

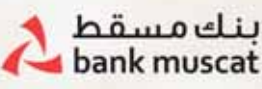




51

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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ROP TIGHTENS SAFETY MEASURES AS STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL



ROP has also urged school bus drivers to ensure that no student is left stranded in a bus

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has stepped up safety and traffic measures as 876,117 male and female students returned to schools across Oman for the 2026/2027 academic year on Sunday.

The measures include intensified police presence around schools and on roads leading to them in various residential areas to ensure smooth traffic flow and enhance safety during students' daily journeys to and from school.

The ROP has also urged school bus drivers to ensure that no student is left behind in a bus, calling on them to make checking their vehicles a routine practice after

Council of Ministers congratulates students on new school year

MUSCAT: The Council of Ministers, at its session yesterday, extended its congratulations to male and female students as well as to members of the teaching and administrative staffs and parents, on the occasion of the new school year, wishing everyone a year replete with success and achievement.

The Council affirmed that the education sector enjoys the gracious attention and care of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, given its

fundamental role as a cornerstone in nation-building and in preparing generations capable of contributing to the development process and shaping the future.

The Council further expressed its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by educational personnel in carrying out their vital mission, wishing students a year of diligence, dedication, and achievement. It also wished all educational staff success. — **ONA**

every journey. Mohammed bin Salam Al Hashami, Director of Public Relations and Media at the ROP, said comprehensive plans had been put in place to ensure students' safety as the new academic year begins.

He said increased police presence around schools and on roads leading to them would comple-

ment the efforts of schools, parents, school bus drivers and other road users in maintaining traffic flow and enhancing safety. "The safety of our students is a responsibility that begins with the police, is reinforced in the school, and is completed through their efforts on the roads, all in full cooperation," Al Hashami said. **>A2**

SOUTH AL SHARQIYAH GOVERNORATE

Over 6,000 baby turtles returned to sea

Times News Service

SUR: Volunteer teams participating in Oman's "Environment Protectors" programme successfully returned 6,146 baby turtles to the sea and dealt with 264 stranded adult turtles during August, either by treating them or releasing them back into the sea.

The programme, implemented by the Directorate of Environment in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, involved 149 volunteers across five teams.

It focused on protecting sea turtles and raising environmental awareness among beach visitors, particularly during the turtle hatching season, when hatchlings



emerge and make their way towards the sea.

As part of the programme, volunteers conducted beach-cleaning campaigns along 700 metres of Hidden Beaches, one kilometre of Al Duffah Beach and three kilometres of Ras Al Hadd Beach. The campaigns aimed to remove waste

that could threaten turtles and other wildlife.

Awareness activities reached 12,298 visitors, including 2,113 visitors from GCC countries and 1,000 foreign visitors.

Volunteers also monitored 4,392 vehicles to encourage compliance with environmental regulations and requirements in turtle nesting areas and surrounding beaches.

The "Environment Protectors" programme aims to engage the community in wildlife conservation, promote environmental awareness and support efforts to preserve biodiversity and ensure the sustainability of Oman's coastal ecosystems. **>A5**

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

HM and French President hold talks on bilateral ties, regional developments

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik held a telephone conversation yesterday with President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic, during which they reviewed the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and explored

ways to build on their growing cooperation and partnership to serve mutual interests and fulfil the aspirations of their peoples.

Diplomatic efforts

The two leaders also exchanged views on the most pressing cur-

rent issues and developments on the regional and international stages, underscoring the importance of sustaining and stepping up diplomatic efforts to help reinforce the foundations of security and peace in the region and beyond. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Sayyid Badr receives copy of credentials

1 Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, yesterday received a copy of the credentials of Andi Rahadian, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Indonesia to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**

OMAN

Oman, Yemen sign agreement on power

2 Oman and Yemen signed yesterday in Salalah two joint cooperation agreements related to the electrical interconnection project between the electricity grid in Dhofar Governorate. **>A5**

WORLD

Flights cancelled as volcano erupts

3 Hundreds of flights were cancelled at Jakarta's international airport after Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted early Sunday morning, more than 150 kilometres away. **>B4**



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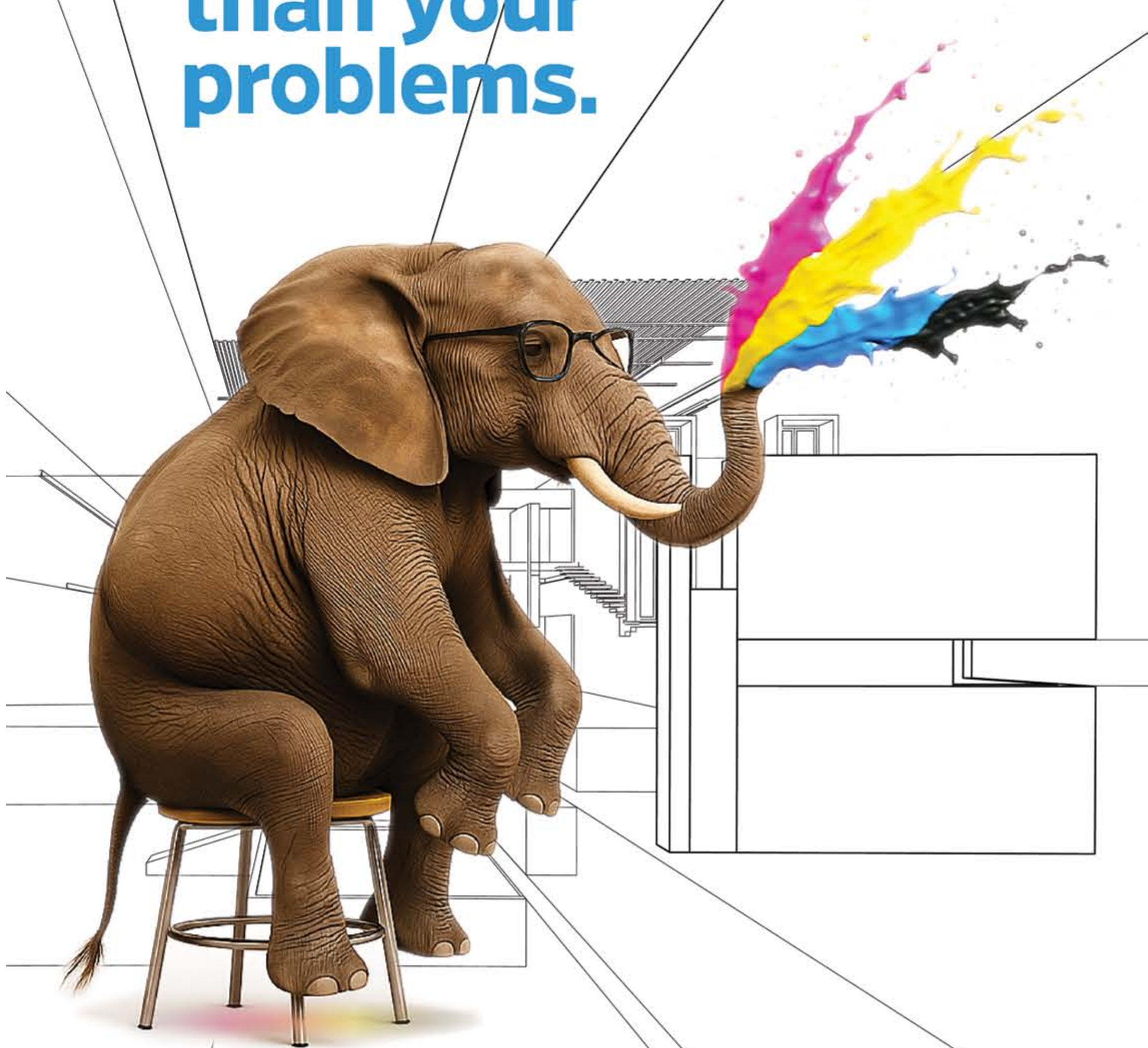
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COMMENTARY

My old classmate who is now a VIP

Not everything we remember with great fondness about our past. Many people painfully shut out their history as they struggle to come to terms with their background. When the past tries to reach out on our present life out from the shadows, we hide behind the curtain of respectability.

