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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

3 The Executive Office of the Gulf Football Federation has approved the Iraqi Football Association's request to host the 28th edition of the Gulf Cup (Gulf 28). **>A8**



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Omani designer showcases Dhofari heritage at Malaga Fashion Week

During the event, Omani attire of Dhofari character, with its rich colours, embroidery and aesthetic details were presented

MALAGA: Omani designer As-far Hamran Khamis, owner of the “Leetchi Dhofar” fashion house, participated in the fifteenth edition of Fashion Week in the Spanish city of Malaga, which saw the participation of a number of designers and specialised fashion and design brands from Spain and beyond.



The Omani house's participation is the first of its kind by an Omani fashion house in this event, and the third by an Arab designer. During the event, the house presented a collection of designs inspired by Omani attire of Dhofari character, with its rich colours, embroidery and aesthetic details, within a contemporary vision that

preserves the features and identity of traditional dress. The Fashion Week events were held on Calle Marqués de Larios, one of the most prominent streets in the city of Malaga, which was transformed into an open-air runway extending for approximately 300 metres, with the participation

of a group of designers and creative talents in the field of fashion and design. Khamis said her participation in Malaga Fashion Week represents an important milestone in the fashion house's journey and expressed her pride in representing Oman and presenting an aspect of



Dhofari fashion to an international audience. She described the “Al-Ahd” collection as both a responsibility and an opportunity — a responsibility to present Omani fashion in a manner befitting its heritage, and an opportunity to introduce international audiences to the richness

and diversity of Omani culture and its distinctive fashion traditions.

Promotes Omani fashion
Khamis noted that being the first Omani fashion designer to participate in the show would encourage her to continue promoting Omani fashion at international forums and take elements of the country's heritage to wider audiences while preserving their identity and distinctive character. The fashion house's participation in Malaga follows its previous appearances in Moscow and Abu Dhabi, marking its third international platform. Through its international participation, the house seeks to promote designs inspired by traditional Omani fashion through contemporary interpretations, while highlighting the colours, intricate details and traditional motifs of Dhofari dress. The participation also contributes to showcasing Oman's cultural and aesthetic diversity and promoting elements of its traditional heritage to international audiences. -ONA

MUSCAT INNOVATION COMPLEX

‘Oman Makers’ series launched to foster a culture of innovation and manufacturing

MUSCAT: The Oman Makers Centre on Monday launched the inaugural session of the “Oman Makers” series, part of its programme to foster a culture of innovation and manufacturing and to facilitate the exchange of expertise and knowledge among innovators, makers and entrepreneurs. The session was held at the Centre's premises in Muscat Innovation Complex.



The “Oman Makers” sessions aim to create a dialogue space bringing together those with expertise and experience alongside innovators, makers and entrepreneurs, thereby contributing to the exchange of knowledge and expertise, stimulating innovation, and enhancing participants' capacities to develop their ideas and

transform them into manufacturable prototypes and products. The first session, held under the title “Makers from Oman”, discussed a number of themes

relating to the journey of transforming ideas into products, developing prototypes, and moving from the experimental prototype to a manufacturable and marketable product, alongside industrial localisation and the employment of modern technologies, artificial intelligence and drones, and the opportunities and challenges facing innovators, makers and entrepreneurs. It is worth noting that Oman Makers Centre is the outcome of cooperation between the Research and Innovation Authority and the Public Establishment for

Industrial Estates “Madayn”, represented by the Industrial Innovation Academy. It operates as an integrated platform for developing experimental prototypes, which constitute the initial step prior to moving to the commercial marketing of a project idea. The Centre seeks to train and qualify entrepreneurs and innovators in the use of the devices and equipment available at the Centre, enhance cooperation and the exchange of expertise, and support innovators in developing final manufacturable prototypes. -ONA

SHINAS

31 Asian nationals held for illegal entry

MUSCAT: A Coastal Guard Police Unit in North Al Batinah Governorate caught 31 individuals of Asian nationalities aboard a boat near the shore of Shinas while attempting to enter the country illegally. Legal procedures against them are being finalised.



APPRAISAL REPORTS

New promotion system for Omani Civil staff takes effect

< FROM A1 Regarding the conditions for promoting an employee under the fast-track pathway, he stated that these include the elapse of at least three years from the date of occupying the grade immediately preceding the grade of the post to which promotion is sought; the obtaining of three performance appraisal reports at the “Excellent” rating in accordance with the Ejada system; that the promotion shall not exceed the end of the career progression in accordance with the Job Classification and Ordering System issued by the then decision of the Chairman of the Civil Service Council No. (10/2010); and the absence of any impediment to promotion. With respect to the flexible pathway, he indicated that promotion is based on the ranking of employees according to the total scores of each, out of 100 points. The employee's job performance score is calculated at a maximum of 75 points, based on three-quarters of the average of the highest three performance appraisal reports in the grade he/she occupies, and 25 points for individual competence. He explained that individual competence scores are calculated at a maximum of 12.5 points for assessing the employee's readiness to assume a higher post, and a maximum of 12.5 points for assessing the development of his/her skills and capabilities in the field of the post. He added that the direct supervisor assigns the individual competence assessment for employees nominated for promotion who are under his/her direct supervision in each of the two aforementioned criteria. To ensure that all employees are not awarded equal scores in this criterion, scores are distributed in proportions of the number of employees as follows: 20 to 25 points for no more than 10 per cent of the number of employees nominated for promotion under his/her supervision; 15 to 19 points for no more than 35 per cent; 10 to 14 points for no more than 50 per



cent; and 1 to 9 points for 5 per cent of the number of employees nominated for promotion under his/her supervision. This assessment is then submitted to the higher supervisor for approval. He noted that in the event of a tie in the number of candidates for promotion under this pathway, precedence shall be given to the one with the higher total in the last two performance appraisal reports; in the event of a tie, precedence shall be given to the one with the highest score in the most recent performance appraisal report; in the event of a tie, precedence shall be given to the one with the earliest date of occupying the financial grade from which promotion is made; in the event of a tie, precedence shall be given to the one with the earliest date of appointment; and in the event of a tie, precedence shall be given to the elder in age. He explained that the conditions for promotion under the flexible pathway include the availability of financial allocations designated for promotion in the unit's budget; the elapse of at least three years from the date of occupying the grade immediately preceding the grade of the post to which promotion is sought; the employee's obtaining of three performance appraisal reports of no less than a “Good” rating in accordance with the Ejada system. The employee's exceeding the end of career progression in ac-

cordance with the Job Classification and Ordering System issued by the decision of the (then) Civil Service Council No. (10/2010) shall not prevent his/her promotion; and the absence of any impediment to promotion. Regarding the special pathway “Retention and Attraction”, he explained that promotion is effected by decision of the head of the unit in accordance with conditions including that the proportion of promotions under this pathway shall not exceed one per cent of the budget allocated for the promotion-by-preferential-selection pathway, and that the employee to be promoted must occupy a post having a fundamental impact on the core competences of the unit and requiring rare competence or precise specialised skill that is difficult to fill or whose occupant is difficult to replace. It is also required that at least three years have elapsed from the date of occupying the grade immediately preceding the grade of the post to which promotion is sought. The employee's exceeding the end of career progression in accordance with the Job Classification and Ordering System issued by the decision of the then Chairman of the Civil Service Council No. (10/2010) shall not prevent his/her promotion; and the absence of any impediment to promotion. The Ministry of Labour explained that a promotion commit-

tee shall be established in each unit by decision of its head, composed of an odd number of no fewer than three members, with the post of its chairman being no lower than the level of Director General. The decision shall designate the secretary of the committee, who shall not have a counted vote. The committee is competent to receive promotion applications from the competent division and to verify that candidates meet the conditions, criteria and controls of promotion. It is also competent to discuss with the higher supervisor or direct supervisor, as the case may be, the reasons and bases for nominating an employee for promotion if the nomination request does not contain sufficient documents supporting the nomination, and to submit a recommendation concerning employees eligible for promotion to the head of the unit within the limits of the designated financial allocations. The Ministry explained that the division competent for human resources shall prepare, based on the unit's job budget records, an annual statement to be submitted before the end of January each year containing the names of nominated employees who meet the promotion conditions. With regard to impediments to promotion, the Ministry of Labour explained that an employee may not be promoted during any period of imprisonment, nor may an em-

ployee suspended from work or referred for administrative or criminal accountability be promoted during the period of suspension or referral, provided that the post grade is reserved for him/her. It added that if he/she is not convicted or is penalised with a warning or a deduction from salary for a period not exceeding five days, his/her promotion must be restored to the date on which it would have been effected had he/she not been referred for administrative accountability or to the competent courts. An employee may also not be promoted if his/her most recent performance appraisal report is at the “Weak” rating. An employee may likewise not be promoted if any of the penalties specified are imposed on him/her, except after the expiry of the period indicated against each, namely six months in the case of deduction from salary for more than five days up to fifteen days, and nine months in the case of deduction from salary for more than fifteen days or reduction of salary by a proportion not exceeding 10 per cent of the salary. The Ministry explained that promotion decisions are issued by the head of the unit twice each year and take effect on the second of January and July. If a promotion decision includes more than one employee and the promotion is on the same date, the order of seniority of employees shall be according to their seniority in the grade from which promotion is made. Regarding the methodology for distributing the financial allocation for promotions, the Ministry explained that OMR10 million has been earmarked for distribution among the entities covered according to a mechanism based on proportionality according to the number of those eligible for promotion in each entity, such that the total number of eligible persons equals the sum of the number of eligible persons in all entities, and the financial allocation for the entity equals (the number of eligible persons in the entity ÷ the total number of eligible persons) ×

OMR10 million. The Ministry of Labour affirmed that the methodology for distributing the financial allocation for promotions embodies fairness of distribution, such that each entity's share is directly linked to the number of its eligible persons; clarity of calculation through a unified equation that can be applied and verified; accommodation of differences in the sizes of entities, as entities with a larger number of eligible persons receive a larger share in proportion; and full distribution of the amount, as the entire sum of OMR10 million is distributed among the entities covered. Abdullah Muhanna Al Kharousi, Director General of Administrative Audit and Follow-up at the Ministry of Labour, stated that the annual amount allocated for promotions is not fixed and is subject to increase whenever the Government deems fit. He added that employees occupying temporary posts are not covered by the promotion system, given that such posts do not have job grades listed within the schedule of grades of the posts offered. For his part, Mohammed Mubarak Al Kalbani, Director General of Development and Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Labour, indicated that there is an electronic system linked to the “Ejada” system that will assist members of the promotion committee in fulfilling the requirements pertaining to promotion. He noted that there will be continuous communication between the Ministry of Labour and the committees in government units through reports to verify the soundness of implementation, or through the competent divisions at the Ministry of Labour. The media briefing was attended by Said Abdullah Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Human Resources Development, along with a number of officials and specialists at the Ministry and representatives of the units of the State's Administrative Apparatus. -ONA

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COMMENTARY

From Liberation of Palestine to Independence of Ukraine; The Paths of Decline of Western Dominance

The core theme of this essay is established on the idea that Palestine and Ukraine represent two different fronts in terms of geography and history. The two fronts unveil the profound transformations that affected the international system established on western dominance since the end of the Cold War. Palestine has questioned and tested the political and moral legitimacy of this system, while Ukraine has tested the limits of the military and economic power of this system in imposing its will and achievement of its strategic objectives.

Apart from the two fronts, there are other regional and international factors such as the rise of China, Russia and Iran; the growing autonomy of the states of the Global South and the emergence of resistance as a regional factor that contributes to redistribution of power in the Middle East. However, this is not just a sudden collapse of the West, but rather a gradual erosion of its power to hold and monopolise international decision-making and to change from a unipolar system to another system with multiple centres of power and influence.

Palestine enjoys an exceptional importance as it is no longer merely a local or regional cause. The war on Gaza has triggered a growing gap between Western speech on human rights, international law and actual political



stances toward the Palestinian cause. This has negatively affected the image of the West and its legitimacy in the eyes of broad segments of global public opinion and has also extended to Western societies. Modern dominance is not just established on military might and economic power but also the ability to convince others with the legitimacy of the system it adopts.

The digital revolution contributed to deepening this transformation as citizens no longer fully depend on traditional media institutions, but have become able to observe events firsthand, compare narrations, and access multiple sources. For this, Palestine has become a prominent issue in universities, youth movements and civil society associations. The issue is no longer limited to who holds the power, but also Who has the ability to convince the world of the justice of their position. To this end,

Imam Khomeini's thought takes on special significance; he removed the Palestinian cause from its geographical framework and associated it with the resistance against dominance, arrogance and the rejection of dependency.

In this context, Palestine is not merely an occupied land, but also a symbol of the will of the peoples to regain their independence and their right to self-determination. For this reason, Al Quds has taken on political, humanitarian, and cultural dimensions beyond the boundaries of the Palestinian cause. This perspective has developed in the thought of Imam Khomeini, who sees Palestine as a pivotal element in reshaping the balance of power in the Middle East as the continuation of the occupation is not linked solely to Israeli military superiority, but rather to a network of political, security, and economic relations that have historically enabled

Western powers to exercise influence in the region.

The Axis of Resistance emerges as a regional factor contributing to breaking the Western dominance on power in the Middle East. The emergence of powers capable of challenging Israeli military superiority and US influence has made the region's strategic environment more complex and reduced the ability of external powers to manage the region according to unilateral arrangements. This does not mean that only the Axis of Resistance explains these international shifts; rather, it represents a regional variable within a broader process of power redistribution with China, Russia, Iran, and the countries of the Global South all engaged and with the Middle East being part of the process of transformation in the global system and not merely a region affected by it.

Ukraine represents the other side of the crisis; while Palestine has put Western legitimacy to the test, Ukraine has put the West's ability to use economic and military power and translate it into political results to the test. The war has become a testing ground for the future of European security and the balance of power between Russia and the West and has reshaped international relations, mainly between Russia, China, and Iran. It war has shown that sanctions, economic and political pressure,

do not necessarily guarantee the subjugation of a major power that possesses strategic resources and other alternatives. While the two causes are not identical, with each one has its own history and specific legal and political context, the two causes reveal different aspects of the crisis of the Western system. In Palestine, the contradiction between rhetoric and practice is evident, and moral and political legitimacy are eroding, while in Ukraine, the limits of the ability to translate economic and military superiority into a decisive political settlement are becoming apparent.

