment at the international level. In addition to Russian, courses in Turkish and Japanese are also part of the university's vision. He said the university's objective is not merely limited to obtaining degrees but also preparing them in accordance with global educational and professional requirements. Registrar Raja Umer Younis said that the graduation ceremony of the ninth and tenth batches of the three-month course offered by the Russian Language Centre established at the university was being held while classes for the eleventh and twelfth batches would also commence soon. Director International Collaboration and Exchange Dr. Zahid Majeed said that the Open University is actively working to promote cooperation with Russian educational institutions as well as the Russian language, literature and culture. — APP

### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

## US war on Iran costs \$38bn, could reach \$3bn a month, CBO estimates

**WASHINGTON DC:** The ongoing US conflict with Iran in West Asia has cost the US Department of Defence (DoD) approximately \$38 billion as of August 1, 2026, according to a recent report on the war by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which said the monthly cost could rise to \$3 billion if the intensity of fighting increases to levels seen in July. The CBO, a nonpartisan agency that provides budget and economic analysis for the US Congress, released its assessment in a report titled "Estimating the Cost of Combat Operations Against Iran". The agency examined four categories linked to the conflict: DoD's operational, logistical and sustainment costs; opportunity costs; economic costs arising from disruptions and higher prices; and potential additional costs, including diplomatic operations and foreign aid. Of the \$38 billion estimated cost, CBO said a substantial portion reflects the expense of replacing expended munitions and equipment lost in battle, increased flying hours, other military operations and higher fuel costs. The agency noted that the initial intense phase of the conflict lasted just over a month, while less intense combat operations have continued. "As the conflict persists, DoD's



costs will continue to increase—slowly if the level of violence remains low and sporadic (as it did in May and June) and rapidly if the intensity of the conflict escalates (as it did in July)," the report said. According to the agency, an additional month of conflict would cost about \$2 billion if violence remained at the levels seen in May and June. However, if the intensity increased to roughly the level experienced in July, the monthly cost would rise to \$3 billion. "Monthly costs could be higher still if the violence escalated further," CBO added.

The CBO report further said that its estimate was based on government databases and public reports because the Department of Defense did not respond to its requests for information. The agency therefore cautioned that its estimates were subject to "considerable uncertainty". The assessment also pointed to the broader budgetary implications of the conflict. CBO noted that the Administration had requested \$87.6 billion in supplemental appropriations in June, including \$67.1 billion for DoD. The portion of the request that CBO said appeared to be directly

related to the conflict, \$42.3 billion, was about 10 per cent larger than its estimate of DoD's costs. Beyond direct military expenditure, CBO identified the large expenditure of missile defence interceptors as the main opportunity cost for DoD so far. It said this would leave the United States with a reduced inventory of interceptors for several years. The conflict has also produced economic effects beyond military spending, particularly through disruptions to oil and natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and shipping through the Red Sea. — ANI

### LOS ANGELES

## News helicopter crashes in LA, killing 3

**LOS ANGELES:** A news helicopter in Los Angeles crashed and burst into flames while covering a deadly bus accident on Tuesday evening. At least three people were reported killed and a fourth was injured. The helicopter crashed near a storage building in the Chatsworth neighborhood, northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

A spokesperson for the Los Angeles Fire Department said at least one person was killed in the parking lot next to the building, adding it was currently unclear if the other two victims were on the ground or inside the aircraft. He said officials were combing the wreckage. "We're trying to determine how many patients were inside the helicopter," said spokesperson Brandon Silverman.