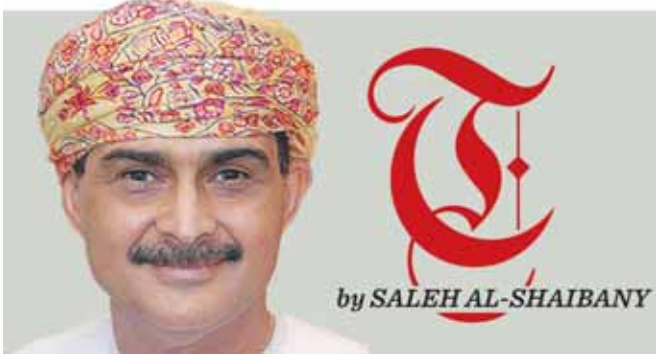
You may not have troubles to deal with the past but if your friends displayed the symptoms of the troubled past, then it is time to review your friendship. I am not critical of my friends or trying to peek into their past but sometimes signs are too strong to miss. Let me give you an example. When an old college mate was appointed to a very high position in the government, I was determined to be the first to congratulate him. That was an elementary mistake because I soon found out that I had to get through three secretaries just to get an appointment. I was furious because my turn to see him was three weeks away.

"I only want to congratulate him," I told a pretty secretary who would not even look at me when I spoke to her, "I am not looking for favours or contracts."

She flicked the pages of the appointment book and then asked, "are you a friend of his?"

Now we are getting somewhere, I thought and said eagerly, "yes."

"Then I will make it a week earlier," she said and shut the book and completely forgot about me. However, I was not going to wait for two weeks.



by SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I searched my mobile for his number and called him. It was not that easy because the man was now important and his number had to be changed.

Well, I said to myself, that was it then. I had to get on with my life but it was not to be that way. A week later, another ex-college mate called me. He had a similar story to tell. He, too, had to wait for an eternity to see our friend.

"You know something?" the friend said to me, "perhaps we are too attached to his past. I mean, we did things together in those four years at college which he does not want us to remind him now that he has moved up the social ladder."

I refused to accept that theory. It was then I decided to find out for myself. I kept that appointment and went to his office as scheduled. I was due to see him at twelve but half an hour went past and I was still waiting. I asked the same pretty secretary if there was an appointment mixed up. She looked at me as if I was a nuisance and said, "His Excellency has gone to perform his

noon prayers. You need to be patient."

So I waited patiently for the HE and whiled away the time amusing myself with various outdated magazines that were neatly stacked on a mahogany table. Ten minutes later, an important looking man walked in and he was shown straight in. As I was opening my mouth to protest, the woman stared at me and said coldly, "your turn next."

My turn did come but it was two hours late from the original appointment. I gathered myself from the low leather chair and staggered in the office big enough to entertain two hundreds people. I am not kidding but I had to scan the vast room in search of my friend. He was seated in the far corner behind a massive desk. He did not even bother to stand up as I stretched my hand to greet him.

Exactly two minutes later, the elegant lady walked in to announce the end of my audience with the HE. I knew then, without the shadow of a doubt, my former friend had trouble reconciling with his past.

His Majesty the Sultan sends greetings to Brazil President

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the Federative Republic of Brazil on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes to Brazil for further progress, development and the realization of all aspirations on various spheres. His Majesty also wished the bilateral relations of cooperation and partnership further expansion and growth in a manner that serves mutual interests. -ONA



AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE

Sayyid Badr receives copy of credentials of Indonesia's envoy

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, on Sunday received a copy of the credentials of Andi Rahadian, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Indonesia to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties, and wishing the bilateral relations between the two countries further development and prosperity.

The event was attended by Najib bin Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry and Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Hosni, Head of the Asia and Pacific Department, along with a number of officials from both sides. -ONA



REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS

Sheikh Khalifa holds talks with Director-General of Red Cross

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, received Pierre Krähenbühl, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, on Sunday.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments in the political and humanitarian situation in the region, and exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest.

They also discussed areas of cooperation and exchanged expertise, in addition to reviewing ways to enhance partnership and coordination between the two sides. The meeting was attended by Abdullah Mohammed Said, Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Sultanate of Oman, along with a number of officials from both sides. -ONA



BACK TO SCHOOL

ROP urges bus drivers to strictly follow traffic rules

<FROM A1 He stressed the important role of parents in preparing their children for school, helping them manage their time and encouraging discipline and awareness of appropriate behaviour.

Parents also play a role in creating a positive and stimulating learning environment and instilling good values and responsible behaviour in their children, he added.

Bus drivers urged to check vehicles

Al Hashami highlighted the important role of school bus drivers in ensuring students' safety, describing them as the final link in the safety chain.

The ROP urged drivers to strictly follow traffic rules and regulations, remain attentive while driving, and ensure students board and disembark only at designated locations.

Drivers were also urged to check their buses after every journey and ensure that all students have disembarked upon arrival at schools.

They were asked to pay particular attention to students who may be sleeping or tired, check that aisles and seats are clear, and carefully inspect the back seats before leaving the bus.

"Minutes of checking can save lives," the ROP said.



Warning to motorists

The ROP also called on all road users to play their part in protecting students by adhering to traffic rules and exercising extra caution when approaching schools and school buses.

Motorists were urged not to overtake school buses while they are stopped to pick up or drop off students and to remain particularly alert when driving through school zones.

Pedestrians were also advised to exercise caution when crossing roads, especially around schools and school buses. The ROP said the combined efforts of police, parents, schools, school bus drivers and other road users are essential to ensuring a safe start to the new academic year.

876,117 students

According to figures from the Ministry of Education, the total number of students enrolled for the 2026/2027 academic year stands at 876,117, including 440,899 male students and 435,218 female students.

Around 3,903 students are enrolled in special education programmes in government and private schools.

A total of 1,298 schools are operating under the education system. These include 341 schools for Grades 1-4, 128 for Grades 5-8 and 165 for Grades 9-12, in addition to 664 continuing schools.

A total of 115 schools operate during the evening period.

The total number of educational, administrative and technical personnel in government schools this academic year stands at 68,205.

This includes 21,011 male and 47,194 female teachers, along with 12,200 administrative and technical staff.

MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE

Director-General of Red Cross visits MSC, views facilities



MUSCAT: Pierre Krähenbühl, the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, on Sunday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC), where he was received upon his arrival at the centre's headquarters

by the Acting Head of the Maritime Security Centre.

The Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross and his accompanying delegation received a briefing on the centre's roles and various efforts

related to preserving the safety of the marine environment in territorial waters. The guest also toured the Maritime Security Centre and viewed its facilities, including the modern technologies and systems it contains. -ONA

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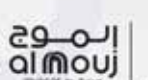
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BREAKTHROUGH INITIATIVE

Oman makes global history with first AI-powered household income and expenditure survey

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a historic global first, the Sultanate of Oman has officially launched the results of its Artificial Intelligence Household Income and Expenditure Survey project, marking a revolutionary shift in how official national statistics are produced.

The breakthrough initiative, spearheaded by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), replaces resource-heavy traditional data collection with advanced AI technologies to drastically improve statistical efficiency, accuracy, and sustainability while aligning directly with the strategic goals of Oman Vision 2040. Speaking at a ceremony at the NCSI headquarters in Muscat on Sunday evening, Dr. Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Barwani, CEO of the NCSI, hailed the project as a qualitative shift for Oman.

He explained that this trans-



formation saves the time, effort, and resources that traditional methods once required. Furthermore, Dr. Al Barwani emphasised that the AI-driven data will drastically sharpen economic policymaking by providing critical, integrated data on consumer spending patterns, establishing the relative weights needed to cal-

culate the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and measuring inflation with unprecedented precision.

He added that this milestone—driven entirely by national talent—is just the beginning of a broader roadmap to embed AI across other statistical fields in Oman. Reviewing the survey's landmark findings, Halima bint Yusef Al



Wahaibiya, Director of the Population and Labor Force Statistics Department, presented data comparing new 2025 AI-synthesised figures against the 2018 baseline.