One can propose a forward-looking thesis: that the liberation of Palestine and the establishment of an independent Palestinian political system will constitute a turning point in the structure of the Middle East, provided that the concept of liberation goes beyond the mere recovery of land to include the establishment of a sovereign political system that exercises national autonomy and conducts its international relations on the basis of equality and independence. According to reliable field data, achieving this path is not impossible at present, and its impact will not be confined to within Palestinian borders but will extend to the entire region.

The concept of "liberating Ukraine" can be understood in its broader political sense;

that is, liberating national decision-making, rather than merely shifting Ukraine from the influence of one power to that of another. The more pluralistic the international system becomes, the greater the ability of small and medium-sized states to build balanced relationships with various centers of power. Therefore, the relationship between Palestine and Ukraine is not one of direct causality, in the sense that the liberation of Palestine would automatically lead to the liberation of Ukraine, but rather a potential strategic relationship based on changes in the international environment. In this context, Palestine becomes one of the major turning points in the Middle East in the establishment of an independent political system, while the reshaping of the international system in light of the situation in Ukraine and other countries provides a broader space for these nations to regain their national autonomy. Thus, Palestine and Ukraine transcend the scope of direct conflict to become indicators of a deeper transformation in the structure of the world system. The world's transition from a system dominated by a central power to a more pluralistic one, in which powers compete and negotiate, and sovereignty, independence, and the balance of interests become fundamental pillars in shaping the international future.

Dhofar Health Planning Forum begins in Salalah



The forum emphasised the importance of strategic planning in improving health services and integrating their components in line with the national targets of 'Oman Vision 2040'



ried by the forum, "From Knowledge to Impact," reflects the orientation toward translating data and planning visions into tangible field solutions and applications that make a positive difference in the quality of healthcare provided to citizens and residents across the various wilayats of Dhofar Governorate.

He clarified that the forum aims to empower cadres and executives in the fields of health planning and management, and equip them with tools for forecasting the future and measuring institutional impact, ensuring proper management of available resources and an effective response to challenges and growth requirements in the health sector.

The opening of the forum witnessed the signing of two strategic memorandums of understanding to enhance academic and technical partnership; the first was signed between Dhofar Health Services and the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Salalah, while the Ministry of Health signed the second memorandum with "Ibn Firnas" Drone Center. This was followed by the opening of the accompanying exhibition and the launch of the first panel discussion titled "A Sustainable Healths Future."

The opening programme also included the screening of a documentary film on the journey of health planning in the governorate, in addition to the presentation of working papers addressing health transformation lessons and national indicators of the non-communicable diseases health survey.

The forum's sessions over the days of its convening focus on two main themes: "Governance and Leadership" and "Health System Readiness," as they discuss the experience of health clusters in the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, national cadre empowerment policies, and the review of a package of digital and innovative initiatives such as the "Dawa'i", "Qatrah", and "Wisal" platforms, as well as artificial intelligence and telemedicine projects.

The forum's programme includes several interactive panel discussions with the participation of a number of officials and experts, covering the themes of planning, institutional innovation, quality management, and patient care, alongside reviewing successful experiences and practices in developing health services. —**ONA**

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UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CITY

Research Day discusses issues in medical fields

MUSCAT: The University Medical City concluded its second annual Research Day, held under the theme "From Evidence to Excellence", with the participation of more than 600 researchers, academics and health professionals from various health, academic and research institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

As many as 340 research papers were presented during the event, of which 15 papers qualified for oral presentation and 60 for scientific poster display.

The Research Day discussed a number of topics and issues in the medical and health fields, including artificial intelligence, precision medicine, oncology research, cardiovascular diseases, organ transplantation, infectious diseases, patient safety, clinical pharmacy, population health, health economics, health policies, medical education, quality of care, public health and basic sciences.

The scientific programme included a specialized lecture on the role of artificial intelligence in advancing medical research in the field of chronic diseases and supporting health decision-making, delivered by Professor Zobair Younossi, Chairman of the Global Council on Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease and Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University in the United States of America, along with 15 oral research presentations and 60 scientific posters that qualified from among the research papers submitted for participation.

The participating research spanned 20 fields, addressing applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning in predicting health complications, precision medicine, oncology research, cardiovascular diseases, organ transplantation, infectious diseases, patient safety, clinical pharmacy, population health, health economics, health poli-



cies, medical education, quality of care, public health and basic sciences.

Dr. Siham Salim Al Sinani, Executive President of the University Medical City, stated that the value of research is not measured solely by the number of studies completed, but rather by its contribution to developing modes of thinking, decision-making and medical practice. She emphasized the importance of research being linked to patients' needs and health practice, and of its contributing to the attainment of applicable evidence, decisions and solutions.

She noted that the breadth of participation in the second edition reflects the growing research activity at the University Medical City and in the health sector, underscoring the importance of providing a supportive environment for research, experimentation and collaboration, and of enhancing the capacity to translate knowledge into tangible impact on the quality of healthcare and its outcomes.

The conclusion of the event featured the announcement of the winners of the second edition's awards, with the top three places in the categories of oral research presentations and scientific posters being honoured, alongside the winners of the Best Emerging Researcher awards and the Best Poster awards in the fields of basic research, educational research, institutional research and

health policies.

Researchers with the highest research output at the University Medical City during the period from 2023 to 2025 were also honoured in recognition of their scientific contributions, along with the entities participating in and supporting the event.

The University Medical City is witnessing growth in its research activity, with the number of scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals reaching approximately 353 publications during 2025, an increase of 14 per cent compared with 2024.

The number of scientific publications during the first half of 2026 reached approximately 203 publications, while the past three years have seen the launch of 46 new clinical trials.

These indicators reflect the growing presence of research within the healthcare, medical education and institutional development system, and the enhancement of its role in supporting health practice, developing services and elevating the quality of care provided.

The organisation of the second annual Research Day comes within the framework of the University Medical City's efforts to foster an environment of research and innovation, encourage collaboration among researchers and health and academic institutions, and link research outputs to the needs and priorities of the health sector. —**ONA**

OCCI elections committee reviews readiness of electoral system

The meeting examined the requirements for establishing an integrated electoral system that ensures the elections are conducted in accordance with the approved legal and regulatory framework

MUSCAT: The Elections Committee of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Eng. Ghalib Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry and Head of the Committee, as part of preparations for organizing the Chamber's electoral process and following up on the organiza-



tional and technical procedures associated with it. The meeting examined the requirements for establishing an integrated electoral system that ensures the elections are conducted in accordance with the approved legal and regulatory frameworks, thereby enhancing the participation of the business community in selecting its representatives in the Chamber.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the key requirements and preparations related to the electoral process, the work plan for the forthcoming phase, and the organizational and technical procedures necessary for implementing its various stages. It also discussed the roles and tasks assigned to the Committee and the mechanisms for coordination and integration

among the relevant entities, in a manner that contributes to unifying efforts, raising the level of readiness, and ensuring the smoothness and clarity of procedures.

The Committee further examined the timeline for the stages of the electoral process and the associated organizational procedures and deadlines, with the dates and details pertaining to the electoral process to be announced in accordance with the approved procedures, thereby enabling the business community to prepare for and participate in its various stages.

The Committee also devoted particular attention to the technical and digital aspects of the electoral process, discussing mechanisms for employing modern electronic systems and means to

facilitate voting procedures and enhance their efficiency and speed of completion.

This comes in light of the recent amendments to the regulatory bylaw governing the Elections Committees of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which authorized the Committee to adopt electronic voting devices and other technical means and electronic systems used in the electoral process, as well as approving a remote voting system, in a step that copes with the rapid development of digital services in the Sultanate of Oman.

Eng. Ghalib affirmed that the Committee is proceeding with the completion of the various organizational, technical and technological requirements of the electoral process, in accordance with the

legislation governing it and in coordination and integration with the relevant entities, so as to foster a clear and well-organized electoral environment and facilitate voters' exercise of their electoral right with ease and convenience.

He stated that the forthcoming phase will witness integrated work to complete the readiness of the electoral system in all its components, with a focus on the clarity and efficiency of procedures and the optimal utilization of digital solutions and modern technologies, thereby enhancing ease of participation and keeping pace with the digital development witnessed by the government services and procedures system in the Sultanate of Oman.

He added that the committee

attaches great importance to the integration of roles among the relevant entities and to raising the level of readiness at all stages of the electoral process, ensuring its efficient and well-organized implementation and reinforcing the business community's confidence in the procedures adopted. He noted that the employment of modern technologies represents a key pillar in developing and facilitating the electoral process and in delivering its services to voters in a more flexible and efficient manner.

The committee exercises the competences stipulated in the regulatory bylaw governing the Elections Committees of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and oversees the procedures related to the electoral process and follows up on their implementation in accordance with the approved legal and regulatory frameworks.

The commencement of the committee's work represents a fundamental step in the path of preparing for the elections, leading to an electoral system characterized by efficiency, clarity and ease of procedures, and benefiting from the capabilities offered by modern digital solutions, thereby enhancing the participation of institutions and individuals of the business community in the electoral process and in selecting their representatives in Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT



RAM trains 25 Omanis to help realise Oman Vision 2040 goals

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM) concluded the Executive Programme in Local Administration, reinforcing its commitment to developing qualified national leadership and advancing sustainable development across the Sultanate of Oman's governorates.

The concluding event was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The programme brought together 25 local-administration leaders in an integrated executive learning experience, designed to strengthen their readiness to contribute effectively to the empowerment of governorates and the realisation of Oman Vision 2040.

Combining contemporary management knowledge with practical application, the programme covered development planning, project management, leadership, effective administration, sustainable development and local investment. It also explored innovation, emerging technologies, partnership and stakeholder management, the foundations of local administration, strategic planning, investment mapping and the adoption of innovative solutions to support digital transformation.

Dr. Ali Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management, said that the programme aims to contribute to establishing a decentralised administrative structure that elevates service delivery and development outcomes across the governorates.

He added that the programme aligns with the RAM's commitment to preparing national leaders capable of leading local development with efficiency and impact.

Empowering local leaders, he noted, is essential to advancing decentralisation and enabling governorates to harness their capabilities and resources in pur-

suit of sustainable development.

Al Lawati further explained that the RAM's specialised executive programmes are designed to go beyond the transfer of knowledge, building practical and applicable capabilities that enhance administrative practices, improve performance and enable participants to turn local challenges into development opportunities, solutions and initiatives with tangible impact.

Dr. Fathiya Abdullah Al Rashdi, Vice-President for Programme Affairs, described the programme's conclusion as an important milestone in developing leadership capabilities in local administration and development. She highlighted the programme's strategic value in delivering an integrated applied-learning experience that enabled participants to use modern management tools effectively.

She added that the programme created a dynamic platform for exchanging expertise and engaging with development priorities linked to local administration.

Its impact was reflected in the practical perspectives developed by participants and their commitment to applying the knowledge gained to enhance operational efficiency and create sustained impact within their organisations.

Shaikha Al Maskari, Programme Supervisor, said that the programme had been designed as a comprehensive applied-learning journey, tailored to equip local-administration professionals with practical tools across planning, implementation and effective follow-up. The experience, she said, enabled participants to draw on real workplace contexts as they developed initiatives, projects and sustainable partnerships.

As part of the programme, participants undertook a study visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, where they explored advanced practices in local administration,

decentralisation and governance.

The visit provided insights into service digitalisation, government performance development and leadership-preparation programmes, while contributing to stronger cooperation and partnerships between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Participants commended the programme for its contribution to their professional development. Eng. Siham Al Miyahi from South Al Batinah Governorate said that the programme had strengthened her skills in analysis, strategic planning, feasibility studies, impact measurement and partnership-building. She also highlighted its role in enhancing her ability to transform local challenges into sustainable development opportunities, citing the "Qimam" Mountain Adventures project in A'Rustaq as an example of an initiative developed through the programme's learning outcomes.

The closing ceremony featured an accompanying exhibition, where participants showcased applied projects developed during the programme.

These included "Madar", which presents sustainable solutions for transforming fish waste in Sinaw into products of economic value; the Clay Science Centre, dedicated to preserving and sustaining earthen architecture through research, training, testing and consultancy; the Qimam Adventures Centre, offering integrated mountain-tourism experiences in South Al Batinah Governorate; and the Al Jabal Al Akhdar Centre for Agricultural Propagation and Innovation, which aims to support agricultural propagation and promote agritourism in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate. The exhibition also featured a construction and demolition waste recycling station project, designed to convert waste into investment value and support sustainable transport solutions.

Seminar to review thought of Abu Al Abbas Mohammed bin Yazeed Al Mubarrad in Sohar

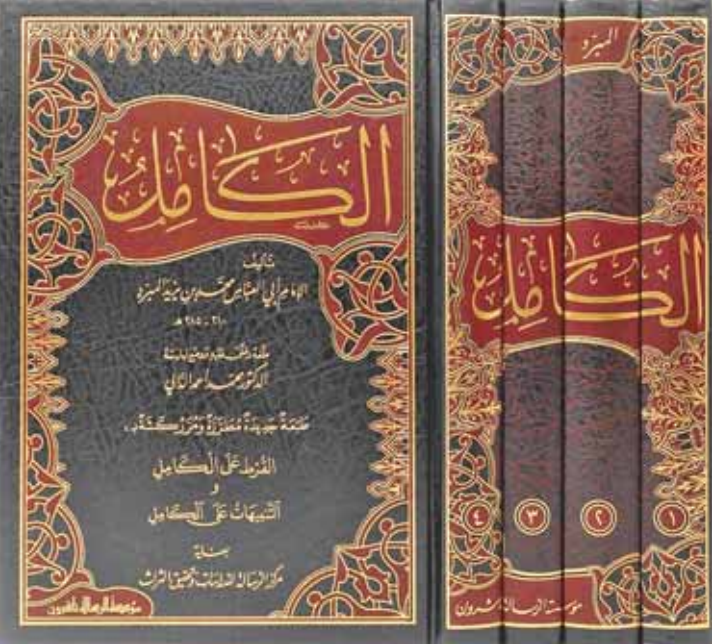
MUSCAT: The scientific seminar "Readings in the Thought of Abu Al Abbas Mohammed bin Yazeed Al Mubarrad," which will be held at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in the Wilayat of Sohar on 5-6 October, will focus on one of the most prominent figures of Arabic language, grammar, and literature in the third century AH. He is considered one of the scientific figures of Omani origins who made a prominent contribution to the progression of Arabic linguistic and literary studies.

Al Mubarrad was able to occupy a lofty scientific status among the scholars of his time and those who came after them, leaving behind a scientific legacy that has remained present in the sources of language, literature, and grammar across the centuries.