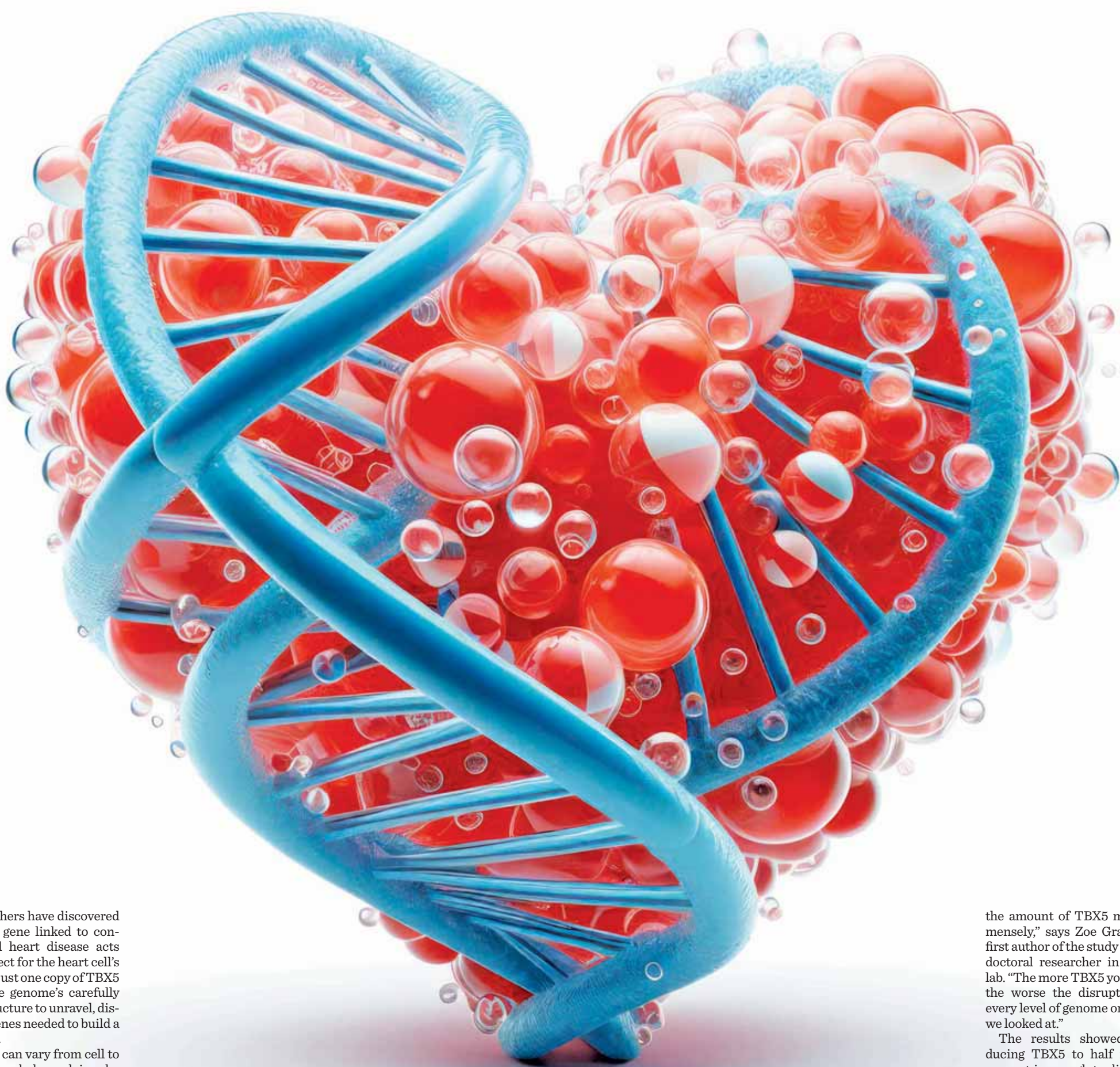
**Cause of crash unknown** The local affiliate of US broadcaster NBC confirmed the helicopter was NewsChopper4, which had been en route to cover a deadly collision between an SUV and a city bus that killed two people. There has been no immediate confirmation of the identity of those on board the helicopter, however, NBC reported it has been unable to contact the crew. — DW





## LIFESTYLE

# Researchers say a faulty gene copy can make the heart's DNA fold wrong way



Researchers have discovered that a gene linked to congenital heart disease acts like an architect for the heart cell's DNA. Losing just one copy of TBX5 can cause the genome's carefully folded 3D structure to unravel, disrupting the genes needed to build a healthy heart.

The effects can vary from cell to cell, which may help explain why people with the same mutation develop different heart defects. The same hidden mechanism could also play a role in other birth defects.

According to the Science Daily website, Congenital heart disease is the most common birth defect, affecting about 1 in 100 babies born each year. The condition can have many causes, including changes involving TBX5, a gene that plays a critical role in building the heart. In some cases, a child has only one working copy of TBX5 rather than two healthy copies inherited from the parents.

For years, researchers have been trying to understand why losing the function of just one copy can have such a major effect on heart development, even when the second copy still works.

Researchers at Gladstone Institutes now report that TBX5 has another important role beyond controlling gene activity. It helps organise DNA into the physical three-dimensional structure that heart cells need to work properly. In a new study published in Science, the scientists found that losing even one copy of TBX5 can disrupt this organisation, changing how many other genes are used inside heart cells.

The findings offer a new way to think about a long-standing question in genetics: why losing one copy of certain genes, a condition called haplo-insufficiency, can cause severe problems during development.

"TBX5 is just one example of a broader class of genes that cause birth defects when only one copy is lost," says Benoit Bruneau, PhD, director of the Gladstone Insti-

tute of Cardiovascular Disease and a senior author of the study. "What's exciting about our findings is they suggest many different birth defects might happen for the same reason: the cell's 3D instruction manual simply gets folded the wrong way."

"We developed and used different computational models to analyze results from thousands of individual cells," says Katie Pollard, PhD, director of the Gladstone Institute of Data Science and Biotechnology and the other senior author of the study. "That allowed us to finally see how losing this one protein causes the heart's DNA structure to break down on every level."