The results revealed that the average monthly income for an Omani family rose to OMR1,839.3 in 2025, marking an 18.5 percent increase from OMR1,552.6 in 2018.



Meanwhile, the average monthly income for an expatriate family grew by 7.3 percent to reach OMR717.2, compared to OMR668.6 in the baseline year. Overall, the combined average monthly income for all families in the Sultanate climbed 18.7 percent to OMR1,392.8, up from OMR1,173.7 previously. The report

also detailed shifting consumer habits, showing that the average total monthly expenditure for an Omani family reached OMR1,058.8 in 2025, a 13.7 percent increase from the OMR931.4 recorded in 2018. For expatriate families, monthly spending rose 11 percent to OMR402, compared to OMR362 in the baseline year.

Across all demographics, the overall average monthly family expenditure grew by 15.9 percent to reach OMR798, up from OMR687.5. Ultimately, the data highlights a positive economic trajectory for citizens, as the 18.5 percent surge in Omani household income comfortably outpaced the 13.7 percent increase in living expenditures over the same period. By successfully pioneering this AI framework, Oman positions itself as a global leader in modernised state statistics, paving the way for a more agile, data-driven economic future.

Oman's cultural heritage captivates visitors at Moscow Book Fair

Oman's pavilion drew strong interest from across Russian society — including researchers, students, tourists and cultural enthusiasts

MOSCOW: The Sultanate of Oman has concluded its first-ever participation with an official pavilion at the Moscow International Book Fair, held at the Gostiny Dvor exhibition centre with more than 300 publishers from Russia and beyond, and featuring over 400 cultural and professional events.

Oman's pavilion drew strong interest from across Russian society — including researchers, students,



tourists and cultural enthusiasts — who explored Omani publications and discovered aspects of Oman's culture, history, identity and civilisational heritage.

The participation aimed to strengthen Oman's cultural presence abroad, leverage international

fairs to showcase Omani intellectual and cultural output and open new avenues for collaboration with cultural and academic institutions, publishers and researchers.

The pavilion featured sections representing the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Culture,



Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and Sultan Qaboos University, presenting a diverse range of publications reflecting Oman's cultural, scientific and heritage landscape.

The pavilion attracted researchers and students of Arabic and Oriental



studies, those interested in Oman's maritime history, its presence in Zanzibar and Africa, and its ancient trade ties with Asia, as well as visitors who had previously been to Oman and sought to learn more about its culture, history and academic life.

The fair, which ran from 2 to 6

September with China as the guest of honour, featured a cultural and professional programme addressing the future of books, publishing, literature, translation, culture, reading and the transformations shaping the content industry amid technological change. -ONA

BY THE END OF JULY

Over 38,000 people receive social protection benefits in Al Buraimi

MUSCAT: The number of beneficiaries of social protection benefits in Al Buraimi Governorate reached 38,190 by the end of July, reflecting the expansion of social and insurance coverage across the governorate, according to the Social Protection Fund.

Hilal bin Salem Al Shamsi, Director of the Social Protection Department in Al Buraimi Governorate, said the social protection system continues to ensure that legally mandated benefits reach eligible recipients.

The Childhood Benefit accounted for the largest share, with more than 29,000 beneficiaries, followed by the Elderly Benefit with over 4,000 beneficiaries. The Family Income Support Benefit served 2,896 people, while 1,379 benefited from the Disability Benefit and 522 from the Orphans and Widows Benefit.

Al Buraimi recorded the highest number of beneficiaries at 33,868, comprising 25,738 children, 3,846 elderly people, 2,617 family income support beneficiaries, 1,201 people with disabilities and 466 orphans and widows.

In Mahdah Wilayat, the number of beneficiaries stood at 2,056, including 1,354 children, 355 elderly people, 201 family income support beneficiaries, 97 people with disabilities and 49 orphans and widows.

Al Sunaynah Wilayat recorded 128 beneficiaries, comprising 88 children, 23 elderly people, 12 family income support beneficiaries, four people with disabilities and one orphan or widow. A further



2,138 beneficiaries were distributed across various benefits in the governorate.

On the social insurance and labour market front, Al Shamsi said the number of insured individuals working in the government, private and self-employed sectors reached 14,517 by the end of July. The number of registered private-sector establishments stood at 748.

He added that implementation of new insurance branches, including maternity leave, job security and work-related injuries, is ongoing to strengthen protection

for both insured individuals and employers.

The department processed 12,903 transactions during the year, covering benefit applications, inquiries and insurance services. It also provided 2,345 field services and 23 proactive services aimed at anticipating customer needs, in addition to participating in local festivals and community events.

The department's Al Buraimi branch features environmentally friendly infrastructure and facilities designed to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. It also offers self-service kiosks

and digital services through the electronic portal, Himaya application, call centre and WhatsApp, helping streamline applications and reduce paperwork and in-person visits.

The department is also continuing awareness programmes, workshops and field campaigns in cooperation with government and private institutions and community members to explain the Social Protection Law, eligibility requirements and available digital services, while helping beneficiaries access their social and insurance rights.

42ND MEETING

Oman participates in GCC Municipal officials meeting



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman participated on Sunday, via video conferencing, in the 42nd meeting of senior municipal officials of the GCC, chaired by Eng. Masoud Said Al Hashmi, Governor of South Al Batinah.

The meeting discussed a number of topics on the agenda, most notably: following up on the implementation of decisions issued by the previous meeting of the Committee of Ministers concerned with municipal affairs in the GCC states, where participants recommended raising a number of guiding manuals related to urban environment committees, strategic urban planning, and the development of legislation and municipal oversight mechanisms.

The meeting reviewed the targets of the joint GCC municipal

work plan for 2027, developments in the Gulf Building Code, joint municipal events, in addition to the signing of agreements with specialised organisations in this regard.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a number of recommendations aimed at developing GCC municipal work were submitted, in preparation for presenting them to the 29th meeting of the Committee of Ministers concerned with municipal affairs in the GCC states, scheduled to be held on 10 September in the Bahraini capital, Manama.

The meeting was attended by Eng. Mohammed Saif Al Amri, Director General of Governorates Affairs, and Sheikh Khalid Hilal Al Maamari, Director of the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Interior. -ONA

ON OCTOBER 29, 2026

Baba Sehgal to bring his iconic rap and comedy act to Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian rapper and entertainer Baba Sehgal, one of the pioneers of mainstream Indian rap, is set to perform live in Muscat on October 29, 2026, promising an evening of music, nostalgia and comedy for fans in Oman.

The performance will be held at the Sheraton Oman Hotel in Muscat and will feature Baba Sehgal's distinctive blend of rap, humour and entertainment.

Known for helping bring rap music into India's mainstream popular culture, Baba Sehgal rose to prominence in the 1990s with songs that combined catchy Hindi lyrics, rap and humour.

Over the years, he has built a distinctive identity as a rapper, songwriter, television personality and entertainer.

His Muscat show is expected to



appeal to audiences who grew up listening to his early hits, as well as a younger generation familiar with his humorous and unconventional musical style.

Organised by NHP EVENTS, the event is supported by Sheraton Oman Hotel as the Hospitality

Partner, Nexus Novel Advertising, Al Hashar Pharmacy and Times of Oman as the Media Partner.

Tickets are currently available at <https://events.nhpoman.com/> from OMR 7.5 per person including one beverage.

The event is expected to bring

together members of the Indian expatriate community and music lovers from across Oman.

Baba Sehgal has remained a recognisable figure in Indian popular culture for decades, often combining music with satire and social commentary. His playful approach to rap helped introduce the genre to a much wider Indian audience at a time when it was still relatively new to the mainstream music scene.

The Muscat performance will give fans an opportunity to experience his signature stage act live, with the evening expected to feature some of his popular numbers along with his trademark comic presentation.

The event comes as Muscat continues to attract Indian artistes and entertainment shows, catering to the city's large and diverse expatriate community.