The symposium comes within the framework of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth's interest in safeguarding Omani intellectual and scientific heritage, and highlighting the contributions of prominent figures in building the Arab and Islamic civilization. Furthermore, the Literary Forum, through the Department of Cultural Programs and Studies, continues to implement the project of symposia on scholars and thinkers. This serves as a cultural and scientific trajectory concerned with introducing figures who left a prominent mark in the fields of thought, science, and literature, while elucidating their roles in enriching human knowledge and consolidating their presence in both national and Arab cultural memory.

The seminar seeks to present a comprehensive scientific reading of Al Mubarrad's legacy and thought by reviewing his scientific biography and his standing among the luminaries of his era. It examines the political, intellectual, and scientific environment that contributed to shaping his personality and formulating his cognitive output. This is alongside studying his relationship with the Abbasid era and the intellectual and cultural transformations it witnessed, which had a clear impact on scientific life at the time.

The event addresses his works and scientific contributions, foremost of which is the book "Al Kamil," considered one of the most important sources of Arab linguistic and literary heritage. This is done through studying its scientific structure, authoring methodology, and cognitive value, as well as exploring the linguistic, literary, and historical dimensions it entails, which made it one of the most prominent books of Arab heritage and the most influential in



the movement of authorship and study.

The symposium's themes extend to studying Al Mubarrad's methodology in linguistic argumentation and the construction of grammatical rules, as well as his adopted principles of inference and methods of weighting between transmission (Samaa) and analogy (Qiyas). Moreover, it investigates his position in the grammatical dispute between the Basra and Kufa schools, analyzing the impact of this on shaping his scientific views and choices.

The seminar also covers his contributions to literary and rhetorical criticism and reviews a number of grammatical issues in his legacy, revealing his scientific independence and his impact on the development of Arabic linguistic studies.

The symposium does not stop at the boundaries of studying Al Mubarrad's works and views; rather, it goes beyond that to trace the presence of his legacy in ancient linguistic studies. It reveals the

nature of how subsequent scholars received his thought and scientific stances, monitoring his impact on efforts of authorship, criticism, and linguistic codification throughout the ages, thereby contributing to highlighting his position as one of the major references in the history of Arab culture.

Collectively, these studies present an integrated vision of Al Mubarrad's personality and his scientific and intellectual legacy. They highlight his contributions to the development of linguistic, grammatical, and literary studies, and reveal his impact on subsequent generations of scholars and researchers.

This symposium is poised to contribute to a contemporary scientific rereading of this legacy. It aims to enhance awareness of the prominent position Al Mubarrad occupied in the history of Arab-Islamic culture, as well as the presence of the Omani contribution to knowledge creation and the enrichment of human civilization across the ages.



CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO raises OMR18mn via treasury bills

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR18 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday. The value of the allotted Treasury bills include OMR3 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.715 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.715 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.71518% and 3.72580%, respectively. Additionally, treasury bills amounting to OMR8 million for a maturity period of 91 days was also allotted. The average accepted price reached OMR98.975 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.975 per OMR100. The



average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.11126% and 4.15384%, respectively. In addition, treasury bills amounting to OMR7 million for a maturity period of 182 days was also allotted. The average accepted price reached OMR98.000 for every OMR100, and the mini-

censed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.5% while the discount rate on the treasury bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5%. Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. — **ONA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Tanzania explore economic cooperation

MUSCAT: The first bilateral consultations meeting between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania was held on Monday in Muscat. The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, while the Tanzanian side was headed by Denis Lazaro Londo, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade. During the meeting, existing bilateral relations between the two countries and prospects for cooperation in the fields of investment, commercial exchanges, and logistics were discussed. The two sides also exchanged views on a number of regional



and international issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by Dr. Mohammed Ali Al Balushi, Head of the Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry, Maulidah Bwanakheir Hassan, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of officials from both countries. — **ONA**

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH

Oman to host forum for community libraries and cultural centres

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth will organise a forum for community libraries and cultural centres from 5 to 8 October 2026. The event will focus on fostering knowledge-based partnerships as a cornerstone for enhancing the performance of these institutions. The forum seeks to expand areas of cooperation, facilitate the exchange of expertise and utilise available resources to improve services and activities in a manner that enhances the role of these institutions in society. The forum, which takes the theme "Partners in Knowledge Empowerment and Building Community Identity", reflects a commitment to foster integration and partnership between the Ministry and community libraries and cultural centres. It aims to enhance the role of these institutions in the cultural and intellectual landscape, provide a platform for dialogue and



the exchange of expertise and explore ways to upgrade the quality of services and programmes to keep pace with developments in the sector of knowledge and culture. The programme of the forum will include two workshops, the first of which, titled "Building Knowledge Partnerships and Developing Initiatives and Concepts", will lay emphasis on honing the skills of participants in

forging partnerships, formulating initiatives and converting ideas into practical applications that advance cultural and knowledge-based activities. The second workshop focuses on the role of transparency in realizing the efficient management of resources. It will be in coordination with Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit and the State Financial and Administrative Audit Authority. — **ONA**



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
P.O. BOX 2470, P.C 112, RUWI, SULTANATE OF OMAN
Phone: 00968-24702567 | www.ismoman.com

REF:ISM/SA/002/2026-27

REQUIRES CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

- FINANCE MANAGER:** Indian School Muscat invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced finance professionals for the position of **Finance Manager**.
- Qualification & Experience:**
- Candidates should possess **CA / ACCA / CMA / CPA / CIMA / MBA (Finance)** or an equivalent recognized professional qualification.
 - 5–10 years of total relevant experience, with at least 3–5 years of experience in a senior finance/accounting supervisory or managerial position.
- The Finance Manager will be responsible for the effective management and supervision of the School's financial operations, including:
- Maintaining strong accounting systems and ensuring accuracy and compliance.
 - Preparing monthly, quarterly and annual financial statements and MIS.
 - Managing budget preparation, monitoring Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, cash flow and bank reconciliations
 - Ensuring proper reconciliation and maintenance of financial records.
 - Overseeing the finalization of annual accounts and ensuring timely completion of financial closing procedures.
 - Coordinating with external auditors, preparing audit schedules, supporting documents and other information required for the audit.
 - Strengthening and monitoring internal financial controls and ensuring compliance with approved financial policies and procedures.
 - Providing accurate and timely financial information and analysis to the School Management to support effective decision-making.

Candidates with minimum qualifications, experience and below 45 years, who meet the above requirements, may send their applications by uploading the CV through the School Website (www.ismoman.com) by clicking on the "Career at ISM" tab in "Reach Us" Menu on the home page using the link <https://recruitment.ismoman.org/> or by email: recruitment@ismoman.com with curriculum vitae, photocopies of certificates & testimonials and a recent passport size photograph latest by 13th October 2026.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Proposed Construction of College of Medicine (COM) and College of Nursing (CON).

Location: Dhofar University Campus at Salalah

Dhofar university S.A.O.C, one of the leading Universities in the Sultanate of Oman and accredited nationally by Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAAQA), invites bid from eligible Contractors specialized in building construction works and registered with tender Board in relevant grades in the Sultanate of Oman for the following Tenders:

Sl. No.	Tender Package	Last date for collecting Tender	Last date of Tender Submission	Tender Price (Non-Refundable)
1	COM & CON – PART 1 (Skills Lab & Simulation Center Block (CSSC), COM Deanery & Main Entrance Block, Library & Cafeteria Block)	15 Oct 2026	16 Dec 2026	250/-
2	COM & CON – PART 2 (CON Deanery & Educational Block)	15 Oct 2026	16 Dec 2026	250/-

- Tender documents can be obtained from the Purchase Department at Dhofar University, Salalah. Starting from 30 September 2026, the tender documents will be available for collection on any working day between 8.30am – 2.30pm. Site visit can also be made during the same time Or will be advised.
- Tender queries, if any, should be addressed to M/s. Al Hatmy Engineering Consultancy, Email: arup@alhatmyoman.com & alhatmysil@gmail.com with a copy to client at phase2projects@du.edu.om not later than 30 Nov. 2026.
- Tender should be submitted in envelopes and sealed with red wax. The Tender name should be written on top of the envelope containing the Tender. The exterior of the sealed envelope must not reveal the Identity of the Tenderer.
- Tenders should be addressed to Vice Chancellor - Dhofar University and to be deposited in the office of the Vice Chancellor -Dhofar University.
- Dhofar University reserves the right to not accept the lowest or any Tender received and to cancel any Tender / Tenders without assigning any reason.
- Ref. web site www.du.edu.om/ Tenders and for inquiry Pls contact - Procurement and Tendering Department - 23237055 / 23237052



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No.(36/2026)

Muscat Municipality invites Companies specialized in the field and registered with Projects,Tenders & Local Content Authority, to participate and obtain tender documents from the website via the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE-26-047 Re-Call	Supply of Soil for MM (Unit Rate) (Re-Call)	06/10/2026	13/10/2026
PRS-26-055	Supply of AC Units, Refrigerators & Water Coolers (Unit Rate)	19/10/2026	08/11/2026
PRS-26-056	Supply, Installation & Repair of Tires for MM Vehicles	19/10/2026	08/11/2026
PRE-26-120 Re-Call	Site Preparation of Itinerant Vendors in Al Nahdha at Al Amerat (Re-Call)	19/10/2026	08/11/2026
PRE-26-142	Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) & Inventory System	19/10/2026	08/11/2026
PRE-26-143	Muscat Municipality Intelligent Knowledge Platform	19/10/2026	08/11/2026
PRE-26-144	Design & Construction of Signalized Junction at Bousher	19/10/2026	08/11/2026

- 1) Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.
- 2) Clarification and Support:
 - For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .
 - For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@gstb.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

Website: www.mm.gov.om

Public Tender Advertisement for the Sale of Heavy Equipment, Vehicles, Light Equipment, Generators and Other Assets

Assets Offered for Sale on an “As Is, Where Is” Basis

Al Watanyiah United Engineering and Contracting Co. LLC hereby announce the public tenders listed below for the sale of a range of heavy equipment, vehicles, light equipment, generators, scaffolding, household appliances, electrical transformers and other assets. Bidders may purchase the Tender Documents and submit bids for any one or more of the tenders listed below.

Tender Documents are available at the Company's Head Office in Ghala Industrial Area from 28 September 2026 to 11 October 2026 during official working days, from 8:00 AM- 5:00PM, upon payment of the applicable Tender Fee into the Company's Bank Dhofar Account No. 01040605344006, IBAN: OM080250001040605344006. The Tender Documents will be issued upon payment of the applicable Tender Fee.

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Location	Tender Fee Inc. VAT %5 (ر.ع.)	Earnest Money Deposit (ر.ع.)	Period for purchase of Tender	Last date for submission of offer
1	AW/T/ PH4/01/ 2026	Sale of 14 units of used heavy equipment and vehicles, including a crawler dozer, excavator, wheel loaders, tipper trucks, a water tanker truck and a crane-mounted truck.	Ghala / Barka Yard	150/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
2	AW/T/ PH4/02/ 2026	Sale of 39 used light and miscellaneous vehicles, including a 3-ton truck, buses, pickups, a fuel tanker truck, small water tankers, saloon cars and station wagons.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
3	AW/T/ PH4/03/ 2026	Sale of 145 units of used light and construction equipment, including 3-ton tandem rollers, air compressors, asphalt cutters, bar-bending and bar-cutting machines, concrete mixers and vibrators, dumpers, skid-steer loaders, tower hoists, lighting towers and other equipment.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
4	AW/T/ PH4/04/ 2026	Sale of 33 used electrical generators of various capacities ranging from 30 KVA to 250 KVA.	Ghala / Barka Yard	25/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
5	AW/T/ PH4/05/ 2026	Sale of used scaffolding, household appliances, electrical transformers and other assets.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM

- Purchasers of the Tender Documents may inspect the assets at the Company's Ghala and Barka Yards during official working hours, subject to prior appointment.
- Each bid must be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 10% of the total bid value inclusive of VAT, provided as a certified cheque issued by a local bank, a bank deposit or transfer to the Company's account, or a bank guarantee issued by a local bank. Proof of any deposit or transfer must state the bidder's name and Tender Number.
- Where the EMD is provided as a bank guarantee, it must remain valid for at least 30 days from the Tender closing date. Any certified cheque must be valid for collection upon presentation. The bid and original EMD instrument, where applicable, must be deposited in the Tender Box at the reception of the Company's Head Office in Ghala, Muscat, no later than 20 October 2026 at 5:00 PM; late bids will not be accepted.
- Tender Fees and submitted bid prices shall be inclusive of VAT. The 10% EMD shall be calculated on the total bid value inclusive of VAT. Contact: 2450258/162, Ext. 149/150, Mobile: 77228166 / 92947637.

OMAN

Mahira Al Raisi Wins Industry Leader of the Year – Banking Award



Mahira Al Raisi, Chief People Officer at Sohar International, was felicitated with the 'The Origin Industry Leader of the Year – Banking 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.

With over 21 years of experience in human resources within the banking sector, Mahira has built a distinguished career centred on people, organisational development and strategic human capital management. Since joining Sohar International in 2007, she has progressed through leadership roles and today plays an important part in shaping the bank's people strategy and supporting its broader business ambitions.

As Chief People Officer, Mahira leads key areas including talent acquisition and management, succession planning, organisational and performance management, change management, capability development and employee rewards. Her work reflects a strong belief that people and organisational culture are fundamental to sustainable business performance and long-term institutional growth.

Mahira has also played an important role in



strengthening national talent and leadership development within the banking sector. Through strategies focused on building capabilities, creating career pathways and preparing talent for future leadership responsibilities, she has contributed to developing a workforce equipped to respond to the changing needs of the financial services industry.

Her recognition as Industry Leader of the Year – Banking celebrates her leadership, professional impact and contribution to developing people and organisations within Oman's banking sector. Her journey demonstrates how people-focused leadership can help organisations navigate transformation, nurture national talent and build resilient, future-ready institutions.

Mahira also contributed to The Origin 2026 as a distinguished panellist, sharing her perspectives and experience on leadership, talent development and the role of women in shaping the future of business in Oman.

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

SALALAH

Three-truck collision causes traffic disruption

SALALAH: A collision involving three trucks occurred at Yasmin Pass on the road leading to Salalah, causing traffic disruption. Road users have been urged to exercise utmost caution and comply with traffic instructions issued by police.