### How DNA folding helps cells work

Packing DNA into a cell is a remarkable feat. It is similar to squeezing a miles-long instruction manual into the head of a pin. But DNA is not packed randomly. Each type of cell folds its genetic material into a distinct three-dimensional arrangement, allowing a heart cell to access a different set of instructions than a brain cell.

This 3D structure is arranged in multiple layers. It includes large compartments (like separate binders of the manual), domains (like paragraphs), and chromatin loops (like folding a page so two distant sentences touch). These loops allow distant genetic switches called

In a new study published in Science, the scientists found that losing even one copy of TBX5 can disrupt this organisation, changing how many other genes are used inside heart cells

enhancers to make physical contact with specific genes. Those contacts help cells activate the instructions they need.

Scientists already knew that TBX5 is one of the major regulators of heart development. The protein helps activate many of the genes

required for heart cells to develop and function. Earlier work from Bruneau's lab showed that losing one copy of TBX5 affects the levels of hundreds of other heart-specific genes. What remained unclear was exactly how that happened.

The researchers therefore set out to determine whether the physical folding of DNA influences how heart cells behave, and whether TBX5 helps control that process.

Mapping the heart's 3D genome To investigate, the team combined several advanced methods that allowed them to examine how individual cells respond to different amounts of TBX5. They guided human stem cells into becoming heart muscle cells. Some cells were healthy, some lacked one copy of TBX5, and others lacked both copies.

The scientists then used high-resolution 3D mapping to examine DNA loops at extremely fine detail.

Because the experiment produced millions of data points from thousands of individual cells, the researchers relied on computational models to analyse the enormous datasets.

"Using the custom computational approaches we developed,

we were able to see for the first time how the loss of TBX5 triggers the total collapse of the heart's 3D DNA organisation," says Shuzhen Kuang, PhD, a first author of the study and former bioinformatics fellow in Pollard's lab as quoted by Science Daily website.

"Surprisingly, we discovered this collapse happens at every level of genome organisation -- compartments, domains, and chromatin loops."

### TBX5 acts as an architect for heart DNA

As healthy stem cells developed into heart muscle cells, the researchers saw major changes in the organisation of the genome. Large sections of DNA switched between active and inactive states as the cells matured.

TBX5 emerged as a central organiser of these structural changes.

The researchers found that TBX5 works like a GPS for a molecular motor called cohesin. TBX5 helps direct cohesin to the correct locations on DNA, where it creates chromatin loops that bring genes together with their enhancers.

When TBX5 levels fall too low, these loops do not form properly. DNA becomes incorrectly folded, and important genes involved in heart development may fail to switch on when they are needed.

"What was striking was how

the amount of TBX5 matters immensely," says Zoe Grant, PhD, a first author of the study and a post-doctoral researcher in Bruneau's lab. "The more TBX5 you removed, the worse the disruption across every level of genome organisation we looked at."

The results showed that reducing TBX5 to half its normal amount is enough to disrupt DNA folding and directly contribute to heart defects.

The researchers also discovered that individual heart cells do not all respond in exactly the same way to the loss of TBX5. Clear differences appeared between two major types of heart cells, atrial and ventricular cells. Variation was also seen among individual cells of the same type.

"This could help explain why people with the same mutation can have different heart defects," Grant says.

### A broader mechanism for developmental disease

Although the findings provide new insight into congenital heart disease, the researchers believe the same basic mechanism could be involved in other developmental disorders.

"We believe we've uncovered a new mechanism of disease," says Bruneau. "We showed that even a small decrease in a single protein can cause the DNA blueprint to fold incorrectly and lead to disease. So, many birth defects currently attributed to genetic mutations may actually be caused by the 3D misfolding of DNA."

The findings suggest that some genetic mutations may cause disease not only by changing individual genetic instructions, but also by disturbing the physical arrangement of the genome itself.

Next, the team plans to determine when TBX5 first begins organising the genome during early heart development. The researchers also want to learn whether other proteins associated with birth defects shape DNA in similar ways. — ANI

# Dowman stars for Arsenal; Liverpool rout Tottenham



## THE GUNNERS

The Gunners outplayed Ipswich while the Reds proved too good for Spurs in the English League Cup third round on Tuesday

**LONDON:** Arsenal can't stop winning. As for big-spending Tottenham, just scoring a goal is a feat in itself this season.

The current gulf between the two north London rivals was highlighted in the English League Cup on Tuesday, with Arsenal fielding almost an entire second-choice lineup and still overwhelming fellow Premier League team Ipswich in a 4-2 win in the third round.

That makes six straight wins across all competitions to open the season for Arsenal.

Then there's Tottenham, who



lost 3-1 in the pouring rain at Liverpool and aren't getting much return on their incredible \$400 million outlay on new players in the summer transfer window.

At least Spurs scored. They haven't managed that in four Premier League games so far this season. Max Dowman, a 16-year-old prodigy, enhanced his budding reputation with a goal early in each half, while Noni Madueke and Mikel Merino also netted for the English champions as they soared into a 4-0 lead.