INTEGRATED EFFORTS

‘Protecting sea turtles is a shared responsibility’

<FROM Nizar bin Salem Al Fannah Al Araiimi, Director of the Environment Department in the South Sharqiyah Governorate, stated that the “Guardians of the Environment” programme's efforts during August came at a crucial stage of the sea turtle season, as beaches witness a surge in the number of baby turtles emerging from their nests and heading towards the sea.

He added that the integrated efforts of volunteer teams, supervisors, monitors, and civil society have contributed to providing the necessary protection for these creatures in their early stages. This also reflects the level of environmental responsibility among members of the community.

“Protecting sea turtles is a shared responsibility that requires the combined efforts of relevant authorities, volunteers,

community members, and visitors, as well as adherence to practices that reduce the risks facing turtles on beaches.”

Ayat bint Saeed Al Kalbani, supervisor of the “Environmental Protectors” programme, emphasised the important role of volunteer teams, supervisors, and monitors in tracking hatchlings during their hatching period and their emergence from nests, assisting them when they encounter obstacles, and raising awareness among visitors about the need to avoid approaching or disturbing them, or using lights that could affect their natural movement towards the sea.

Marine turtles in Oman represent an important environmental and tourism asset, particularly in areas such as Ras Al Jinz Turtle Reserve, one of the world's most prominent nesting sites for green turtles.

Oman and Yemen sign pact for electrical interconnection project

The project is aimed at enhancing cooperation in the field of electrical power, and supporting the stability of electricity supplies in the Al Mahra Governorate



SALALAH: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen signed on Sunday in Salalah two joint cooperation agreements related to the electrical interconnection project between the electricity grid in Dhofar Governorate and the electricity grid in Al Mahra Governorate in the Republic of Yemen, within the framework of joint cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations between the

two countries.

The first agreement was signed on the Omani side by Eng. Ali Issa Shammas, CEO of Nama for Dhofar Services, and on the Yemeni side by Othman Mohammed Owaied, Director General of the Public Electricity Corporation in Al Mahra Governorate.

The second agreement was signed on the Omani side by Ahmed Salim Al Abri, CEO of

Nama for Power and Water Procurement, and on the Yemeni side by Eng. Mohsen Ali Balhaf, Director of the Yemen Petroleum Company in Al Mahra Governorate.

The project comes within the framework of efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation in the field of electrical power, and supporting the stability and provision of

electricity supplies in the beneficiary areas of Al Mahra Governorate through interconnection with the electricity grid in Dhofar Governorate.

The agreement includes delivering electrical power to a number of areas in Al Mahra Governorate, including the cities of Hawf and Shahn, as a first phase, through the electricity distribution network, with loads estimated at 3 megawatts for the Hawf area and 5 megawatts for the Shahn area, and to Al Ghaydah with loads reaching up to 50 megawatts.

Enhancement of infrastructure
The project embodies the importance of partnership and cooperation between the two countries in the electrical power sector, and this agreement represents an enhancement of infrastructure in the energy sector and the fulfillment of electrical needs in the beneficiary areas, aiming at stability, development, and the advancement of social and commercial sectors. -ONA

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Forum held in Salalah discusses digital divide between generations

SALALAH: A forum titled “Digital divide between generations and technical transformations in the age of artificial intelligence (AI)” began in the Wilayat of Salalah today.

The two-day forum is organised by the Ministry of Social Development, in cooperation with the Executive Office of the GCC Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Salim bin Musallam Qatan, Deputy Chairman of the State Council.

The forum seeks to keep pace with rapid global technical transformations and highlight the digital divide between generations in the backdrops of growing developments in the field of artificial intelligence (AI).

The opening programme included three working sessions, a documentary titled “Digital Citi-



zenship” and a presentation on indicators for measuring the digital divide and monitoring digital transformation in GCC states.

The second day of the forum will include workshops on digital literacy for families, digital protection for children and youth, the

responsible use of AI applications and technical empowerment of the elderly.

The forum aims to consolidate dialogue, communication and the exchange of knowledge among different age groups, with the prime objective of achieving integration,

benefiting from accumulated experiences and innovative ideas, exploring opportunities and addressing challenges posed to societies and work environments by the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and artificial intelligence. -ONA

12TH MEETING

Dr. Hilal Al Sabti takes part in Manama meeting



MANAMA: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the 12th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Health of the GCC, held in the Bahraini capital, Manama.

Oman's delegation was headed by Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health. The meeting's proceedings discussed developments in the Gulf Virtual Health Network project, the develop-

ment of health insurance systems, the outcomes of unifying classification and registration procedures for health specialties, updating expatriate examination regulations, expanding the implementation of the “Healthy Cities” programme, and the adoption of recommendations from the technical committees and joint working groups. -ONA

FINANCIAL SAVINGS

70 govt projects benefited from 160 Phased Gateways

MUSCAT: The implementation of a mechanism known as Document Cycle and Phased Gateways has contributed to enhancing the governance of the lifecycle of government projects, besides raising the projects' level of readiness to proceed with the stages of growth. The mechanism is undertaken by the “Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority”.

As many as 70 government projects benefited from the implementation of 160 Phased Gateways.

The Document Cycle mechanism is part of an integrated system designed to enhance the efficiency of government projects'



management, optimise spending and maximise the use of resources, while at the same time adhering to approved budgets, maximising

impact and minimising change orders.

The “Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority” made tan-

gible efforts in reviewing the costs of projects and improving their management efficiency.

These efforts recently resulted

in cumulative financial savings of approximately OMR280 million, among them OMR70 million by mid-2026. This led to a significant decrease in change orders for development projects.

The Document Cycle mechanism has developed from a regulatory framework to a standard practice for government projects.

For projects with an estimated budget of OMR500,000 or more, the transition between project phases is now linked to phased guarantee gates, which verify compliance with requirements and deliverables before proceeding to the next stage of growth.

Phased Gateways also play a sig-

nificant role in enhancing proactive project oversight by reviewing a project's readiness to move ahead across phases and to identify challenges and risks in advance.

This allows stakeholders to take necessary action before the project progresses to the next phase.

Promotes standardised practices
The Document Cycle targets all government projects, promotes standardised practices, enhances governance and transparency and establishes a more integrated environment for managing data and procedures related to government projects. -ONA

OMAN/WORLD

FOURTH GCC YOUTH FORUM



Spotlight on digital content industry in the GCC states

SALALAH: The fourth GCC Youth Forum began on Sunday at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah. The 5-day forum is organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Ahmed bin Mohsin Al Ghasani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality. The forum aims to introduce successful experiences and

practices in the digital content industry in GCC states. **Young entrepreneurs** It seeks to develop the skills of young entrepreneurs in the fields of planning and the development of youth initiatives in accordance with methodological principles. The forum also aims to explore joint initiatives undertaken by Gulf youth that can be implemented through the GCC Secretariat General.

The forum began with a workshop that dealt with the theme of soft power and its role in shifting from mere observation of culture to the concept of generating influence, as well as the role of content creators in shaping a social image and converting local identity into an attractive content. The forum also focuses on enabling youth to acquire the types of knowledge and skills necessary for planning, managing and implementing initiatives. - **ONA**

SOUTH AL BATINAH

Livestock vaccination covers over 332,000 heads

A'RUSTAQ: The Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in South Al Batinah Governorate recently completed the 2025-2026 livestock vaccination programme that covered 332,674 heads, constituting 167% of the target number. The vaccinated livestock comprised 228,992 goats, 89,137 sheep, 14,450 cattle and 95 camels. The campaign indicators showed a decrease in the number of animals treated during the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 by percentages of 22 percent, 30 percent and 27 percent respectively, reflecting the importance of expanding prevention and immunization programmes and promoting livestock health. The total number of packages used during the vaccination season reached 7,298, reflecting the scale of veterinary operations and services provided within the program. National vaccination programmes contribute to supporting livestock health, reducing disease-related losses, and en-



hancing the sustainability of livestock production, thus supporting the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to achieve food security, develop the livestock sector, and improve the efficiency of veterinary services provided to breeders.