MEETING



Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, 'Rikan' discuss community development initiatives

NIZWA: Al Dakhiliyah Governorate and the Energy Sector Social Responsibility Development Foundation "Rikan" discussed on Monday the mechanisms of directing social responsibility programmes toward developmental priorities in the governorate's wilayats, as well as the tracks for transforming community initiatives into sustainable projects with a measurable impact.

This came during a meeting between Sheikh Mahmoud Rashid Al Saadi, Acting Governor of Al Dakhiliyah, and Eng. Mohammed Ahmed Al Gharibi, Chief Executive Officer of the foundation. The meeting was attended by the Walis of the governorate's wilayats, along with a number of officials

and specialists from both sides.

The meeting focused on aligning the needs of the wilayats with the foundation's areas of work, as well as the mechanism for submitting, studying, and evaluating initiatives. This aims to help identify priority projects and partnership opportunities regarding them, in accordance with the standards of sustainability and community impact.

The "Rikan" foundation reviewed its operational system in managing the social responsibility efforts of the energy sector, its methodology for evaluating and selecting projects, and measuring the social return on investment. This is in addition to the areas targeted by its programmes in devel-

oping human capital, community infrastructure, the local economy, in-country value, and other social and developmental sectors.

The methodology of "Rikan" is based on sustainability, governance, measuring the social return, and the extent to which projects are linked to the needs of local communities. During the meeting, the Walis discussed a number of needs and priorities in the governorate's wilayats, as well as the opportunities for including scalable initiatives within social responsibility tracks. This provides a more organised framework for coordination among the governorate, the wilayats, and the foundation in studying and following up on projects. – **ONA**

4TH EDITION



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026



26th OCTOBER 2026

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL MUSCAT

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

TIMES BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

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

Award Categories:

• Business Leader of the Year

• Entrepreneur of the Year

• Young Business Leader of the Year

• Woman Business Leader of the Year

• Lifetime Achievement Award

• SME of the Year

• Company of the Year...and more



FOR AWARDS, PARTNERSHIPS AND SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:

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IN JEDDAH

Oman to face Kuwait in 17th Arabian Gulf Cup clash today

JEDDAH: Oman football team will meet its Kuwaiti counterpart on Tuesday, in the third round of the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup.

The national team seeks to secure victory and keep alive its hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals. The match will be at 9:30 pm Oman time at Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Sports City Stadium in Jeddah.

The national team enters the match with victory as its sole objective, determined to harvest the three points. It will also be awaiting the result of the encounter between the Saudi and Iraqi teams. Qualification to the semi-finals requires a win for Oman and a defeat for Iraq.

Should that come to pass, the group standings would be settled by goal difference. Saudi Arabia currently lead the group with 6 points, followed by Iraq with 4, while the national team holds one point.

Tarik Sektoui, coach of the national football team, said that the



team's preparations for tomorrow's important match are proceeding professionally, noting that the work is focused on restoring the players' physical and mental readiness, with the aim of achieving a positive result.

He added during the press conference held at the media centre today that the team's technical staff

is working according to short-, medium- and long-term plans, taking care to draw lessons from this participation for the forthcoming and future assignments.

He explained that the team did not appear as required in the first half of the previous two matches, but managed in the second half to remedy the situation and return

to the rhythm of the match. The team had several chances that were not exploited, affirming that he is working sincerely with the national team and has the desire to achieve positive results.

Sektoui indicated that the team is currently going through difficult circumstances and a difficult phase. The technical staff is work-

ing to improve the situation. He noted that the season has seen the preparation of special plans for the players who were given the opportunity to participate in this tournament. These plans encompass various aspects, whether related to the player's formation or the physical and mental dimensions.

He affirmed that the participation of the national football team in the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup came with the aim of achieving positive results, but several factors made it difficult to apply his technical approach, among them the tight timeframe and the insufficiency of

the three training camps, alongside injuries to some players and others not obtaining adequate rest. He noted that he is working sincerely in the service of the national team on foundations aimed at building a team capable of delivering its best in the forthcoming assignments.

For his part, Abdulhafidh Al Mukhaini, a player of the national team, stated that the team is fully prepared to face its Kuwaiti counterpart tomorrow and to strive for the three points, noting the players' keenness to deliver their best for the Omani fans, who demand positive results. -ONA

LITERARY FORUM



Symposium on Omani currency, coins to be held

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth will organise an academic symposium on Wednesday on readings about currency and coins in Omani civilization.

The Ministry will be represented by the Literary Forum at the symposium, which will be held the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat.

The symposium aims to highlight the role of currencies and numismatics throughout Oman's rich historical civilization. It will feature presentations by professors and specialists.

The programme of the symposium will include a number of working papers: A paper on Qarmatian coins minted in Oman (354–362 AH / 965–983 AD)—to be presented by Dr. Ibrahim bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Fadhl; A paper on the transition from metal coinage to paper currency in the Sultanate of Oman (1893–1974)—to be presented by Abdulaziz bin Ali Al-Kharusi; And an overview of archaeological coin hoards in Oman.

The symposium will be run by Zakia bint Saif Al Maamari. — ONA

WILAYAT OF SUR



Seminar on resilient infrastructure begins in South Al Sharqiyah

SUR: A seminar titled "Optimal Planning Towards Resilient Infrastructure" commenced on Monday in the Wilayat of Sur, Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah. The seminar was organised by Oman Water Society in cooperation with the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

The seminar was held under the patronage of Dr. Yahya Badr Al Maawali, Governor of South Al Sharqiyah, with the participation of an elite group of specialists, experts and representatives of government and private entities and academic institutions.

The seminar comes within the framework of enhancing integration between scientific knowledge and practical experience, establishing effective

channels for the exchange of expertise among various sectors, and translating experiences and practices into practical solutions that contribute to building more resilient, flexible and sustainable infrastructure, in a manner that copes with the development approaches and in alignment with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The seminar aimed to enhance planning for more flexible infrastructure capable of adapting to challenges and changes, in light of the exceptional climatic phenomena and emergency situations witnessed by the world and the region, thereby contributing to raising levels of readiness, mitigating the effects of risks, accelerating recovery, and ensuring the continuity and sustainability of essential services. — ONA

TOMORROW

Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma (Social Impact) Awards 2026 will honour individuals, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful difference to communities across Oman through their contributions to social progress, environmental responsibility and economic well-being.

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 ...

The event will showcase inspiring efforts that create lasting community impact and support Oman's broader sustainability and development goals.

For more information, contact:

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SPORTS

Top-10 finish for Al-Manar by Dragon Racing’s Al Zubair and Marschall at Monza GT Open 500



The duo struggled to get maximum top end performance out of their Ferrari 296 GT3 EVO at the ‘Temple of Speed’ but were able to move up from a qualifying position of 12th to finish 10th in the last of the endurance races in the 2026 International GT Open

MUSCAT: The Al-Manar by Dragon Racing Team’s Al Faisal Al Zubair and Dennis Marschall overcame the handicap of a lack of top speed on one of the fastest race circuits in the world to earn a top-10 finish at the demanding Monza GT Open 500 in Italy on Sunday.

The duo struggled to get maximum top end performance out of their Ferrari 296 GT3 EVO at the ‘Temple of Speed’ but were able to move up from a qualifying position of 12th to finish 10th in the last of the endurance races in the 2026 International GT Open.

Oman’s Al Zubair said: “We



finished the last race of the programme (International GT Open). We came into the weekend on the back foot knowing that we struggled with the BoP (Balance of Performance). There was only so much we could do.

“At the start of the race we gained a few positions but once the race got going, with the top speed we had and the straight-line speed we were losing, there was only so much we could do. It was not the best weekend. Hopefully, we can be more competitive at the next one.

“I had Dennis Marschall with me, who is the GT World Challenge champion and one of the top drivers, and he also struggled the whole weekend. I guess that goes to prove that we both struggled with the car more than anything.”

Al Zubair and his 30-year-old German team-mate took it in turns to drive a pair of stints apiece in the 87-lap race on the 5.793km circuit, with Al Zubair running from the start before handing over to Marschall for his first stint. Al

Zubair then took the wheel for his second session and Marschall brought the car safely to the finish in 10th place.

Victory in the endurance race went to the Scuderia Villorba Corde Lamborghini duo of Leonardo Moncini and Rodrigo Testa. The Greystone GT McLaren of Zac Meakin and Dean Macdonald came home second.

The Al-Manar by Dragon Racing duo took advantage of Thursday’s private tests before taking to the circuit for a pair of free practice sessions on Friday.

The two Team Motopark Mercedes dominated the opening practice session with respective quickest laps of 1min 45.629sec and 1min 45.686sec. The Al-Manar Racing by Dragon Ferrari ran for 21 laps and posted its quickest time on lap 20 – a 1min 46.699sec tour.

Al Zubair and Marschall were able to shave 0.144 seconds off that time during the second free practice session, when they ran

the Ferrari for 28 laps. Team Motopark’s Christian Mansell and Maximilian Götz topped the times in that session.

All-important qualifying was split into two 25-minute stints on Saturday. Al Zubair ran for 14 laps in the late morning and his best run of 1min 46.350sec came on his penultimate tour of the circuit. That put him into 13th place and 12th of the Pro runners.

Marschall took the wheel for the second stint in the afternoon and ran for a dozen laps with his best one of 1min 45.146sec coming on lap nine. He was 14th and 10th of the Pro entrants. With the two sessions combined, the duo lined up in 12th on the starting grid and 11th in Pro with pole position going to the Mansell and Götz in the Team Motopark Mercedes.

This season’s programme was cut short because some races in the Gulf region were revised or cancelled. Al-Manar Racing will announce its exciting 2027 race programme in due course.

ONE-DAY CRICKET

A record-breaking six-ODI tons on ‘Super Sunday’ keep magic of 50-over cricket alive

NEW DELHI: It was a ‘Super Sunday’ for ODI cricket fans as a total of six centuries were scored across three matches in different parts of the world, making a record of most centuries in men’s ODIs during a single day.

From David Miller’s finishing to Virat Kohli’s calculated, merciless ‘Chasemaster’ avatar to Tom Banton’s ruthless hitting, one-day cricket was at display in its full glory across three ODIs: The India against the West Indies in Thiruvananthapuram, South Africa against Australia at Johannesburg and England versus Sri Lanka at London.

India vs West Indies (1st ODI)

The first ODI of the series, marking the return of ‘Ro-Ko’, India’s ODI-exclusive stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli saw three stunning centuries. Batting all-rounder Justin Greaves slammed his maiden ODI ton, scoring 101 in 108 balls, with 12 fours, taking WI to 295/7.

In reply, Indian skipper Shubman Gill reached his 10th ODI ton (110 in 108 balls, with 13 fours and a six), continuing his red-hot run this year.

He has scored 671 runs across nine ODIs at an average of 95.85 and a strike rate of 109.10, with two centuries and five fifties. Virat also slammed his 86th international ton and 55th in ODIs, scoring a ruthless 139* off 88 balls, with 12 fours and nine sixes.

The 37-year-old also became only the second player after Sachin Tendulkar (18,426 runs) to join the 15,000-run ODI club and broke several other records.

Australia vs South Africa (2nd ODI)

The ‘Pink ODI’, which sees Proteas wear pink for the cause of breast cancer, saw the hosts go big in Pink shirt again, as it has been a tradition over the years.

David Miller (142 in 93 balls, with 12 fours and nine sixes) slammed his career-best score, while skipper Temba Bavuma (103 in 110 balls, with 10 fours and two sixes) also slammed his fifth ODI ton as a captain. South Africa post-



ed 365/9 on the board.

‘Killer Miller’ reminded the world that he still has the power game to match some of the world’s best even in his late 30s.

This continued Miller’s exceptional run against Australia. In 28 ODI innings against the world champions, Miller has scored 1,184 runs at an average of 59.2 and a strike rate of almost 107, with four centuries and six fifties.

This was Miller’s 31st ODI fifty-plus score batting at five or below, surpassing 30 such scores by legendary Jonty Rhodes.

His eight ODI tons are also now level with England’s Jos Buttler (8) for most ODI tons batting at five or below, overtaking Indian legends Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni (7 each)

This was also Miller’s 4th ODI ton against Australia in 28 innings, with only Faf du Plessis having more with five in 21 innings.

During the chase, skipper Mitchell Marsh (84 in 53 balls, with 10 fours and five sixes) and Travis Head (84 in 76 balls, with 12 fours and a six) set the tempo with a 130-run opening stand.

However, Aussies could not capitalise on this momentum, losing wickets at regular intervals and skittling out for 333 in 49.5 overs. Three wickets from Lizaad Williams and two wickets each from

Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj were standout bowling performances from South Africa.

England vs Sri Lanka (3rd ODI)

The series decider at The Oval delivered the sixth century, with opener Tom Banton finally getting his moment in international cricket. Having being recalled to the English side only last year after years of being sidelined, Banton scored his maiden ODI ton, 126 in 105 balls, with 16 fours and five sixes at a strike rate of 120.00, along with skipper Harry Brook (77 in 66 balls, with nine fours and two sixes) putting up a 150-run stand for the third wicket, which laid down the foundation for England’s massive total of 355/7 in 50 overs. In turn, Sri Lanka skittled out for 132 in 29.1 overs, with a three-fer from Liam Dawson being the highlight.

With a masterful run-chase in India, a run-fest at Johannesburg, and an all-round masterclass with bat and ball at London by England, ODI cricket is still alive and kicking, showcasing its magic in different avatars and reminding the world of its uniqueness in an era where T20 cricket-styled batting and cash, World Test Championship points are slowly causing ODIs to lose their space in the cricketing calendar. **ANI**

GULF FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Iraq awarded hosting rights for 28th Gulf Cup

JEDDAH: The Executive Office of the Gulf Football Federation (GFF) held its meeting in the city of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) yesterday. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup (Khaleeji Arabian Dyyar 27), chaired by Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, GFF President.

The meeting discussed the request of Iraq Football Association to host the 28th edition of the Arabian Gulf Cup, which is the only hosting request submitted by the member associations. The GFF Executive Office approved the request and granted Iraq the right to organise the tournament, in



accordance with the regulations, statutes and criteria adopted by the GFF.

Under the approval, Iraq Football Association is committed to informing the GFF of the city that will host the tournament within

the specified period, and to completing the relevant organisational requirements and procedures in accordance with the adopted regulations and statutes for hosting the Federation’s tournaments.

-ONA

IN ASIAN GAMES



DPRK, Iranian weightlifters break world records

NAGOYA: Ro Kwang Ryol of DPRK smashed two world records to win the men’s 85kg weightlifting title at the Aichi Nagoya 2026, while Alexey Churkin of Kazakhstan also set a world record in the same category.