"He is only 16 years old and we have to be careful," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said of Dowman, an attacking midfielder who last

year became the youngest player in Champions League history, at age 15 years and 308 days. "We don't want to stop him, but we need to develop him. We're fully aware of what he needs and he will have full opportunities to play."

Arsenal's impressive strength in depth should enable Arteta's squad to challenge on multiple fronts.

"That's what we want: to face every game, every competition with the same mentality, attitude and desire," Arteta said, "and so far we are doing it."

Spurs' only victory in six games this season was against second-tier Charlton in the previous round of the League Cup.



In the Premier League, they have two draws and two losses — and no goals.

Conor Gallagher's header at a corner in the 69th minute gave Tottenham hope after goals by Alexis Mac Allister and Cody Gakpo put Liverpool 2-0 ahead.

Dominik Szoboszlai's long-range piledriver in the first minute of stoppage time ended any chance of a comeback by the visitors, who racked up 17 mostly wayward shots. "We have to shoot more times and we have to shoot better," Tottenham manager Roberto De Zerbi said. "We have to finish better the clear situations."

Tottenham aren't playing in Eu-

ropean competition this season, so their only realistic chance of silverware lies with the FA Cup starting in January.

"I don't know if the click is (coming) on Saturday or not," De Zerbi said, looking ahead to Aston Villa's visit in the league, "... because we have enough qualities to score many goals with these players."

**Fulham, Brentford progress**  
Premier League teams Fulham and Brentford also advanced to the fourth round. Fulham won 3-2 at second-tier West Ham and Brentford beat third-tier Reading 2-1. - Agencies

## ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE

### Al Ain rout Ronaldo's Al Nassr in ACL Elite

**DUBAI:** Cristiano Ronaldo and Al Nassr kicked off their Asian Champions League (ACL) Elite campaign with a 4-0 loss to Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday.

The Saudi Arabian champions have never won the tournament and were behind after 25 minutes as Houssine Rahimi opened the scoring. The Moroccan forward doubled the lead for the two-time winner just after the hour mark. Soufiane Rahimi, Houssine's brother, added a third with 18 minutes remaining and then set up Georgios Giakoumakis for the fourth.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo, looking for career goal No. 980, had a free kick late in the game but it was saved by goalkeeper Khalid Eisa.

"The players gave everything

they had, and I do not place any responsibility on them ... and the responsibility is mine," Al Nassr coach Ange Postecoglou said. "Al Nassr as a whole was poor."

The result leaves the Saudi Pro League champions with one win in its last four matches.

It was a mixed opening round for the five Saudi clubs.

Four-time champions Al Hilal beat Qatar's Al Gharafa 2-1. Ruben Neves converted a penalty late in the first half after both teams had been reduced to ten men. Sergej Milinkovic-Savic sealed the win in the second half. Al Ahli and Al Ittihad were held to 1-1 draws by Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan and Qatar's Al Shamal, respectively, while Al Qadsiah began with a 2-1 win over UAE's Al Wasl. - Agencies



## SPANISH LA LIGA



### Real Madrid survive Elche scare

**MADRID:** Carlos Espi scored in stoppage time after a nifty move by Jude Bellingham and an assist by Kylian Mbappé to help Real Madrid salvage a 3-2 win at Elche in the Spanish league after it relinquished a two-goal lead on Tuesday.

Bellingham used a neat long touch to get past an opponent near midfield and fed Mbappé in a breakaway into the area, and the France star quickly set up Espi's close-range score to give Madrid the victory and move the Spanish powerhouse even on points with Barcelona.

The defending champions can regain the lead when they host promoted Racing Santander next.

"We went from having it easy to losing control," Real Madrid coach José Mourinho said.

"But in the difficulty of the moment, facing the pressure of losing points, the team reacted and won the match, which in the end is the most important thing. The good thing is that nobody gets bored when Real Madrid plays. The games are always fun."



Madrid had taken the lead against Elche with an own-goal by goalkeeper Matias Dituero in the 25th after the ball ricocheted off him following a well-struck free-kick taken by Arda Guler.

Mbappé added to the lead by scoring from close range after an assist by Yan Diomande in the 33rd. Abiel Osorio pulled the hosts closer with a header in the 71st and Fer Niño netted the equaliser in the 83rd. There was a bit of a scare immediately after Mbappé scored as he stayed on the ground in visible pain, but he eventually returned to the field after being attended by Madrid doctors.



The goal moved him to seven goals in six league matches, one goal more than Lamine Yamal, Raphinha, Sergio Camello and Roberto Fernández.

Mbappé had scored a brace in Madrid's 4-1 win against Rayo Vallecano in the previous round.

He had a goal disallowed for offside just before halftime on Tuesday. Bellingham came into the match by replacing Guler in the 68th.