The vaccination programmes seek to combat the spread of various livestock diseases, including peste des petits ruminants (PPR), sheep pox, foot-and-mouth disease, enterotoxemia, lumpy skin disease and rabies. - **ONA**

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Joint Oman-UK Working Group holds meeting in Muscat



MUSCAT: The 18th session of the joint Oman-UK Working Group meeting was held on Sunday in Muscat, co-chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, and Stephen Doughty, Minister of State at the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom (UK). The two sides also explored ways to enhance these relations and expand their horizons across a number of fields of mutual interest, including benefiting from British expertise and experiences in the fields of developing education, vocational training,



and sports, alongside discussing ways to revitalize tourism movement and enhance cultural exchange and participation between the two countries. The two sides exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues, particularly current developments in the region. They also highlighted the efforts exerted by the Sultanate of Oman toward finding diplomatic

solutions to the existing situation in the Strait of Hormuz, contributing to de-escalation and promoting security and stability in the region. The meeting was attended by Dr. Liane Saunders, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Sultanate of Oman, alongside a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry and representatives of concerned government entities. - **ONA**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Seasonal flu

MUSCAT: Seasonal influenza viruses circulate in Oman throughout the year, with activity typically beginning to increase as early as September and potentially continuing until mid-May, the Ministry of Health said. The ministry noted that Oman's subtropical climate means seasonal influenza viruses can remain present year-round.

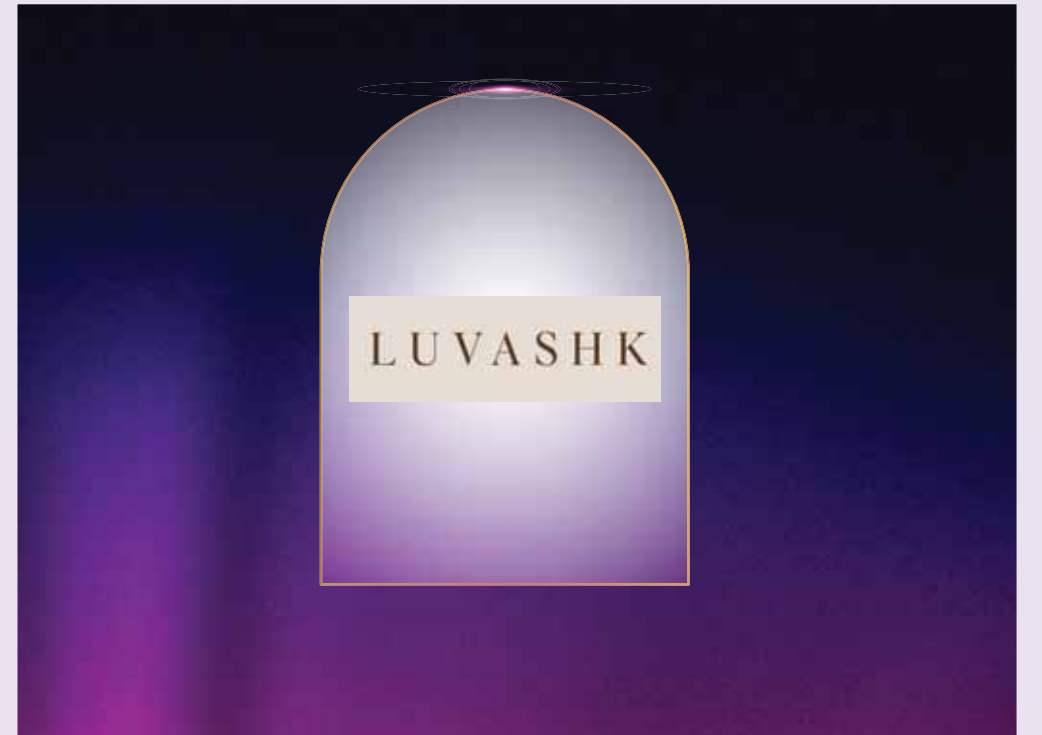


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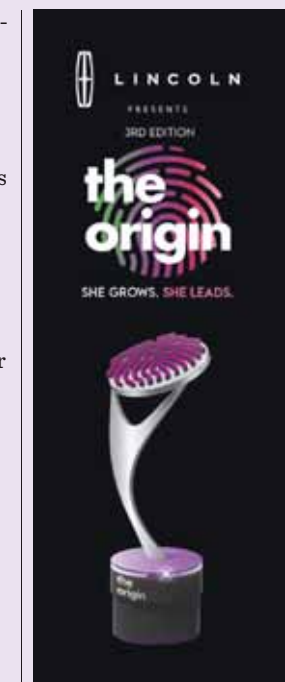
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Laila Fadhil Wins Entrepreneur of the Year – Fashion Designing Award



Laila Fadhil, Founder and Creative Director of LUVASHK, was felicitated with the 'The Origin Entrepreneur of the Year – Fashion Designing 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. Founded in Salalah, LUVASHK has grown from an Omani footwear brand into an emerging regional and international fashion label. In recent months, the brand has sold over 500 pairs across Oman and the GCC, while building a growing digital presence and expanding internationally with a presence in SoHo, New York. Laila's entrepreneurial journey reflects the power of creativity, resilience and purpose in building a fashion brand with a distinctly



Omani identity. In 2026, she was also selected among the Top 5 finalists of the She's Next programme by Visa, in partnership with Sohar International and Lahunna, further highlighting her growing impact as a young entrepreneur. Inspired by her late father, Laila has also integrated heart-health awareness into LUVASHK's purpose, bringing together fashion, entrepreneurship and social impact. Her journey from Salalah to the international fashion stage represents the ambition and potential of Omani creative entrepreneurship. The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEEvents. 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

BRICS CHAIRSHIP

Meeting focuses on innovation

NEW DELHI: India's BRICS Chairship 2026 is focusing on innovation, knowledge sharing, mentorship, digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence to strengthen capabilities and foster collaboration among member countries, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Sunday. Sharing visuals in a post on X, Jaiswal said, "From innovation to action. Through knowledge sharing, mentorship, digital infrastructure and AI, India's BRICS Chairship 2026 is fostering collaboration, strengthening capabilities and enabling new solutions." The video, titled "India's BRICS Chairship 2026: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability", highlighted innovation as one of the key areas of focus under India's BRICS Chairship. "The greatest breakthroughs are built when knowledge moves, and talent finds room to grow," the video said, outlining initiatives being developed under the innovation pillar. "In 2026, this is what we are building," it said, highlighting a startup fund, incubator network and youth platform aimed at supporting entrepreneurs and young founders. The video further highlighted a "research repository", called "one library of science for eleven countries". - **ANI**

IN JEDDAH

Oman participates in seminar on skill development



JEDDAH: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth participated in the scientific seminar organised by the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), within the framework of activating communication channels among Islamic countries on youth issues and cultural diplomacy, under the title "Youth, Cultural Diplomacy, and Leadership Skill Development". The Ministry's participation stems from its keenness to enhance the role of youth as a pivotal pillar in leadership creation and in representing cultural identity, in line with the latest international practices in the fields of cultural diplomacy and capacity building. The Ministry affirmed that the seminar formed a scientific platform to discuss a set of main

themes, foremost among which were the role of youth in cultural diplomacy and the development of leadership skills among youth, in addition to cooperation mechanisms among Islamic countries that contribute to exchanging expertise and translating ideas into practical initiatives supporting the cultural presence of youth and developing their leadership capabilities. In the context of the Ministry's participation, focus was placed on exchanging views and reviewing models and programs that can be built upon within the framework of cooperation among Islamic countries, as well as supporting youth empowerment pathways to enhance their participation in cultural work and the formulation of relevant policies and programs. - **ONA**

IRGC pounds US aircraft carrier and a destroyer with ballistic missiles

The IRGC said the two US Navy vessels were targeted amid the continued hostile actions against Iranian shipping

TEHRAN: Iranian retaliation against the United States continued as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force on Saturday claimed that it fired several ballistic missiles at a US aircraft carrier and a destroyer, alleging that the two warships

were harassing Iranian ships and participating in a naval blockade against the Islamic Republic.