Ro produced a 214kg clean and jerk and posted a 379kg total, both new world records, to claim gold. Churkin lifted 173kg in the snatch,



a new world record, to take silver. Ali Alipour of Iran set a new world record total of 398kg to win the men’s 95kg weightlifting title at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Monday. Alipour snatched 180kg and lifted 218kg in the clean and jerk to secure the gold. Kazakhstan’s Nurgissa Adiletuly settled for silver with 394kg, while China’s Tu Yi took bronze with 384kg.

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman crude oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$111.01. The price of Oman crude oil fell by 57 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$111.58. -OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,590.26 points, up by 0.62% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.09% at 619.90 points. Al Hassan Engineering, up 20.00%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 5.80%, was the top loser.

MEETING

Oman, US discuss ways to enhance joint cooperation



MUSCAT: Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Minister of Economy, received on Monday the representatives of Oman Trade Office in the United States of America, affiliated with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), during their visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, the Office's key achievements and future plans were discussed, along with the opportunities and challenges encountered, and ways to enhance

joint cooperation to ensure the realisation of the objectives for which the Office was established.

The visit also focused on activating mutual economic and investment partnerships, foremost among them supporting Omani exports and increasing their access to the American market, in addition to attracting American investments to the Sultanate of Oman and developing areas of trade cooperation between the two countries.

It is worth noting that the volume of trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America reached approximately OMR555.26 million by the end of July 2026.

Among the most prominent exports from the Sultanate of Oman to the United States of America are chemicals and aluminium, while vehicles and means of transport are among the most prominent goods imported from America to the Sultanate of Oman. -OMA

Use of modern technology in statistical work highlighted

Oman delivered a presentation on the implementation of the household income and expenditure survey using artificial intelligence, along with a presentation on the mechanism for implementing the digital economy survey at Arab Statistical Meeting



JEDDAH: The 44th meeting of the Permanent Technical Committee for Statistics of the Arab League was held on Monday in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the participation of representatives of Arab statistical agencies and Arab, regional and

international organisations concerned with statistical work.

The meeting discussed a number of items on the Committee's agenda, foremost among them follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the 43rd meeting and a review of the activities of the Statistics and Data Management Division of the Arab League. It also reviewed the statistical activities of Arab statistical

agencies and areas of cooperation among them during 2026, as well as reports and recommendations of the subcommittees.

The meeting reviewed a number of statistical experiences and initiatives presented by Arab countries. The Sultanate of Oman delivered a presentation on the implementation of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey using artificial intelligence, along

with a presentation on the mechanism for implementing the Digital Economy Survey. The General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presented an AI-based classification platform, while the Kingdom of Morocco presented a review of migration statistics.

The meeting also addressed the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals indicators and environmen-

tal indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as developments in censuses and the use of modern technology in statistical work. It also reviewed the work of the team tasked with preparing a unified strategic model for developing Arab statistical work, the 2027 work programme of the Statistics and Data Management Division, and statistical co-ordination with specialised Arab organisations.

Dr. Khalifa Abdullah Al Barwani, Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), said the Sultanate of Oman's participation in the meeting reaffirms its commitment to supporting and strengthening joint Arab statistical cooperation and exchanging expertise and experiences among Arab statistical agencies, thereby contributing to the development of the statistical system and enhancing the quality and efficiency of official data.

He added that rapid developments in data technologies and artificial intelligence are opening broad opportunities for statistical agencies to develop working methods, accelerate the production of statistical indicators and enhance their efficiency. He stressed the importance of strengthening Arab cooperation in exchanging successful experiences and benefiting from modern technologies to sup-

port development requirements and decision-making.

Al Barwani noted that the efforts of the Arab League to strengthen coordination among statistical agencies in member States and facilitate the exchange of expertise and knowledge represent an important pillar in developing national statistical capabilities. He also stressed the importance of the recommendations and joint initiatives emerging from the Committee's meetings in keeping pace with rapid transformations in statistical work at the regional and international levels.

The agenda also included discussion of a proposal to develop a unified Arab measure of human security, alongside the regional project to assist Arab countries in transitioning to the System of National Accounts 2025 (2025 SNA). The meeting is scheduled to conclude with discussion of the report and recommendations.

The Permanent Technical Committee for Statistics is one of the specialised committees within the framework of the Arab League. It plays a role in strengthening statistical coordination and cooperation among Arab countries, discussing technical and methodological issues of common interest, and submitting recommendations aimed at developing the Arab statistical system. -OMA

MUSCAT ARBITRATION & MEDIATION DAYS

Muscat to bring together leading arbitration and mediation experts from December 7-9

MUSCAT: The Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre (OCAC) announced details of the upcoming Muscat Arbitration & Mediation Days 2026 (MAMD) conference, scheduled to take place in December. The event is designed to strengthen Muscat's presence and engagement with the international arbitration and dispute-resolution community.

In this context, MAMD and OCAC's involvement support Oman Vision 2040 objectives, in partnership with the Oman Investment Authority, the Supreme Judicial Council and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

MAMD will take place from 7 to 9 December at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre in Muscat.

At yesterday's press conference, held at the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs Hall in Muscat, Dr Abdullah bin Nasser Al Mandhari, Chief Executive Officer of the Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre (OCAC), announced MAMD's programme and vision. The conference will bring together leading arbitrators, legal practitioners, in-house counsel, dispute-resolution institutions and senior decision-makers from Oman, the region and international markets.

OCAC oversees a number of arbitration cases each year, as domestic, regional and international businesses increasingly turn to Oman as a jurisdiction in which to resolve their commercial disputes. These businesses operate mainly in the construction and banking and finance sectors.

The press conference also saw the signing of five memoranda of understanding between OCAC and the



Oman Society of Engineers, Decree, the national travel operator Visit Oman, the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre and the International Training Partner Foundation. The agreements aim to expand the Centre's partnerships and strengthen cooperation with relevant institutions and organisations.

The OCAC also announced details of Muscat Arbitration Competition 2026, an OCAC initiative organised in partnership with Decree to develop practical advocacy and arbitration skills among the next generation of legal professionals. The announcement included details of the competition's first training workshop, which will provide practical guidance and support participants' preparation.

The competition is one of OCAC's initiatives and is open to law students at colleges across Oman. Taking part in moot court proceedings gives students the opportunity to gain practical experience in commercial arbitration and develop their legal research, written-submission and oral-advocacy skills.

Together, these initiatives reflect OCAC's commitment to strengthening Oman's dispute-resolution system, building international partnerships and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange between practitioners and institutions in Oman and the global arbitration community. They also contribute to strengthening Oman's position internationally as it pursues the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Dr Khalid Al Saidi, Chairman of the MAMD Committee, said: "Muscat Arbitration & Mediation Days is an initiative organised by the Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre that brings together the dispute-resolution community from Oman, the region and around the world. As commercial relationships become increasingly international and complex, effective dispute resolution is more important than ever. Our ambitions extend beyond organising an annual conference. We aim to establish Muscat as a geographic and commercial hub for the international

dispute-resolution community, a meeting point where perspectives and legal traditions converge, new ideas are explored and lasting professional relationships are built."

Dr Abdullah Al Mandhari, Chief Executive Officer of the OCAC, said: "Muscat Arbitration & Mediation Days will provide an important platform for dialogue, cooperation and knowledge exchange through a comprehensive programme. We are pleased to host our colleagues and friends of the Centre, alongside local, regional and international companies, this December. The conference will also feature three key accompanying events and meetings: the Arab Lawyers Forum; a meeting of judges of the Arab Investment Court of the League of Arab States; and a training programme for judges of the Investment and Commerce Court. These events will strengthen the conference's role as a regional platform for legal dialogue, knowledge exchange, professional development and international cooperation."

ARAB FINANCE MINISTERS COUNCIL



Arab states discuss economic cooperation

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the 17th annual meeting of the Arab Finance Ministers Council, held on Monday in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. Oman's delegation to the meeting was led by Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance.

The meeting discussed a number of topics and issues pertaining to Arab financial and economic affairs, within the framework of efforts aimed at enhancing coordination and cooperation among Arab states and exchanging visions and expertise on economic and financial developments and the challenges facing Arab economies.

During the meeting, a number of financial and economic topics were reviewed relating to the diagnosis of fiscal policies in Arab states, the importance of using artificial intelligence in tax administration, and the effectiveness of sustainable financing in achieving sustainable infrastructure. The latest developments in the implementation of tax decisions were

also reviewed, alongside files relating to enhancing Arab financial and economic cooperation, thereby contributing to supporting financial and economic stability and the exchange of best practices among member states.

Meanwhile, Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Ahmed Jaafar Al Musalmi, Governor of the Central Bank of Oman, and in the presence of a number of officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Oman, participated in the celebration marking the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Monetary Fund.

The participating delegation will also attend a high-level workshop entitled "Macroeconomic Resilience in the Context of Geopolitical Turbulence", to be held on Tuesday, to examine the repercussions of geopolitical changes and turbulence and their implications for financial and economic stability, as well as to discuss policies and measures supporting the enhancement of the resilience of Arab economies. -OMA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Al Hassan Engineering, up 20.00%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 5.80%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,590.26 points, up by 0.62% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.09% at 619.90 points. Al Hassan Engineering, up 20.00%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 5.80%, 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 10550 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 55.12 million, with more than 209.78 million shares changing hands. Out of 72 traded securities, 26 advanced, 19 declined, and 27 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 824K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 429K, followed by domestic investors for RO 396K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,740.90 points, up 0.93%. Prices of Oman United Insurance, Al Sharqia Investment, Global Financial Investments, Bank Dhofar, and Sohar International Bank were up by 4.69%, 4.00%, 2.21%,

1.90%, and 1.61% respectively. Prices of Muscat Insurance, DIDIC, Oman & Emirates Investment, and Financial Services were down by 2.92%, 2.06%, and 0.79%, 0.42% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,842.30 points, up 0.04%. Prices of Al Hassan Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Flour Mills, Gulf International Chemicals, and Galf Engineering were up by 20.00%, 4.68%, 2.98%, 1.45%, and 1.32% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.64% before closing at 3,016.43 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, National Gas, OQ Gas Networks, OQ Gas Networks, and Oman National Engineering were up by 4.92%, 4.55%, 2.34%, 1.85%, and 1.55% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.64% before closing at 3,016.43 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, National Gas, OQ Gas Networks, OQ Gas Networks, and Oman National Engineering were up by 4.97%, 3.45%, 1.39%, 1.39%, and 1.38% respectively. Prices of Oman Education & Training, Dhofar Generating, Oman Oil Marketing, Oman Telecom, and Abraj Energy were down by 2.50%, 1.24%, 0.74%, 0.52%, and 0.25% respectively.

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,590.26	7,543.59	7,590.26	7,543.59	46.66	0.62%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,740.90	13,613.94	13,740.90	13,613.94	126.96	0.93%
Industry Index	9,842.30	9,785.10	9,842.30	9,838.13	4.18	0.04%
Services Index	3,016.43	2,997.17	3,016.43	2,997.17	19.26	0.64%
MSX Shariah Index	622.83	618.20	619.90	620.45	-0.55	-0.09%
MSX TR INDEX	11,767.84	11,695.50	11,767.84	11,695.50	72.35	0.62%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,893.72	16,737.63	16,893.72	16,737.63	156.09	0.93%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,629.91	12,532.22	12,605.49	12,600.14	5.35	0.04%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,050.14	4,024.28	4,050.14	4,024.28	25.86	0.64%
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
209,786,188	55,117,312	10,550	39,258,324,975	26	19	27	72

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN AS ON 28/09/2026

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	9,000	1,670	4	0.182	0.190	0.182	0.190	0.181	0.009	4.972	0.190	0.180	0.199	0.100	37,930,764
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	100	34	1	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.330	0.015	4.688	0.335	0.315	0.330	0.100	35,175,000
OM0000002287 GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,019	501	3	0.482	0.482	0.482	0.482	0.470	0.002	4.681	0.482	0.480	0.482	0.100	24,768,449
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	11,100	1,153	5	0.105	0.105	0.103	0.104	0.100	0.004	4.000	0.104	0.100	0.104	0.100	9,380,000
OM0000010120 ASYAD SHIPPING	2,026,217	434,904	1,123	0.216	0.217	0.212	0.217	0.211	0.006	2.844	0.217	0.218	0.217	0.000	1,130,297,509
OM0000003125 GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	676,041	247,270	40	0.362	0.370	0.362	0.370	0.362	0.008	2.210	0.370	0.363	0.368	0.100	74,000,000
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	470,730	99,950	252	0.211	0.215	0.210	0.215	0.211	0.004	1.896	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	653,556,684
OM0000005983 PHOENIX POWER	346,045	98,739	47	0.284	0.288	0.282	0.286	0.281	0.005	1.779	0.286	0.282	0.288	0.100	418,304,018
OM0000005398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	79,941,551	14,974,222	1,851	0.187	0.189	0.186	0.189	0.186	0.003	1.613	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.100	1,450,765,072
OM0000006908 OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	36,936,203	9,395,114	2,052	0.254	0.256	0.253	0.256	0.252	0.004	1.587	0.256	0.259	0.256	0.040	885,628,658
OM0000006072 OQ GAS NETWORKS	41,273,962	9,973,815	2,115	0.216	0.220	0.216	0.219	0.216	0.003	1.389	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.100	848,406,638
OM0000001152 OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	1,893	278	1	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.145	0.002	1.379	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.100	22,050,000
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	31,937	2,810	6	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.149	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	31,339,202
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	57,485	15,931	16	0.276	0.279	0.276	0.278	0.276	0.002	0.725	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.100	65,721,980
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	383,431	60,250	58	0.156	0.158	0.156	0.157	0.156	0.001	0.641	0.158	0.157	0.158	0.100	351,201,628
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	4,000	3740	1	0.935	0.935	0.935	0.935	0.931	0.004	0.430	0.935	0.923	0.935	0.100	116,773,593
OM0000003968 OQREDOO	89,846	28,258	24	0.314	0.316	0.314	0.315	0.314	0.001	0.318	0.315	0.314	0.315	0.100	305,047,432
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	5,531	2,710	3	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.000	0.000	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.100	796,713,714
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	3,416	11,734	4	3.435	3.435	3.435	3.435	3.435	0.000	0.000	3.435	3.300	3.435	0.100	308,119,500
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	59,000	10,250	5	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.100	63,039,451
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	2,000	506	1	0.253	0.253	0.253	0.253	0.253	0.000	0.000	0.253	0.251	0.257	0.100	10,839,277
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	11,850,960	5,030,804	1,076	0.426	0.426	0.423	0.425	0.425	0.000	0.000	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.100	3,190,218,751
OM0000003141 BARKA WATER AND POWER	5,000	740	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.140	0.148	0.100	23,680,000
OM0000003661 VOLITAMP ENERGY	119,347	21,681	31	0.182	0.182	0.181	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.182	0.185	0.010	182,000,000
OM0000004735 SEMBOOR SALALAH	1,000	258	1	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.000	0.000	0.258	0.255	0.260	0.100	246,273,563
OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	99,497	10,945	28	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	19,250,000
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	10,526	2,053	3	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.000	0.195	0.195	0.199	0.100	31,603,049
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	38,475	7,555	16	0.193	0.197	0.193	0.197	0.197	0.000	0.000	0.197	0.197	0.199	0.100	140,738,049
OM0000007598 OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	14,662,408	7,014,222	220	0.479	0.479	0.477	0.479	0.479	0.000	0.000	0.479	0.477	0.479	0.010	832,000,000
OM0000008934 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	943,127	380,472	157	0.404	0.406	0.400	0.404	0.400	-0.001	-0.248	0.403	0.400	0.404	0.100	310,390,000
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	3,377,170	4,559,680	176	1.351	1.353	1.344	1.345	1.352	-0.007	-0.518	1.345	1.345	1.217	0.100	1,008,750,000
OM0000002372 OMAN OIL MARKETING	12,841	17,401	2	1.360	1.360	1.350	1.360	1.350	-0.010	-0.735	1.350	1.350	1.360	0.100	82,721,250
OM0000001081 OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,309	158	2	0.120	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.126	-0.001	-0.794	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.100	15,996,094
OM0000001539 DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3,000	878	2	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.100	141,872,056
OM0000002804 ASAFAA FOODS	8,670	6,153	16	0.716	0.716	0.709	0.709	0.726	-0.017	-2.342	0.709	0.700	0.709	0.100	85,080,000
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	1,000	618	1	0.618	0.618	0.618	0.618	0.650	-0.032	-4.923	0.618	0.615	0.675	0.100	204,479,335
Total	36	193,455,827	1,417,368	9.344											