Players from both clubs wore T-shirts showing words of support for Ceuta as they came onto the field before the match. But Madrid players Mbappé, Vinicius Júnior and Ibrahima Konaté wore the shirt only halfway down their chest, without pulling them down, obscuring some of the words on it. Mbappé and Vinicius removed their shirts before they saluted the other players and the referees.

**Valencia win after shake-up**  
Valencia won 1-0 at Alaves to end a four-game losing streak and a winless start to the season.

The string of poor results had

led to the firing of coach Carlos Corberán and football CEO Ron Gourlay this weekend. They then appointed Braulio Vázquez as its new sporting director and named B-team coach Óscar Sánchez as an interim manager.

Luis Rioja scored a 78th-minute winner for Valencia, who had been outscored 10-1 so far.

Valencia fans had been protesting and called players "mercenaries" after the 5-0 home loss to Barcelona. They have long called for the exit of owner Peter Lim.

Elsewhere, Rayo Vallecano beat Espanyol 2-1 with first-half goals by Álvaro García and Adria Pedrosa in what may have been their last match before returning home to Vallecas Stadium. This was Rayo's third home game played at Butarque Stadium — which belongs to second-tier club Leganes — because of unsafe conditions at Vallecas. They also beat Racing Santander 3-2 and drew Alaves 1-1 at Butarque.

Roberto Fernández scored for Espanyol in the second half for his sixth goal in six matches. - Agencies

## AGAINST BENIN

### Messi's Argentina farewell friendly on Oct 6

**BUENOS AIRES:** Lionel Messi might have one last dance with Argentina after all. Despite announcing his international retirement, the 39-year-old Inter Miami star was included on Tuesday in Lionel Scaloni's 28-man Argentina squad ahead of three home friendlies.

Messi has yet to confirm whether he will join the team, but the head of Argentina football said the icon accepted the invitation for the Oct. 6 game against Benin in Buenos Aires for what will be a grand finale. "After a conversation with

senior national team coach Lionel Scaloni, we decided to invite the best player in the world — our icon, our captain Lionel Messi — so that he can have the farewell he deserves on October 6," said Claudio Tapia, president of the Argentine Football Association.

Messi led Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title and helped the Albiceleste reach the final at the 2026 edition. "Furthermore, having received Lionel's acceptance," Tapia said, "we want to invite all the Qatar World Cup champions to

join him, along with their families, to witness the 'last tango' of the world's best player."

Earlier, Argentina had announced it would face Bolivia, Burkina Faso and Benin in their first batch of friendly matches following Messi's retirement from the national team after a 21-year spell. The country's football association said the home match against Bolivia will take place Sept. 30 at the Mario Alberto Kempes Stadium in Córdoba.

The Estadio Monumental in

Buenos Aires will host the friendlies against Burkina Faso and Benin on Oct. 3 and Oct. 6, respectively. Focus also turns to the future of Scaloni, whose contract expires in December. Scaloni had hinted he might step down following the 1-0 loss to Spain in the World Cup final on July 19.

Three Argentina players — Leandro Paredes, Nahuel Molina and Thiago Almada — were recently handed bans by FIFA for a scuffle after losing the World Cup final. Paredes received a 10-match ban.





2014 WORLD CUP GOLDEN BOOT WINNER



Rodríguez ends 15-year Colombia career at 35

**BOGOTÁ:** James Rodríguez, one of the most talented midfielders in Colombian football history, announced the end of his 15-year international career on Tuesday.

The 35-year-old Rodríguez recently signed with Atlético Nacional — concluding a long stint playing abroad—and has now decided to step aside from the national team. “After many years, matches, moments of joy, and tough times, I feel the moment has come to close a chapter of my life: my journey with the Colombian national team,” Rodríguez said in a video posted to his social media channels.

“Wearing the jersey was a dream, but also an enormous responsibility.” Rodríguez made his senior national team debut in October 2011 in a victory over Bolivia in La Paz. His crowning achievement came three years later at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where he scored six goals in five matches to win the Golden Boot.

“I was fortunate enough to experience moments I never imagined — World Cups, goals, and unforgettable nights; victories that made us believe and defeats that made us stronger,” Rodríguez said. “From the moment I joined the national team, I wanted to leave the jersey in a stronger position when I eventually moved on, and looking back at the journey, I feel I achieved that.”

That breakout performance in Brazil earned him a move to Spanish powerhouse Real Madrid, where he spent six seasons and collected two La Liga titles. His club career also included stints with Bayern Munich and Everton.

Since 2022, he has bounced around with stints with Olympiakos in Greece, Sao Paulo in Brazil, Rayo Vallecano in Spain, Club León in Mexico and Minnesota United in the MLS, where he played just six matches.

“I had the honour of wearing the No.10 jersey and the captain’s armband; I tried to do so with respect, responsibility, and an awareness of what Colombia represents,” he

added. “I had good days and difficult ones, but I never stopped feeling proud of these colours.”