In a statement, carried by Iranian state broadcaster Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the IRGC said the two US Navy vessels were targeted amid the continued hostile actions against Iranian shipping.

“The Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, attacked with several ballistic missiles the aircraft carrier and a destroyer of the child-killing American army that were harassing Iranian ships and participating in the naval blockade,” the statement read, as carried by IRIB.

The IRGC further claimed that both warships were forced to leave the conflict area after sustaining damage and fearing another attack.

“The two warships were forced



to flee the conflict area after sustaining damage and fearing another attack,” it added.

The claim comes amid renewed military tensions in the region following US strikes on Iranian oil tankers and subsequent Iranian attacks involving US-linked vessels.

Earlier, the IRGC Navy said it had targeted three oil tankers travelling through an “unauthorised route” in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, along with three vessels affiliated with the United States in other areas.

The IRGC Navy said the action followed US strikes on three Iranian oil tankers.

“This morning, the American terrorist and aggressive army, in a brutal act and out of desperation to close the Strait of Hormuz, at-

tacked three oil tankers belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran, causing damage,” the IRGC Navy said in a statement carried by IRIB.

The IRGC Navy said it subsequently targeted the vessels in retaliation.

“The IRGC Navy, with the help of the eternal power of God and with the support and backing of you, the brave people, and in accordance with the luminous verse of the Holy Quran that says, ‘And if you attack us, then attack us in the same way as we attacked you,’ targeted three oil tankers on the unauthorised route through the Strait of Hormuz and three vessels affiliated with the child-killing US in other areas,” the statement read, as per IRIB.

The Iranian force also warned vessels operating around the Strait of Hormuz against using what it called unauthorised waterways.

“Do not be deceived by the American terrorist army and avoid any suspicious movement to cross unauthorised waterways, otherwise you will be targeted,” the IRGC Navy said.

The latest IRGC Aerospace Force statement also warned Washington against continuing what Tehran described as hostile actions against Iranian shipping.

“If the hostile and aggressive actions continue, the US regime must expect fierce responses from the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” the statement said.

The announcement came after the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces had struck three Iranian crude oil carriers on September 5, following what it described as Iranian ballistic missile attacks against two US Navy warships patrolling regional waters

— ANI

OFFICIAL NOTICE BY GOVT



Nepal issues media safety protocol for journalists covering flood-affected areas

KATHMANDU: Foreign media journalists seeking to collect news from flood-affected areas along Nepal's Bhotekoshi and Trishuli rivers will be required to obtain a Press Accreditation and Journalist Identity Card from Nepal's Department of Information and Broadcasting (DoIB), according to an official notice issued by the Government of Nepal.

The Department said foreign journalists wishing to report from the affected areas must apply through its online service and submit the required documents, including a copy of their passport with a valid visa or entry permit.

Applicants will also have to submit a recommendation letter from their concerned media organisation, addressed to the Department of Information and Broadcasting, as well as a recommendation letter from the embassy, consular office or Ministry of Foreign Affairs of their respective country.

“Based on the application and supporting documents submitted, the Director General of the Department will issue the Press Accreditation and Journalist Identity Card,” the notice said.

The accreditation will be valid for 15 days, in accordance with the Department's decision dated September 2, 2026.

The notice, issued by the Ministry of Information and Communication's Department of Information and Broadcasting on September 3, said a help

desk would also be available at the DoIB to assist foreign media journalists during the application process.

“If you need any help or assistance during the process, a help desk will be available at the DoIB to assist you,” it said.

The notice comes as the Nepali authorities have issued an alert along the river basins of the Budhigandaki River following floods in the mountainous region of Gorkha.

The alert was prompted by a flood in the Therang River, which flows through Chumanubri Rural Municipality-4 and 2 in the mountainous region of Gorkha district. According to officials, the flood earlier this morning swept away four houses and a suspension bridge.

According to the District Police Office, the flood that occurred on Sunday morning washed away the houses of Namrunghanubri Ongyal (Nurba Tshiring), Urgen Chhayoden, Lakpa Bhuti and Dorje Gyaljen in Chumanubri Rural Municipality-4.

“No casualties were reported in the incident,” Deputy Superintendent of Police Rajkumar Shrestha, chief of the District Police Office, told ANI over the phone.

“The residents managed to flee to safety after learning about the rising floodwaters. The suspension bridge in the area was also swept away by the river,” Shrestha added.

— ANI

SOUTH DELHI

2 dead, 7 injured in building collapse

NEW DELHI: Two people died and seven others were injured when a multi-storey building collapsed in the Satya Niketan area of south Delhi on Sunday.

The building collapsed at around 1:30 p.m. when repair work was underway in the basement. So far, nine people have been rescued from under the rubble, of whom two died and

the other seven were receiving treatment at a local hospital, the officer added.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force were carrying out the rescue and relief work amid fears that more people remained trapped. The collapsed building was constructed in violation of regulations, according to media reports. — Xinhua

Honouring Excellence in Social Impact

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

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.

SCAN TO NOMINATE

For partnerships, table bookings or award nominations, contact:

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SPORTS

Al Balushi strikes gold as Omani athletes claim four at Muscat GP

The local sprinter matched his personal best of 10.07 seconds, anchoring a thrilling night of world-class track and field as 300 international athletes lit up the inaugural Muscat Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze series, on Saturday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani sprinter Ali Anwar Al Balushi shone bright as he led a historic night for local athletes by capturing a thrilling win in the men's 100m race at the inaugural Muscat Athletics Grand Prix 2026 on Saturday night. Held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat, the event served as a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze series meeting. Overall, Oman came out on top with four gold, one silver and one bronze.

The competition brought together around 300 elite international athletes representing 40 countries, turning the capital city into a vibrant hub for global track and field. Running in front of an enthusiastic home crowd, Al Balushi delivered a dominant performance to claim the gold medal as he matched his personal best of 10.07 seconds. The 24-year-old had registered his PB at a meet in Czech Republic on July 11. On Saturday, Al Balushi narrowly edged out Brandon Hick-

lin of the United States, who took the silver medal in 10.11 seconds, while Oman's own Mulham Al Balushi secured the bronze medal with a time of 10.18 seconds. Oman's Fatik Yakooob won the men's high jump as he cleared 2.16m and Salem Rawahili got the third gold for the Sultanate in the men's triple jump with a leap of 15.15m. In the individual sprints, international flair was also highlighted by Liranyi Alonso of the Dominican Republic winning the women's 100m in a time of 11.14 seconds. In the men's 400m, Suleiman

Abdulrahman of the UAE claimed victory out of a tight pack, crossing the line ahead of top contenders like Hossam Hatib and Fuga Sato. Meanwhile, the women's 400m was dominated by the United Arab Emirates as Mariam Kareem took the gold with a time of 52.15 seconds, closely followed on the podium by Aminat Kamarudeen. In the field events, technical excellence was on display under the stadium floodlights. The women's high jump event concluded with a home victory for Oman's Alia Al Mugheri, who captured the gold medal by clear-

ing 1.73m. She outperformed Iraq's Maryam Abdulelah, who cleared 1.70m for silver, and Iran's Asal Golmali, who cleared 1.65m for the bronze. The men's shot put final drew strong regional contenders, featuring top power-throwers like Djibrine Ahmat of Qatar and Yousef Bakhit of Egypt pushing the competitive limits. Bakhit won the gold in 18.99m while Ahmat came second with 18.55. The meeting concluded with highly anticipated team relays. In the men's 4x100m relay, the Malaysian A produced a spectacular

performance, clocking a winning time of 39.18 seconds to claim the gold. The Oman A finished second with a time of 40.38 seconds, followed by Malaysia's B for the bronze in 41.29 seconds. In the women's 4x100m relay, the Sharjah Women's Club powered to a first-place finish in 46.07 seconds, leaving Kuwait with the silver medal at 49.81 seconds and the Abu Dhabi Club with the bronze at 51.19 seconds. Organised by the Oman Athletics Association, the inaugural Oman Grand Prix successfully showcased 23 distinct disciplines.