Parallel Market

0000000001160	NATIONAL GAS	126,649	15,242	26	0.120	0.122	0.118	0.120	0.116	0.004	3.448	0.120	0.115	0.127	0.100	10,200,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	140	82	1	0.587	0.587	0.587	0.587	0.570	0.017	2.982	0.587	0.580	0.587	0.100	101,928,881
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	24,434	1,710	5	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.070	0.075	0.100	1,470,000
OM0000003521	GULF ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	121,742	18,575	22	0.154	0.154	0.151	0.154	0.152	0.002	1.316	0.154	0.148	0.160	0.100	31,259,913
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	2,220	10,084	9	4.500	4.600	4.500	4.550	4.499	0.051	1.134	4.550	4.600	4.580	1.000	16,516,500
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	14,656,753	3,372,700	954	0.231	0.233	0.227	0.230	0.229	0.001	0.437	0.230	0.230	0.231	0.000	1,538,556,250
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	800	599	3	0.748	0.750	0.748	0.750	0.749	0.001	0.134	0.750	0.740	0.750	0.100	71,250,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	94,660	6,343	5	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	20,578,804
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,880	429	2	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	0.000	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.100	7,785,376
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	108,133	16,471	15	0.153	0.153	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.151	0.165	0.100	33,440,000
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	214	41	4	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.190	0.200	0.100	3,800,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	637,321	203,943	62	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.320	0.321	0.100	640,877,867
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	400	37	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.090	0.100	0.100	14,310,637
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,866	127	2	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.074	0.100	13,600,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	116,175	12,314	22	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	89,222,213
OM0000001889	SALAH MILLS	21,200	11,872	3	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.562	-0.002	-0.356	0.560	0.530	0.560	0.100	34,979,316
OM0000001344	FINANCIAL SERVICES	3,078	735	1	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.240	-0.001	-0.417	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.100	4,780,000
OM0000008968	THE PEARL REIF	3,747	671	8	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.180	-0.001	-0.556	0.179	0.178	0.179	0.100	105,867,202
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	8,406	904	5	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.108	-0.001	-0.926	0.107	0.107	0.108	0.100	18,618,000
OM0000101023	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	5,507	5,722	1	1.039	1.039	1.039	1.039	1.049	-0.010	-0.953	1.039	1.039	1.100	0.000	28,494,411
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	80,000	6,402	7	0.080	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.080	-0.001	-1.235	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	17,779,200
OM0000001301	DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT	200	63	1	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.270	-0.005	-1.852	0.265	0.000	0.297	0.100	52,284,385
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVESTMENTS	490	956	3	1.950	1.950	1.950	1.950	1.950	2.000	-0.050	-2.500	1.950	1.935	1.950	0.100
126,500,000																
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	250	125	1	0.499	0.499	0.499	0.499	0.514	-0.015	-2.918	0.499	0.468	0.520	1.000	5,501,498
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,761	229	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.138	-0.008	-7.597	0.130	0.125	0.136	0.100	3,900,000
Total	25	16,018,024	3,686,384	1,164												


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PARLIAMENT

Vucic resigns as president of Serbia

BELGRADE: Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic signed and submitted his resignation on Sunday, stepping down as president.

“I am now signing the text that reads as follows: ‘Pursuant to Article 116, paragraph 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, I submit my resignation from the office of President of the Republic....Ana, this goes to the Parliament, and tomorrow you go to the handover,’” said Vucic.

Under Serbia’s Constitution and Law on the president, the president’s term ends when the written resignation is formally received by the National Assembly, without requiring approval. The Speaker of the National Assembly Ana Brnabic then assumes presidential duties for up to three months and must call a presidential election within that period.

Vucic also said he would take part in the snap parliamentary elections scheduled on Oct. 25 as an ordinary citizen.

The Serbian parliament was dissolved on Sept. 9. Under the Constitution, a dissolved parliament has limited powers, while the government continues to perform its duties until a new government is formed.

On Sept. 5, the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) nominated Vucic as head of its electoral list and its candidate for prime minister in the upcoming snap parliamentary elections.

Following the Oct. 25 elections, the process of forming a new government will begin. The acting president, after consulting representatives of the elected electoral lists, proposes a prime minister



candidate to the National Assembly. The candidate then presents the government’s programme and cabinet members, which must be approved by a majority of all lawmakers.

Vucic, born in Belgrade in 1970, had served as defence minister, first deputy prime minister and prime minister. He was elected president in 2017 and re-elected in 2022. Under the Constitution, the presidential term is five years, with a maximum of two terms for any individual.

Opposition had sought snap elections

Earlier in September, Vucic called for snap elections for October. He cited “major turbulence on the domestic political scene,” as the reason.

Vucic was referring to the political movement and major setback for his government that was triggered by a tragedy in Serbia’s second-largest city of Novi Sad. In November 2024, an awning of a newly reconstructed railway station in Novi Sad collapsed, killing 16 people. — Agencies

Capsized Indonesian ship death toll hits 66

The Virgo Transport 8 ferry was carrying 243 people, including 30 crew members and an unknown number of vehicles, when it capsized in bad weather early on 13th September

JAKARTA: The death toll from an Indonesian ship that capsized earlier this month rose to 66 as of Monday, as divers braved leaking fuel and dangerously unsound structures to find the 69 passengers still missing on the 16th day of the search.

The Virgo Transport 8 ferry was carrying 243 people, including 30 crew members and an unknown number of vehicles, when it capsized in bad weather early on 13th September during a voyage from Surabaya in East Java to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan.

Divers were navigating through unstable debris on the 16th day of the search, Hardiansyah Putra, a senior official from the country’s search and rescue agency, said on Monday, adding that they would aim to find the missing passengers



in the cabins. The current death toll stands at 66 people, with 108 survivors and 69 still missing, agency figures show.

Divers were navigating through unstable debris on the 16th day of the search, Hardiansyah Putra, a senior official from the country’s search and rescue agency, said on Monday, adding that they would aim to find the missing passengers

tres, he added. From the Java Sea where the ship sank, rescuers were expected to airlift some recovered bodies using a helicopter on Monday, senior agency official I Putu Sudayana said on Sunday.

Dozens of divers swam through the 4,277-tonne ship to find the missing people, trying to handle the unsound structures, the side-to-side tilting and the dangerously sharp objects scattered throughout the vessel, Putu said, adding

that dense gas concentrations and leaking fuel posed further health hazards. “Because of these reasons, the divers weren’t able to get into the compartments,” he said, adding that the ship’s operator needs to right the ship and bring it to the surface.

The high-risk challenges facing the divers have slowed the progress of the search, adding to the anguish for distraught friends and family. — Agencies

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Sweden’s centre-left bloc fails to form government

STOCKHOLM: The leader of Sweden’s centre-left Social Democratic Party, Magdalena Andersson, on Monday said her talks with other parties had failed to form a government after her bloc’s narrow election victory.

The breakdown leaves Sweden without a new government more than two weeks after the election and opens the door for the outgoing right-wing bloc to try to remain in power despite losing the vote.

Andersson had been trying to bring together the Social Democrats, Greens, Centre Party and Left Party, which together won 176 of parliament’s 349 seats.

But talks foundered on deep divisions between the centrist Centre Party and socialist Left Party.

“Based on the discussions I have had, I can conclude that, as things currently stand, it is not possible for me to form a government,” Andersson told reporters.

The four-party bloc won 176 seats in the September 13 election, compared with 173 for the outgoing right-wing alliance.

The popular vote difference was around 50,000.

The speaker of parliament is now expected to ask another party leader to try to form a government. — DW

UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Lula or Bolsonaro as president? Brazil gears up to vote

BRASÍLIA: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva spoke in no uncertain terms at the opening of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday in New York: “Brazil does not belong in anyone’s backyard,” the Brazilian president said. His comment was directed at his US counterpart Donald Trump, despite Trump not being in attendance.

The US president has repeatedly interfered with Brazilian domestic politics, siding with former President Jair Messias Bolsonaro and the far-right opposition. In July, Trump imposed sanctions on a judge who found Bolsonaro guilty of attempting a coup and sentenced him to 27 years in jail. Washington only lifted the sanctions after negotiating with Lula.

Bolsonaro’s eldest son Flavio is Lula’s biggest challenger in the upcoming presidential election on October 4, and polls currently show the two of them to be neck and neck in a potential runoff.

The election in the world’s fifth largest country is drawing a great deal of international attention. Brazil is an agricultural giant and very rich in natural resources — boasting rare earth elements, vast water resources and enormous crude oil reserves.

Brazil one of South America’s last bastions of the left

Lula is the “last man standing” of the South American left, while Flavio Bolsonaro is part of an increasingly strong far-right camp.



Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Ecuador and Colombia all have governments that are sympathetic to Trump. And since January, Venezuela has been what some describe as a US protectorate.

Foreign policy hasn’t played a big role in the campaign, but this election will nonetheless decide whether Brazil moves closer to Trump’s US.

Washington is seeking economic and military dominance in South America through the Shield of the Americas initiative, focused on combating violent cartels. After his military intervention in Venezuela, Trump is now exerting economic pressure on Mexico and Cuba. At the same time, he is trying to counter Chinese influence in the region.

For his part, Lula is an advocate of multilateralist diplomacy, wanting Brazil to engage in dialogue and trade with everybody. China has long been Brazil’s most

important trading partner.

Flavio Bolsonaro favours a conservative alliance with the US and other right-wing states. But for Leonardo Paz from the Brazilian Fundacao Getulio Vargas think tank, a Bolsonaro victory would not necessarily automatically mean better relations with the US. He told DW that Lula had established a largely normal relationship with Trump — both are 80 years old — despite some initial friction. The two leaders got along well, said Paz, even if Lula has not succumbed to Trump’s pressure.

Paz did admit that if Bolsonaro won, the 45-year-old would be more likely to accommodate Trump, pointing out that his father Jair had made far-reaching concessions to the US when he was president. During Jair Bolsonaro’s time in office from 2019 to 2023, Brazil agreed to forgo its “developing country status” in World Trade Organisation nego-

tiations in exchange for a mere promise that the US would back its bid to become a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Trump also said he was considering giving Brazil NATO “privileges.” Neither promise came to anything.

“While relations with the US would continue as they are with Lula, it is completely unclear what a Flavio Bolsonaro presidency would mean,” Rubens Ricupero, a former Brazilian diplomat and minister, told DW. “Lula has prestige in foreign policy, while Bolsonaro is completely inexperienced.”

Would Brazil pull out of BRICS?

A victory for Bolsonaro would likely jeopardise Brazil’s role in BRICS, the alliance that comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and five other states. Bolsonaro has said that one of his first acts would be to review whether Brazil should stay in the alliance, arguing that BRICS only serves to provoke the US. He has also spoken out against China’s efforts to reduce the global dominance of the US dollar.

It’s hard to tell how serious such intentions are, considering the importance of economic ties between China and Brazil. Javier Milei, Argentina’s current president, also engaged in harsh rhetoric against China before he came

to power, but quickly adopted a more conciliatory tone once in office to not jeopardise Chinese loans.

“Political relations with China would likely cool, but I wouldn’t expect any substantial changes in economic and commercial relations,” predicted Ricupero in case of a Bolsonaro victory.

Brazil not likely to become major world player

Paz said that despite possessing enormous natural resources that are important to the global economy, Brazil would likely remain a minor player on the world stage as it had neither the economic strength to provide financial aid to other countries nor the military strength to help resolve conflicts. “This severely limits Brazil’s ability to act,” he said.

But Brazil could continue to be a major protagonist in the Global South, he said, as it is under Lula. “This is particularly evident in the international debate on global governance, in which Brazil raises issues such as new trading conditions, climate policy and development,” he said.

Ricupero said Lula carried particular weight in foreign policy, especially regarding the environment and climate change. “His commitment to addressing ecological challenges was clear from his choice of [leading environmentalist] Marina Silva as environment minister,” he said. — DW

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

DRC Ebola cases top 8,000 as WHO warns outbreak still expanding

KINSHASA: Confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have surpassed 8,000, the DRC health authorities said Monday, as the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that the outbreak remains large, geographically expanding and marked by sustained transmission.

As of Saturday, the country had recorded 8,067 confirmed cases, including 3,901 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 48.4 percent, according to the latest government situation report released on Monday. A total of 2,070 patients have recovered. In its latest Disease Outbreak News published Friday, the WHO said the number of new cases reported each day remained high, while transmission intensity varied considerably across affected provinces and health zones.