Internationally, Rodríguez also played in the 2018 World Cup and the 2026 edition, matching Carlos Valderrama and Freddy Rincón for the most tournament appearances by a Colombian player. He also captained Colombia to the 2024 Copa América final — the country’s first appearance in the title match in 23 years. He finishes his international career with 31 goals in 131 appearances. “I leave with peace of mind because I know I gave absolutely everything; thank you for every memory, every hug, and every moment,” added Rodríguez.

Al Rawahi eyes another Jordan rally triumph



The Omani driver returns to action with Ata Al Hamoud at the Dead Sea on Friday, using the Jordan National Rally to sharpen his Škoda Fabia R5 set-up and build momentum for the rallies ahead

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Omani rally driver Abdullah Al Rawahi returns to action in Jordan on Friday, targeting another victory in the fifth round of the Jordan National Rally at the Dead Sea as he continues to fine-tune his new Škoda Fabia R5.

Al Rawahi heads into the event in confident mood after dominating the previous round, leading from the opening stage to the finish alongside Jordanian co-driver Atta Al Hamoud.

The victory was his fourth in the Jordan National Rally and came on fast, challenging semi-

desert stages that differed from the traditional Dead Sea routes.

The latest outing is part of Al Rawahi’s programme to build experience and improve the set-up of the Skoda, which he and Jordanian Al Hamoud have been campaigning this season.

Al Rawahi had been scheduled to compete in the 48th Rally of Lebanon, held from September 11-13 as the fourth round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship, but was absent from the event.

FIA confirmed his absence, with the driver skipping the rally due to regional geo-political situation.

The Omani driver is using the Jordan National Rally to gain valuable seat time and further understand the characteristics of his car.

He is also working with his team to make technical adjustments that suit his driving style and improve the car’s balance, dynamics and overall performance.

Al Rawahi said regular competition is particularly important with a new car, as each rally provides an opportunity to identify its strengths and weaknesses and make adjustments before the next challenge.

The Skoda has not had many competitive outings this year, making continuous development and race-specific set-up crucial, he added.

With Friday’s round providing another opportunity to refine the package, Al Rawahi is aiming for another Jordan National Rally victory while building a stronger foundation for the demanding events ahead.

IN JEDDAH

5 Oman youngsters set for Arab Optimist sailing regatta

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Five of Oman’s promising young sailors will take to the Red Sea waters in Jeddah from Thursday as the Oman team begins its campaign at the 2026 Arab Sailing Championship – Optimist.

The Omani squad, representing Oman Sail, arrived in Jeddah ahead of the September 17-21 regatta at the Jeddah Sailing Centre, where young sailors from 11 Arab nations will compete for regional honours.



Hosts Saudi Arabia will be joined by Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia in a championship that offers the young competitors an opportunity to measure themselves against some of the region’s leading Optimist sailors.

Oman’s team comprises Khalid Al Suraihi, Mohammed Al Balushi, Mohammed Al Qasbi, Al Khalil Al Fori and Elyas Al Khodhori, with Sultan Al Zadjali serving as coach and team leader.

Al Zadjali said the squad had built momentum through consistent training during the season and was ready to turn that preparation into competitive results.

“The Arab Sailing Championship - Optimist is a fantastic opportunity for this young group to test their tactical skills and speed against the best young sailors across the region,” he said. “They are focused, motivated, and deter-

mined to deliver a strong performance for Oman in Jeddah.”

The championship will also see Oman Sail represented on the technical side, with team official Nawaf Al Ghadani selected by the event committee as a Race Officer for the Optimist Team Racing competition.

For Al Ghadani, Deputy Head of Sailing Schools, the appointment underlines the growing regional recognition of Oman Sail’s technical expertise.

“It is a privilege to be selected by the event committee to officiate the Optimist Team Racing competition,” he said, adding that the role reflected the organisation’s involvement in both youth development and the technical management of sailing events.

The Jeddah championship forms part of a busy period for Oman’s young sailors. After their Saudi campaign, the team will return home to prepare for the 15th edition of Mussanah Race Week, scheduled for October 15-22, where they will face another strong international field.



15-TIME MAJOR CHAMPION

Woods seen on range for first time since car crash

**MIAMI:** Tiger Woods has said he “can hit pretty much anything” after returning to the range for the first time since a car crash six months ago, BBC Sport reported.

The 15-time major champion was seen hitting balls at Liberty National in New Jersey in a video shared on his Instagram, before the Nexus Cup, a charity event he is hosting to raise funds for his TGR Foundation.

Woods, 50, also held a clinic where he was asked by the master of ceremonies about his game and replied: “I can hit pretty much anything.”

It comes six months after the golfer rolled his Land Rover in



Florida and had to crawl out of the passenger door of the car. He refused a urine test. Earlier this

month, Woods accepted a five-year suspension of his driving licence and a \$1,000 (£742) fine,

as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors in Martin County, Florida, after not contesting a reckless driving charge.