TAKES OVERALL LEAD

Dutchman Meijers clinches Tour of Salalah opening stage

Times News Service

SALALAH: Dutchman Jeroen Meijers sprinted to victory from a seven-rider breakaway on Sunday to win the opening stage of the 2026 Tour of Salalah and claim the first leader's jersey of the four-stage race. The 33-year-old Victoria Sports Pro Cycling rider prevailed at the end of the 127-kilometre stage from Mughsail Beach to Mirbat Castle, finishing ahead of Australian Carter Bettles of Roojai Insurance Winspace, with Swiss rider Simon Pellaud of Li Ning Star taking third. Meijers produced the decisive sprint in the closing stages to secure the win and take an early advantage in the general classification. The result came a day after he finished eighth in the Dhofar Classic, the one-day race that preceded



the Tour of Salalah. The opening stage had been expected to provide opportunities for the sprinters, but an aggressive race eventually saw a seven-man group establish itself at

the front and stay clear of the main field into the finish. Meijers, who won a stage of the Tour of Salalah last year, once again proved his strength in the



Dhofar race, timing his effort well on the approach to the historic Mirbat Castle. The victory also gives Victoria Sports Pro Cycling an early boost

in the general classification, with Meijers taking the gold jersey as race leader. He was also awarded the green points jersey following his stage victory. The first stage began at Mughsail Beach and took the riders through the Dhofar countryside before finishing at Mirbat Castle. The 127km route passed through the Resut area, Salalah and the surrounding roads before heading towards Mirbat for the finish. The 2026 Tour of Salalah is the sixth edition of the event and is being organised by Dhofar Municipality in partnership with the Oman Cycling Association. The race is classified as a UCI 2.2 event and features four stages covering a total of 496 kilometres. The tour has attracted 95 riders representing 28 countries, according to Oman Cycling Association chairman Saif bin Sabaa Al Rashidi. The international field includes riders from Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas. Stage 2 will be held on Monday over 108 kilometres from Dahriz Beach to Wadi Darbat. The route introduces more demanding climbing, with the riders tackling the ascent through Aqabat Hashir and Towai Atair before the finish at Wadi Darbat. The third stage, from Taqah Castle to Samhan, will be the longest and toughest of the tour at 156 kilometres, before the race concludes on Wednesday with a 105-kilometre final stage from Ain Razat to the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex. With Meijers already in the leader's jersey, the focus now shifts to the climbing stages, where the main general-classification contenders are expected to begin making their moves.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Demonstrating a strong commitment to responsible corporate citizenship and community wellbeing, ahlibank has successfully concluded its Back-to-School initiative for the 2026/2027 academic year.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,631.51 points, up by 0.04% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.74% at 622.04 points. Construction Materials, up 8.45%, was the top gainer while, Ominvest, down 4.52%, was the top loser.

Olive processing gets a boost in Jabal Akhdar

With a processing capacity of 1.2 tonnes per hour, the press will serve olive growers in Jabal Akhdar and nearby wilayats



farmers in the region and neighbouring wilayats.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Ahmed bin Nasser Al Bakri, Undersecretary for Agriculture at the ministry.

With a processing capacity of 1.2 tonnes per hour, the press will serve olive growers in Al Jabal Al Akhdar and nearby wilayats including Al Hamra, Nakhal and A'Rustaq, helping to improve crop

utilisation and the quality of Omani olive oil.

Eng. Yahya bin Nasser Al Riyami, CEO of the press, said the project was launched in response to the growth of olive farming in the wilayat and the need for modern processing lines to help farmers turn their harvest into high-quality products. The facility uses advanced technology that preserves the oil's natural properties and

processes several varieties, including Picual, Claramunt, improved Nepali and Chamlali.

He added that around 70 tonnes of olives are being processed this season, with about 500 farmers expected to benefit from the press's services. The facility has also created some 15 seasonal jobs. Al Riyami said the project is the first phase of a broader plan to expand production, packaging and marketing to strengthen the local product's market presence.

Olive cultivation in Al Jabal Al Akhdar continues to expand, with an estimated 20,000 trees across 80 acres owned by nearly 700 farmers, producing an annual yield of 600 tonnes of fruit, from which around 90,000 litres of oil are extracted. Investments in the sector and related land usufruct projects have reached about OMR222,500 across a total area of 110 acres, underscoring the crop's growing economic importance in the wider food security effort. -OMA

RECOGNITION



Muscat, Salalah airports receive 9 global customer experience awards

ISTANBUL: Muscat International Airport and Salalah Airport have received 9 global awards as part of the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) programme's "Customer Experience Awards", granted by Airports Council International (ACI) during the council's 2026 Summit held in Istanbul, Türkiye.

The award underscores the advanced standing of Muscat and Salalah airports and their experience in offering top quality passenger service. It also reflects the integrated efforts of Oman Airports company's staff, employees and partners within the airport community. It highlights their dedication on a daily basis, as they join hands to offer an efficient travel experience for passengers at every stage of the journey through Omani airport.

Muscat International Airport garnered 4 awards: "Most Enjoyable Airport," "Cleanest Airport," "Airport with the Most Dedicated Staff," and "Best Departure Airport" in the category of airports handling 5 million or more passengers in the Asia Pacific region and the Middle East region.

Salalah Airport received 5 awards: "Most Enjoyable Airport," "Cleanest Airport," "Easiest Journey Through Airport,"

"Airport with the Most Dedicated Staff" and "Best Departure Airport" in the category of airports handling fewer than 5 million passengers in the Asia Pacific region and the Middle East region.

Saud bin Nasser Al Hubaishi, Acting CEO of Oman Airports, said that international awards affirm travellers' confidence in the services provided at Muscat International Airport and Salalah Airport. The accomplishment also consolidates the Sultanate of Oman's standing in the aviation sector; in terms of service quality and passenger experience, he added.

Al Hubaishi observed that the awards support the role of the two airports in serving travel and tourism and enhancing national and international air connectivity. He explained that the "Airport with the Most Dedicated Staff" award gains special significance, as it directly recognizes the human element and the daily efforts of Oman Airports employees, staff and partners within the airport community.

He added that the achievement was the outcome of efficient teamwork and constant integration among all parties operating at the airport, including operations, services and passenger interaction points. -OMA

PIONEERING INITIATIVE

Dhofar Islamic launches Braille debit card for visually impaired customers

MUSCAT: Dhofar Islamic, the Islamic banking window of BankDhofar, has announced the launch of its new Braille-designed debit card in a pioneering initiative that reflects its continued commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunity, and underscores its approach to delivering innovative, customer-centric banking solutions tailored to the needs of all segments of society.

The card has been designed to enable customers with visual impairments to access banking services with greater ease and independence. Its tactile features allow users to read essential information such as the card number, security code, and expiry date, helping to safeguard privacy and reduce reliance on others.



These features also facilitate the daily use of the card at ATMs and point-of-sale terminals, while minimising errors and enhancing transaction security.

This initiative aligns with Dhofar Islamic's broader commitment

to corporate social responsibility and its role in promoting the integration of people with disabilities into society, in line with national efforts to empower these groups and in accordance with global best practices for accessibility in financial services.

To support the rollout, Dhofar Islamic has implemented training programmes for branch staff at all levels, ensuring they are equipped to assist customers throughout the card application process and provide immediate activation support. The launch of the Braille debit card forms part of a comprehensive inclusivity programme adopted by Dhofar Islamic, which includes upgrading

branch facilities and ATMs to accommodate diverse needs, as well as introducing assistive solutions such as Braille keypads and audio support services.

The initiative has further extended to enhancing the bank's digital platforms through simplified user interfaces and multiple language options, ensuring a seamless and inclusive banking experience for all customers.

Inclusivity at Dhofar Islamic is regarded as a core responsibility that goes beyond being a corporate value. The bank is committed to fostering a banking environment where all individuals feel respected, empowered, and confident in pursuing their financial aspirations.