“The continuously high case

fatality ratio, and especially the continuous high rate of deaths occurring in communities, highlights the seriousness of the disease and the persistent challenges in timely case detection and access to early and adequate patient care,” the WHO said.

Ituri Province remains the epicenter of the outbreak, but transmission patterns continue to diverge. Incidence in Ituri had declined gradually from a mid-August peak, while North Kivu Province saw a substantial rise that reached its highest reported level in mid-September, according to the WHO. Sustained transmission also continues in Haut-Uele Province, while renewed transmission activity has been reported in Tshopo Province.

The outbreak has now affected 63 health zones across seven

provinces. The WHO said the latest geographic expansion, including newly affected areas in Sud-Ubangi and Haut-Uele, had increased the risk of cross-border transmission. Since it was declared in May, the outbreak has evolved into the largest and deadliest Ebola outbreak ever recorded in the DRC and the second-largest Ebola outbreak globally, after the 2014-2016 West Africa epidemic.

Economic toll grows

Beyond the health emergency, the outbreak is worsening economic hardship for many families.

Schools have reopened in towns such as Bukavu and Bunia, but many parents are struggling to afford basic school supplies.

Stationery shop owner Furaha Mpangu Esperance told DW that demand has collapsed as families

prioritise food and other essentials.

“In any case, it doesn’t work. The situation is serious because there are no customers. We have even lowered the prices but there is no one to buy. Before, we even sold 10 boxes, 20 boxes a day. Today not even three boxes, not even two! The situation is critical,” he said. To reduce disruption to education, the government has proposed radio-based learning for children unable to attend school.

“For us, it’s a double objective: to ensure that children continue to go to school, despite the epidemic, and to ensure that distance learning is the device that will help them,” Education Minister Raissa Malu told DW. Teachers, however, say many areas lack the infrastructure needed for effective distance learning. — Agencies





Are electric cars really bad for the environment?

Some German politicians are calling for a delay to the EU plan to phase out gas-powered vehicles, saying cars must be judged on the entire carbon footprint. But the full picture still says EVs are more climate friendly

“The EU’s car lie” — Germany’s Bild tabloid newspaper didn’t mince words when it reported on what it called the European Union’s “dangerous” claim that electric vehicles were carbon neutral. Markus Söder, the conservative state premier of Bavaria — home to major automotive brands was equally direct. Writing on social media, he called for an end to “the EU’s phaseout of internal combustion engines” set for 2035. Stepping away from the phaseout, he said, would now be backed by “science.” Söder and Bild were reacting to a new report by the Technical University of Munich (TUM), which outlined what it considered to be a major flaw in the EU’s climate strategy: the fact that its vehicle emissions regulation only focuses on CO2 emissions from exhaust gases and that battery-electric vehicles are considered “climate-neutral.”

EU overturns combustion engine ban amid industry pressure
The report stated that battery-electric vehicles reduce carbon emissions by only “41% on average” over combustion engine vehicles, with the EU regulation failing to take into account emissions generated by other factors like

manufacturing and electricity mix. Gas-powered vehicles were at a disadvantage, the report concluded, suggesting emissions should be counted over a vehicle’s entire life cycle, from the materials used to build a car to the fuel that makes it run. Credit could be given for the use of green steel, for instance, or recovering raw materials through recycling. It highlighted several major car manufacturers that support this approach and all major institutional donors at TUM. No new insights in TUM report Georg Bieker, who researches the environmental impact of electric and gas-powered cars at the US-based International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) think tank, said TUM’s analysis didn’t offer any new insights. He, and other climate and mobility experts, pointed out that the importance of life-cycle assessments was already well known. Bieker co-authored a 2025 study examining the global warming potential of passenger cars sold in the EU which took into account their entire life cycle, from the production of the vehicle to its fuel consumption and maintenance. It found that the emissions generated by battery-electric vehicles are on average 73% lower than gasoline cars, and up to 78% when

using only renewable electricity. Similar studies, including from the EU and the International Energy Agency, came up with emissions reductions of between 60%-66%. The Germany Environment Ministry said modern vehicles could even achieve reductions of up to 80%. Hybrid vehicles, meanwhile, which combine a combustion engine with an electric motor and battery charged by the car’s brakes and an internal generator, generate fewer emissions than traditional cars, but still don’t match fully electric vehicles. Bieker said the full EV advantage will only grow as production and operation becomes less carbon intensive. Even today, he added, production emissions for gasoline internal combustion vehicles only account for around 13% of the total climate impact; most of the emissions come from the tailpipe. **Batteries have a high environmental cost** Bieker confirmed batteries were still one of the main environmental challenges facing electric cars. The mining of key resources like cobalt and lithium has been linked to habitat destruction and water depletion; mining 1 ton of lithium, enough for around 125 EVs, requires some 2 million liters of water.

Bieker’s ICCT study found that while battery-electric vehicles had an estimated 40% higher production emissions than gas-powered vehicles due to battery production, these additional emissions were offset after driving about 17,000 kilometres (10,500 miles), or in one or two years. And, Bieker pointed out, most of those batteries could eventually be recycled — unlike the gasoline burned in a combustion engine. “We see a trend of emissions decreasing for battery production,” Bieker told DW, pointing out that technology was still being developed. “The production of lithium-iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, for example, generates fewer emissions than the nickel manganese cobalt variety. LFPs are increasingly becoming the battery of choice for the industry — they’re generally safer, last longer and are cheaper to manufacture. Bieker said batteries were also increasingly being produced in Europe in larger, more efficient factories, which also helps reduce emissions generated by importing them from abroad. Though Europe still ranks second behind China when it comes to battery cell manufacturing, the European Commission has committed to boosting the sector with financial support, including a re-

cent €1.5 billion in interest-free loans. **Renewable energy making the case for EVs** The other major factor contributing to EV emissions is the electricity mix — how the power charging the batteries is actually generated. While electric cars don’t produce emissions during driving, they can generate them indirectly when charged using electricity produced by burning fossil fuels like coal and gas. But the rapid expansion of renewable energy in recent years — especially solar, including a growing popularity of home installations — is increasingly tipping the scale in favour of EVs. “Europe’s electricity grid is currently more than 70% decarbonised and expected to be almost fully decarbonised by 2040,” said Gabrielle Clark, a policy officer at European trade federation Eurelectric focusing on energy, climate and sustainability. “As the production of green steel and battery recycling capacity also ramps up as expected, this will only strengthen the case even more.” Clark said it wasn’t necessary to replace the EU’s current tailpipe emissions regulation, which plans to phase out combustion engines entirely by 2035, with more complex regulations and

green accounting rules. “Whether assessed through [life-cycle assessment] or tailpipe emissions, [battery-electric vehicles] are always the preferred technology for carbon emission reductions in the road transport sector,” she told DW in an email. “Their replacement of [internal combustion engine] vehicles must be accelerated, not delayed.” **Rising fuel prices, climate concerns push EV growth** Bieker said that in the end the market will decide, not policy. “The future will be electric, no matter what European policymakers or German carmakers think,” he said, highlighting the global growth of EV sales in recent years, especially in China and Southeast Asia. EVs are also taking off in Europe. In Germany, for example, a new survey by research firm SBD Automotive and Here Technologies showed that 54% of respondents were more likely to consider buying an electric car as their next vehicle, citing technology advances, rising fuel prices and environmental concerns. “We cannot win the race by ignoring it,” said Bieker. “[For climate.] for competitiveness and economic development, we need to double down on electrification and not slow it down.” — DW

SPORTS

UEFA Nations League: Greece stun Germany 1-0 as Kourbelis strikes

Dimitrios Kourbelis scored the decisive goal in the 74th minute as Greece punished Germany for failing to convert their dominance into goals, according to the website of UEFA Nations League

AUGSBURG: Greece stunned Germany 1-0 in their UEFA Nations League Group B encounter on Sunday, claiming their first-ever head-to-head victory over the four-time world champions and leaving Jurgen Klopp without a win in his first two matches as Germany head coach.

Dimitrios Kourbelis scored the decisive goal in the 74th minute as Greece punished Germany for failing to convert their dominance into goals, according to the website



of UEFA Nations League.

Germany, ranked 12th in the FIFA rankings, made five changes to the side that drew with the Netherlands but endured a slow start in Augsburg. Debutant Bambase Conte came closest in the opening

stages, sending an effort narrowly wide inside three minutes.

The hosts gradually took control and Karim Adeyemi emerged as their main attacking threat. The Barcelona forward broke into the box after half an hour but fired over

before forcing a save with a powerful effort from outside the area.

Despite enjoying the majority of possession and creating the better openings, Germany were unable to find a breakthrough before the interval.

Klopp's side continued to dominate after the restart but again lacked the cutting edge required to turn their pressure into a goal. Greece grew increasingly dangerous on the counter as Germany committed more players forward.

Christos Tzolis came close to breaking the deadlock in the 73rd minute when he raced down the right, but his attempted ball across the box failed to find a teammate.

Greece finally made their counter-attacking threat count a minute later. Tzolis was again involved, this time driving down the left before his cutback took a deflection and fell to Kourbelis on the edge of the box. The Asteras Tripolis midfielder's effort struck Germany captain Joshua Kimmich, changing its trajectory and leaving goalkeeper Alexander Nubel helpless.

Germany pushed forward in search of an equaliser but struggled to create a serious attacking threat in the closing stages. Greece held on comfortably to secure a historic victory and back-to-back wins in the competition. The defeat leaves Klopp with plenty to address after Germany's late goal conceded against the Netherlands denied him victory in his managerial return in the previous match.

Greece, meanwhile, moved to the top of their group after two successive victories and ended a run of four consecutive defeats against Germany.

Germany will next look to get their campaign back on track against Serbia, while Greece will aim to build on their historic win as they continue their Nations League campaign. **ANI**

PROPOSED PRIVATISATION

Mike Baird resigns as Cricket Australia chair, David Boon to take over interim role

MELBOURNE: Mike Baird has resigned as Cricket Australia chair and director amid a fallout over the proposed privatisation of the Big Bash League, with former Australia batter David Boon set to take over as interim chair at the organisation's AGM in late October.

Baird, the former New South Wales premier, informed the CA board that he would not seek re-election after losing the support of his home state over the push to bring private investment into the BBL.

Boon, who joined the CA board in 2025, will assume the interim role while the governing body begins the process of appointing a permanent successor.

Baird has served as CA chair since February 2023. He was NSW's nominee to the CA board, but the state informed him that it would no longer back his nomination and would not support him for an independent board position.

"After much consideration, I have decided to stand down as CA chair and director," Baird said in a statement, according to Cricinfo. "I am delighted that David Boon has agreed to undertake the interim chair role while we complete the formal chair process, and I will undertake a transition process with David over the coming weeks."

"I have been incredibly proud to play a role in the oversight of cricket on the CNSW board and, over the last six years, the CA board, including almost four as chair," the statement added.

Baird and CA chief execu-



tive Todd Greenberg have been leading the push to bring private money into the BBL under a "self-determination" model, which allows each state to decide its own course.

However, NSW has been a strong opponent of the plan, arguing that alternative ways of raising revenue should be explored rather than private investment.

The CA board approved the BBL privatisation process earlier this month, with Melbourne Renegades expected to become the first club to be sold, potentially before the end of the year.

Baird said his departure would not alter his assessment of the direction of Australian cricket.

"This year CA will report record revenue, profit, attendance and viewership, and most importantly a 40% increase in participation over the past four years. With recent decisions on the Big Bash, I also believe the long-term sustainability is assured," Baird said, according to Cricinfo.

"I also want to thank the Aus-

tralian players, and especially the captains I worked closely with: Pat Cummins, Mitch Marsh, Alyssa Healy and Sophie Molineux, who have not just inspired on the field with their results, but shown future generations what it means to have character," he added.

"I believe Australian cricket continues to be well led by the CA board. Their mix of significant experience and passion for the game gives me great confidence for the future. Finally, I want to thank the CEO, Todd Greenberg. I believe Todd is the best sports administrator in the country, and he will undoubtedly set cricket up for success for generations to come," he further added.

Baird's exit will also see him relinquish his role at the International Cricket Council, where he had developed a close working relationship with chair Jay Shah.

Boon, who played 107 Tests for Australia, previously served as an ICC match referee and was a member of Australia's selection panel from 2000 to 2011. **ANI**

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

Portugal edge Norway 2-1 as Nyland error gifts Ramos winner

OSLO: Defending champions Portugal defeated Norway 2-1 in their UEFA Nations League Group A4 clash at the Ullevaal Stadion on Sunday, with goalkeeper Orjan Nyland's costly mistake allowing Goncalo Ramos to score the decisive goal and end Norway's 14-match unbeaten run at home.

Portugal, ranked seventh in the FIFA rankings, took the lead through Joao Felix in the 17th minute after Norway had threatened early on. Joao Neves had headed over the crossbar before Erling Haaland was denied by Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa, according to the website of UEFA Nations League.

Haaland then had another opportunity after Costa parried the ball into his path, but Ruben Dias produced a crucial diving block to deny the Norway captain. Costa also kept out two Haaland headers as Portugal preserved a clean sheet through the opening 45 minutes.

Felix's opener continued his impressive international run, coming after his match-winning goal against Wales last Thursday. The forward calmly finished from the edge of the box to put Portugal ahead.

Norway continued to press and eventually found their equaliser six minutes into the second half. Haaland reacted quickest from close range to score his 65th goal in his 57th appearance for Norway.

The Manchester City striker has now scored in 16 of his last 17 competitive international appearances.

However, Norway's hopes of



completing the comeback were damaged almost immediately when Nyland gifted possession to Portugal. The goalkeeper's poor pass fell straight to Ramos, who calmly lobbed the ball into an empty net in the 54th minute to restore Portugal's lead.

Ramos thought he had added another five minutes later after beating Nyland to a through ball, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Norway pushed for another equaliser as the match became increasingly frantic in the closing stages, but Portugal held firm to secure all three points.

The victory moved Portugal to

the top of Group A4 after opening their Nations League campaign with consecutive wins. It was also their seventh victory in their last 10 matches, alongside two draws and one defeat.

Cristiano Ronaldo started on the bench for Portugal, meaning there was no extended on-field meeting between the veteran and Haaland, but Portugal still had enough to claim victory in Oslo.