It remains unclear whether Woods is preparing for a comeback. He has not played competitively since 2024 after rupturing an Achilles tendon in March 2025 and having back surgery last October.

After March’s road accident - his second arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence - Woods said he was “stepping away for a period of time to seek treatment and focus on my health”.

It was the latest in a string of incidents that have littered Woods’ recent years. - Agencies

EUROPEAN LEAGUES

Lens dismiss coach Toppmöller after just six games in charge

**LENS:** French club Lens fired manager Dino Toppmöller on Tuesday after just six games in charge, saying that diverging views with the German coach could not be resolved. Lens, in 10th place in Ligue 1 after finishing second behind Paris Saint-Germain last season, said Yannick Cahuzac will take temporary charge for Friday’s match at Monaco.

“Following numerous discussions regarding the squad and the coaching staff’s operations and organization, (Lens) informed its head coach of its intention to re-structure the staff,” Lens said.

“As Dino Toppmöller could not align with these structural changes, the club made the responsible decision to terminate his tenure, as well as that of his two assistants.”

Lens added that Toppmöller,

who signed a two-year contract in June, waved away a “substantial amount” of his severance pay.

The 45-year-old Toppmöller previously coached Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga. When he arrived, Toppmöller pledged to play a high-octane brand of attacking football at Lens.

He started well as French Cup winner Lens beat PSG in the French Super Cup — despite playing the second half with 10 players — and then won 5-2 at home over Auxerre.

But Lens lost the next two league games and salvaged a 2-2 draw at Le Mans last Sunday after going 2-0 down. That followed a 3-2 away win over Sparta Prague in the Champions League, where Lens twice fell behind before winning with two injury-time goals.



Toppmöller was fired by Frankfurt in January following a lean spell, where the team also leaked goals. But he had impressively led Frankfurt into the Champions League after finishing third in the



Bundesliga during the 2024-25 season. His father, Klaus Toppmöller was also a coach, leading unheralded Bayer Leverkusen to the Champions League final in 2002, where they lost to Real Madrid.

**Bologna hire Palladino**

Meanwhile, Bologna fired coach Domenico Tedesco on Wednesday after just Italian four Serie A matches and replaced him with Raffaele Palladino.

Sunday’s loss at Napoli left Bologna 16th in the league table, with just one point from its opening four matches.

Tedesco had only been in charge since June.

In a brief statement, Bologna thanked Tedesco for his “professionalism and competence” and said Palladino had been given a contract through the end of June 2029.

The 42-year-old Palladino previously led Monza, Fiorentina and Atalanta. His first match in charge will be on Saturday at home to Torino, before the extra-long international break.

It is not the first coaching change of the fledgling Serie A season as Fabio Grosso was fired this month by Fiorentina, which rehired Paolo Vanoli. - Agencies

# ROUND-UP

## Bank Muscat and Dhofar Insurance partner to offer travel and domestic helper health insurance solutions

The new travel insurance service enables customers to obtain comprehensive travel insurance coverage quickly and conveniently, without the need to visit a branch

**MUSCAT:** Reinforcing its commitment to offering its valued customers the best digital banking services and solutions, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the launch of new insurance solutions in cooperation with Dhofar Insurance Company, one of the Sultanate's leading insurers, during the official signing ceremony held recently at Bank Muscat's Head Office.

The agreement was signed by Ahmed Faqir Al Bulushi, DCEO – Banking at Bank Muscat, and Sunil Kohli, CEO of DIC, with the presence of senior officials from both parties. As part of the agreement, Bank Muscat has launched the travel insurance solution through its Internet Banking and Mobile Banking (IBMB) channels, as well as a new range of medical insurance solutions for individuals and domestic workers.

The new travel insurance service enables customers to obtain comprehensive travel insurance coverage quickly and conveniently, without the need to visit a branch. Bank Muscat customers can now purchase their travel insurance directly through the bank's digital platforms with ease, reflecting the bank's ongoing commitment to anticipating customer expectations and delivering services that meet their needs wherever they are. The service also provides customers with financial protection and immediate assistance in the event of unforeseen circumstances before or during their trips.

The policy covers medical emergencies that travelers may face during their journey, as well as trip cancellation. Coverage also extends to compensation for lost



baggage and personal accidents that may occur while travelling, in addition to emergency evacuation, giving customers complete peace of mind and protection throughout their journey. The Bank offers three tiers of travel insurance plans to suit customers' varying needs and travel destinations. The Platinum plan provides worldwide coverage, while the Gold and Silver

Plans cover all countries worldwide except the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan. Customers can now select the plan best suited to their destination and the nature of their trip.

On the individual health and domestic helper health insurance solutions, the product is designed to address the needs of different segments of society, including in-

dividuals and domestic workers, at competitive rates and accessible terms.

The Individual Health Insurance plan offers a comprehensive local and international medical network, covering both in-patient treatment and out-patient care, at competitive premiums. The plan is available across three flexible coverage packages to suit different

needs: the Green package, offering comprehensive coverage with an annual limit of up to OMR 5,000; the Silver package, providing extensive services with an annual limit of up to OMR 10,000; and the Gold package, delivering the highest level of care with an annual limit of up to OMR 15,000.

The Domestic Worker Health Insurance plan provides an extensive, approved medical network, with comprehensive in-patient coverage of up to OMR 4,000 over two years, in addition to out-patient services, all for an attractive premium covering a full two-year period.

On this occasion, Ahmed Faqir Al Bulushi, DCEO – Banking at Bank Muscat, said: "The launch of this comprehensive suite of insurance solutions in collaboration with Dhofar Insurance Company reaffirms Bank Muscat's strategy of building an integrated banking ecosystem that goes beyond traditional banking services.

"By making travel insurance available digitally and providing medical insurance solutions for individuals and domestic workers through our network of branches across the Sultanate, we enable our customers to access comprehensive protection that meets their needs at every stage of life, with ease and convenience.

"At Bank Muscat, we are committed to delivering a smart and proactive banking experience that gives our customers security and peace of mind. This step embodies the bank's vision to be the leading financial

partner that innovates digital solutions that not only cover traditional banking services, but also extend to cover everything a customer needs throughout their life journey."

From his side, Sunil Kohli, Chief Executive Officer at Dhofar Insurance Company, noted: "We take pride in our collaboration with Bank Muscat to launch a comprehensive suite of insurance solutions that combines digital travel insurance with medical insurance for individuals and domestic workers. This collaboration reflects our shared vision of leveraging technology to deliver innovative and flexible insurance products that put the customer first.

"Through this suite, we provide families and individuals across the Sultanate of Oman with comprehensive and easily accessible protection, in line with the demands of modern life and in support of the digital transformation journey within the sector."

As the Sultanate's leading financial institution, Bank Muscat remains committed to offering the latest insurance solutions and products at affordable rates that meet the aspirations of all segments of society, as part of a wide range of bancassurance services delivered in partnership with leading insurance providers.

Customers can learn more about the travel insurance plans and subscribe in a few simple steps through the Bank Muscat mobile banking app or online banking, available around the clock.

### PROMOTION

## Toyota Oman extends Akeed benefits to Camry, Camry HEV

**MUSCAT:** Toyota Oman's Akeed Campaign extends its added-value benefits to the legendary Toyota Camry and Camry HEV, giving buyers one more reason to make the mid-size icon their next car. Buyers who purchase a Camry under this campaign will get a 5-year or 50,000 km service package, Thiqah Loyalty Points and one year of vehicle registration.

The campaign runs until 7 October.

Recognised as a benchmark in the mid-size sedan segment, the Camry has long earned its place among Oman's most trusted names, offering drivers a confident, well-rounded choice for both city commutes and longer drives across the Sultanate.

At the heart of the Camry sits Toyota's advanced Hybrid System, built on the cutting-edge TNGA-K platform, engineering that lowers the car's centre of gravity and adds greater body rigidity so the drive feels more connected and responsive at every turn.

A 2.5 litre four-cylinder engine producing 201 HP or an electrified hybrid delivering a combined 226 HP, is paired with either an eight-speed automatic or a smooth ECVT transmission, giving drivers the power to move and the precision to enjoy it.

Selectable NORMAL, ECO and SPORT drive modes let owners tailor the experience further, while HEV variants add an EV mode



built for quiet, efficient running around town.

Chrome-accented styling and a bold Hammer Head front end give the Camry a look that commands attention on any highway, sharpened further by Bi-LED and multi-eye LED headlamps that add both presence and clarity after dark.

Inside, the Camry leans into comfort as much as technology.

Buyers step into a sporty, driver-focused cabin finished with premium materials and tasteful metallic accents, with a choice of refined fabric or leather upholstery to match the exterior's styling. A 12.3-inch touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™ keeps connectivity effortless, while a full-colour head-up display, wireless smart

phone charging, a digital rear-view mirror and a choice of 9-speaker JBL surround sound or a 6-speaker system round out the experience. Overhead, a panoramic roof opens the cabin to natural light and ventilated, power-adjustable front seats, dual-zone climate control with rear vents and 60:40 split-fold rear seats keep the ride comfortable and flexible for

however the trip unfolds.

Safety is a defining part of the Camry experience, led by the latest Toyota Safety Sense suite, including a Pre-Collision System with extended detection, Intersection Collision Avoidance, Emergency Steering Assist and Dynamic Radar Cruise Control for added confidence on every route.

Further protection comes from

Safe Exit Assist, six SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control and a Panoramic View Monitor, while Parking Assist Monitor and Parking Support Brake make tight manoeuvres effortless.

Discover everything the Toyota Camry has to offer at Saud Bahwan Automotive showrooms across Oman, backed by Toyota Akeed benefits.



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