Norway, ranked 19th in the FIFA rankings, remain on three points after two matches. The defeat was their ninth in 12 meetings with Portugal, while they have won once and drawn twice. **ANI**

U-20



Spain win Women's World Cup title

WARSAW: Spain won the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title after defeating North Korea 4-3 on penalties following a goalless draw in the final, which concluded on Sunday in Poland.

Spain secured the title for the second time in its history, having previously won the tournament in 2022, while denying North Korea a successful defence of the title it claimed in 2024.

Neither side managed to break the deadlock during the 90 minutes of regular time, despite creating several scoring opportunities. The match went into extra time, but the score remained unchanged after two additional periods. The title was ultimately decided by a penalty shootout, where Spain prevailed 4-3 to lift the trophy.

-ONA

FOR AUSTRALIA TESTS

Rabada included in South Africa's squad

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa has included Kagiso Rabada in their preliminary squad for the three-Test series against Australia, beginning October 9, with his availability for the opening match to be assessed during an intra-squad game next week.

Rabada is currently recovering from a hamstring injury he sustained during winter training.

Lungi Ngidi, Ottneil Baartman and Kwena Maphaka, who are also recovering from hamstring injuries, have been left out of the squad.

Anrich Nortje, who is no longer centrally contracted to Cricket South Africa, has been included in the extended squad and is in line to make his first Test appearance since March 2023. The squad features seven fast bowlers.

Gerald Coetzee, who returned to international cricket from injury in the first ODI against Australia last week, has also been named.



He last played a Test in November 2024.

Corbin Bosch, Marco Jansen, Wiaan Mulder and Dane Paterson, who was part of South Africa's squad for the World Test Championship final, complete the pace-bowling options.

The only uncapped player is top-

order batter Marques Ackerman, who has scored more than 1000 runs for South Africa A, and will be competing for a top-three place with Tony de Zorzi, Tristan Stubbs and Mulder. Recent form could see Ackerman nudge ahead of them.

South Africa have also named three spinners in Keshav Maha-

raj, Simon Harmer and Senuran Muthusamy, all of whom featured during the previous World Test Championship cycle.

With early-season conditions expected to offer some assistance to spin, particularly with all three Tests scheduled at coastal venues, South Africa could consider playing two of the three spinners in their XI.

The South African Test squad will assemble in Durban on October 1.

South Africa's preliminary squad for Australia Tests: Temba Bavuma (captain), Marques Ackerman, David Bedingham, Corbin Bosch, Gerald Coetzee, Tony de Zorzi, Simon Harmer, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Anrich Nortje, Dane Paterson, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, Kyle Verreynne. **ANI**

IN PICTURES



HEAVY RAIN DISPLACES THOUSANDS AS FLOODS HIT 10 CAMBODIAN PROVINCES: An aerial drone photo shows a flooded area in Battambang City of Battambang Province, Cambodia. Flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall have affected 44,889 families across Cambodia, forcing 3,685 families to evacuate to higher ground, a disaster control spokesperson said. — Xinhua

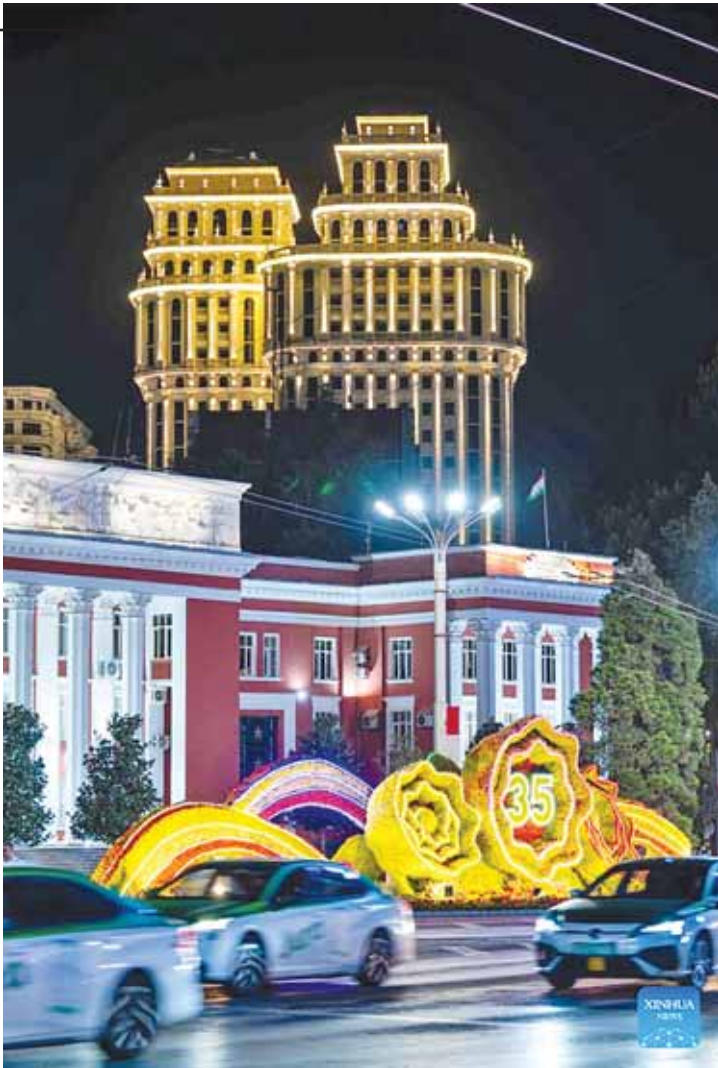


MOSCOW FASHION WEEK: Models present creations during the Moscow Fashion Week in Moscow, Russia. — Xinhua



PROMOTION OF THE UPCOMING MOVIE 'THE VVAAN: FORCE OF THE FOREST': Actress Tamannaah Bhatia and Actor Sidharth Malhotra pose for a picture as they promote their upcoming movie 'The VVaAn: Force of the Forrest', in New Delhi. — ANI Photo

NIGHT VIEW OF DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN: Cars drive past an installation commemorating the 35th anniversary of Tajikistan's state independence in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. — Xinhua



FEDEX CARGO PLANE CARRYING A PAIR OF CHINESE GIANT PANDAS LANDS AT ATLANTA AIRPORT: A chartered FedEx cargo plane carrying a pair of Chinese giant pandas, Ping Ping and Fu Shuang, lands at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta, the United States. The two giant pandas are expected to stay at Zoo Atlanta for 10 years, according to an agreement between Zoo Atlanta and the China Wildlife Conservation Association. — Xinhua



FIM SUPERSPORT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ITALIAN ROUND CREMONA CIRCUIT: Valentin Debise (front) of EASTROC ZXMMOTO Evan Bros Factory steers his motorbike during the Race 2 of WorldSSP at the FIM Supersport World Championship Italian Round Cremona Circuit, Italy. — Xinhua



MASS WEDDING CEREMONY HELD IN WEST BANK: Grooms attend a mass wedding ceremony in Dura near the West Bank city of Hebron. The mass wedding ceremony brought together 88 Palestinian grooms and brides, with thousands of local residents attending the event. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Get exclusive campaign offers on DENZA B5 Flagship and Extreme

The Denza B5 Flagship and B5 Extreme are designed for drivers who want the strength and presence of a serious SUV with the responsiveness and efficiency of an electrified powertrain

MUSCAT: As part of DENZA's 'Own the Extraordinary 2027' campaign, the Denza B5 Flagship and Denza B5 Extreme bring a new expression of intelligent power and premium SUV capability to Oman. Running from 17 August to 17 October, the campaign gives customers the opportunity to discover Denza's approach to electrified performance, refined comfort and confident all-terrain driving. The eligible retail customers purchasing the Denza B5 Flagship or Denza B5 Extreme can benefit from special pricing, one year of free insurance through Liva Insurance, a complimentary scheduled service package and a complimentary 2 kW 3-pin EV charger, subject to eligibility and applicable terms and conditions. Customers financing an eligible vehicle through Oman Arab Bank may also receive two months of complimentary instalments, subject to the bank's approval. This will be for a loan of 6 years and above with a loan to value of 80% of vehicle purchase price. Terms and conditions apply. The Denza B5 Flagship and B5 Extreme are designed for drivers



who want the strength and presence of a serious SUV with the responsiveness and efficiency of an electrified powertrain. Their bold proportions and elevated stance give them a commanding presence on city streets, while their intelligent 4X4 capability is ready for the varied roads and landscapes beyond the city. Built around Denza's DMO Super Hybrid 4X4 architecture,

the B5 family combines electric performance with the freedom to travel further. The result is a driving experience that feels immediate and controlled on the road, while giving customers the confidence to take on rougher ground when the journey calls for it. The cabin brings a more refined character to the adventure-ready SUV. Premium materials, thoughtful storage and intelligent tech-

nology create a space that works equally well for the daily commute, a family outing or a weekend beyond the city. Practical features such as Vehicle-to-Load capability extend the vehicle's usefulness when customers are away from a conventional power source. Safety and comfort are built into the B5 experience, with a comprehensive suite of driver-support technologies and a cabin designed

to keep occupants comfortable over longer distances. The Denza B5 Flagship and B5 Extreme combine rugged capability with a level of refinement that makes them as at home in Oman's urban environment as they are on an open-road adventure. The vehicle remains backed by BYD's protection package: a 6-year or 150,000 km vehicle warranty and an 8-year or 200,000 km bat-

tery warranty, whichever comes first in each case, subject to applicable terms and conditions. Visit a BYD showroom in Oman to discover the Denza B5 Flagship and B5 Extreme, arrange a test drive and explore the current campaign benefits before they end on 17 October 2026. In Oman, BYD, DENZA and Yangwang vehicles are distributed by World Auto Business.

PARTICIPATION

Meethaq sponsors fourth Zakat Conference and Exhibition



MUSCAT: Reaffirming its continued commitment to supporting community-focused initiatives and promoting the values of solidarity and cooperation across society, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat is participating as a strategic sponsor in the fourth Zakat Conference and Exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs from 27 to 29 September 2026 in the Wilayat of Sohar, North Al Batinah Governorate. The event will bring together experts, researchers, specialists and stakeholders in the fields of Zakat and Islamic finance. Meethaq's participation builds on its strategic partnership and continued cooperation with the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and reflects its commitment to supporting initiatives that raise awareness about the importance of Zakat and its role in strengthening social solidarity and contributing to sustainable development. It also builds on Meethaq's involvement in previous editions of the conference, where it highlighted key topics related to Islamic banking, Sharia governance, and the management and development of Zakat funds in accordance with the principles of Islamic Sharia. Through its participation this year, Meethaq will also introduce visitors to a range of Islamic banking products and solutions designed to meet their evolving needs.

A dedicated team will be available at Meethaq's booth throughout the exhibition to engage with visitors, respond to enquiries and provide information on key products and services, including the savings plan, Iskaan financing, credit cards and the national Maal card, alongside other Sharia-compliant banking solutions. Commenting on the participation, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager Meethaq Personal Banking at Meethaq Islamic Banking, said: "We are pleased to continue our strategic partnership with the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs through our participation in the Zakat Conference and Exhibition. "The conference provides an important platform for enhancing awareness of the economic and social role of Zakat, while encouraging greater dialogue and knowledge exchange among specialists and institutions in this field. Through our participation, we also look forward to engaging with visitors and introducing them to Meethaq's Sharia'a-compliant banking solutions." Meethaq Islamic Banking continues to play an important role in strengthening the Islamic banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman by providing a comprehensive portfolio of products and services tailored to customers' needs and developed in accordance with the principles of Islamic Sharia. Meethaq's products and services undergo the required

Sharia review and oversight to ensure their compliance with Islamic banking principles. Alongside its products and services, Meethaq continues to expand the use of digital solutions to provide customers with convenient and efficient access to essential banking services. This includes facilitating Zakat contributions through digital banking channels, enabling customers to make their contributions directly to the Ministry's designated Zakat account in a secure and convenient manner. Since its launch in 2012, Meethaq Islamic Banking has established itself as a leading provider of Sharia'a compliant banking solutions in the Sultanate offering a comprehensive range of retail, corporate, and investment banking products and services. Customers can also access Meethaq's services through a network of 30 branches, more than 64 ATMs, CDMs and FFM's, as well as over 900 Bank Muscat ATMS and CDMs. In recognition of its achievements, Meethaq has received numerous prestigious local, regional, and international awards. These include the Leadership in Islamic Banking award from Global Islamic Finance, Best Islamic Bank in the Sultanate of Oman from Euromoney, Most Trusted Brand in Islamic Banking from Apex Media, and several awards from Islamic Finance News, including Best Institution for Sharia-Compliant Investment Solutions.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



KR Group recognises employees with disabilities on International Day of Sign Language

MUSCAT: Khimji Ramdas (KR) Group marked the International Day of Sign Language by recognising and celebrating the contributions of 12 employees with disabilities, in an event held at the KR head office. The event brought together employees and leadership to honour the dedication, achievements and valuable contributions of the 12 honourees, while highlighting the importance of fostering an inclusive and accessible workplace where every individual has the opportunity to contribute and grow. As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, KR Group continues to promote a workplace culture that values employees for their skills, capabilities and contributions, irrespective of ability. The recognition event reflects the Group's broader focus on creating an environment where accessibility, respect and equal opportunity remain integral to its organisational culture. Anil Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas, stated: "Every individual brings unique strengths and perspectives to an organisation, and we believe that every contribu-

The event brought together employees and leadership to honour the dedication, achievements and valuable contributions of the 12 honourees

tion has value. This occasion is an opportunity to recognise the dedication of our colleagues and reaffirm our commitment to building a workplace where everyone feels respected, supported and empowered to contribute." Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas, mentioned: "Inclusion is not simply about creating opportunities; it is about ensuring that every employee feels a genuine sense of belonging and is able to participate fully. At KR, we remain committed to strengthening accessibility and fostering a culture where diversity is recognised as an important part of our organisation."

The International Day of Sign Language, observed annually on 23 September, provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of sign languages and the rights and inclusion of deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. For KR Group, the occasion also serves as a reminder of the importance of building workplaces where accessibility and inclusion are embedded in everyday practices. Through initiatives that recognise and support its diverse workforce, KR Group continues to strengthen its commitment to creating an inclusive workplace culture in line with its values and long-standing focus on its people. Headquartered in Muscat, the Khimji Ramdas (KR) Group is one of Oman's leading diversified business groups, with operations across Lifestyle, Consumer Products, Projects and Logistics, and Infrastructure. With a longstanding presence in the Sultanate, KR is committed to contributing to Oman's growth and development and supporting the aspirations of the nation's people and its future generations.



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