KEY MARKET

'Milano by Danube got its wings in Oman'

MUSCAT: Reiterating his strong ties with the Sultanate, Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman of the Danube Group, said Oman has emerged as a key market for Milano by Danube. He attributed the company's strong presence in the country to its long-standing relationships with local traders and dealers.

He said though Danube had cemented its presence in the market, Oman gave it wings to fly high.

In an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman*, Sahil Sajjan, Director of Milano by Danube, said Oman continues to be an important market for Milano by Danube, with the company seeing strong demand across sanitaryware, electrical products, hardware and furniture fittings despite rising freight costs, longer shipping times and geopolitical disruptions.

"Customers want reliable quality products which gives them peace of mind. Milano brand comes with 7 years unconditional warranty and Milano by Danube has never compromised on quality and ensured gets high-quality products at a reasonable price, Sahil said.

Sahil said Oman has a special place in the company's business and in his family's history, describing the Sultanate as a "second home".

"My father started the business more than 20 years ago, and Milano and Danube have grown significantly in Oman. I have been working with Milano for more than six years, and I have seen how much the market has evolved," he said.

According to Sahil, the Omani market has become increasingly competitive, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic. The changing business environment has made it important for brands to differentiate themselves not only through pricing but also through product availability, service and delivery.



"The way the market has evolved, especially after Covid, you can see how important it is to be different from your competitors," he said.

Freight costs put pressure on business
One of the biggest challenges facing the company has been the disruption to global shipping routes and the sharp increase in freight costs.

"There have been a lot of challenges, especially because of the global supply chains. There was a time when we used to pay \$1,000 or \$2,000. Then it went to \$5,000-\$6,000. Now, if you want your goods, you may have to pay more than \$10,000-\$12,000," he said.

In addition to higher freight charges, companies are also facing additional war-related costs when clearing goods at ports.

Despite these pressures, Milano has continued importing products rather than reducing shipments.

"We still take our shipments by paying double the freight. There are also war charges when you clear your goods at the port. But that does not mean we stop our supply," Sahil said.

He said maintaining supplies was particularly important because construction and development projects were continuing and customers could not afford lengthy delays.

"We want to be there for our customers because projects are still going on, and we never want to delay any of our shipments," he added.

Longer delivery times
The disruption to shipping has also significantly changed the company's inventory and supply-chain planning.

Sahil said shipments that previously arrived within around 30-35 days now require a minimum of 65-70 days, with some taking even longer.

"The material is taking more than two months, two and a half months. Before, I used to get the material in maybe 30 to 35 days. Now you take a minimum of 65 to 70 days," he said.

The longer transit time means that companies have to plan inventory much further in advance.

For Milano, maintaining adequate stock has become one of the most important ways of pro-

tecting its business and ensuring customers receive products when required.

"Milano has always kept a good amount of stock on a regular basis, and that is why Milano is still moving on, having success and a bit of growth in all the markets," Sahil said.

He said reducing inventory in the current environment could result in customers turning to competitors. "If we keep less stock and a customer wants something, we will be out of the race, because competition has not stopped," he said.

Managing prices amid rising costs

The increase in logistics expenses has also created pressure on product pricing, although Sahil said the company does not automatically pass every increase on to customers.

The final price depends on factors such as existing inventory, the cost of new shipments and the company's overall operating expenses.

"If you are bringing new material at an old cost, you can average it out whenever you bring in high-cost material," he explained.

However, shortages and higher overheads have sometimes made price increases unavoidable.

"Milano and Danube have grown so much that there have been a lot of overheads. There have been situations where I have faced shortages and had to increase my cost because I have overheads to pay," he said.

Strong brand recognition

Despite the uncertainty, Sahil said he was not overly concerned about continuing to import products because Milano has established itself as a well-known household brand across the GCC.

"Milano is a household brand,

especially in the GCC. It is famous in the UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar," he said.

However, he acknowledged that maintaining the brand's reputation also comes with considerable responsibility. "I still have to live up to the brand expectations. I have to deliver the material on time," he said.

Milano's product portfolio includes sanitaryware, electrical products and hardware, all of which have been affected to varying degrees by supply-chain disruptions.

Sahil said the company had lost some business when products were not available on time, highlighting the importance of inventory management in the current environment.

"There was still a lot of demand, and when I didn't have material on time, I did miss out on some business," he said.

Omani dealers play a major role

Sahil attributed a significant part of Milano's success in Oman to local traders and dealers, many of whom have worked with the brand for years.

He recalled hearing Milano being compared to top brands in sanitaryware, which he said, reflected the strong recognition the company has developed among traders and customers.

"These traders are the ones who supported Milano for many years, since the time my dad came to Oman 15 to 20 years ago," he said.

His father developed a team of dealers and business partners, many of whom continue to work with the company today.

Since Sahil joined, the company has also added new dealers as it seeks to expand its presence.

He said Milano now has more than 300-400 dealers in Oman, particularly across Muscat and

other parts of the country.

"You see Milano boards in a lot of different shops of traders in different areas — Al Khuwair, Barka, Sur, Maabala, Wadi Kabir and different areas. You will see Milano in almost every shop," he said.

Dealers' meet aimed at strengthening network

Against this backdrop, the company's latest dealers' meet is aimed at strengthening relationships with its trading partners and providing them with new products and promotional offers.

Sahil said the event provides an opportunity to meet customers directly, understand their concerns and introduce products to the market. "By the grace of God, Milano has more than 300-400 dealers in Oman. This is a chance for me to interact with all the customers," he said.

He also said promotional offers were particularly important in Oman because the market can be price-sensitive.

"We don't want to stop giving offers to our customers. Oman can sometimes be termed a price-sensitive market, so we don't want to lose our customers," he said.

The dealers' meet also allows customers to examine Milano's wider product portfolio and identify opportunities beyond its traditional sanitaryware business.

Sohar gains importance

The Port of Sohar has gained importance in Milano's logistics strategy as global shipping routes face disruption. Sahil said the company had increasingly seen shipments arriving through Sohar, which has helped improve the availability of goods in Oman. The company's main warehouse is in the UAE, while it also has a warehouse in the Barka area. >B7

MARKET

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ahlibank doubles reach of back-to-school programme, supporting more than 5,000 children



MUSCAT: Demonstrating a strong commitment to responsible corporate citizenship and community wellbeing, ahlibank has successfully concluded its Back-to-School initiative for the 2026/2027 academic year. Marking the bank's largest Back-to-School initiative to date, the initiative supported more than 5,000 children from low-income and underprivileged families across the Sultanate of Oman.

Implemented in strategic partnership with Al Rahma Association for Motherhood and Childhood, the initiative doubled the number of beneficiaries compared to previous years, making it the third-largest annual community initiative undertaken by the bank. Building on its commitment to ensuring children feel prepared and supported for the new academic year, the initiative aimed to instill greater confidence among beneficiaries by providing school uniforms and essential school supplies tailored to the needs of beneficiary families. Distribution drives were conducted across five Wilayats – Muttrah, Sur, Al Musannah, Barka and Sohar – extending meaningful support to families in need across the Sultanate.

A key highlight of this year's initiative was the pivotal role played by ahlibank's extensive branch network in significantly expanding the initiative's geographical reach beyond the communities surrounding individual branches. With families from neighboring Wilayas arriving at distribution hubs to access the initiative's support, the bank was able to positively impact a wider cross-section of communities.

Commenting on the initiative, Jumana Aflah Al Hashmi, AGM – Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications at ahlibank, stated, "Responsibility is a core

value at the heart of our corporate ethos, shaping how we engage with and contribute to the communities around us. Our Back-to-School initiative is a meaningful expression of this commitment. By providing young students with essential school supplies to help them begin the new academic year with confidence, we reaffirm our belief in the transformative power of education and the importance of creating equal opportunities for all children, regardless of their circumstances. The support we provide today represents an investment in the aspirations and capabilities of tomorrow's leaders, helping lay the foundations for a brighter and more prosperous future for the nation."

She added, "What makes this initiative particularly meaningful is the spirit of collaboration behind it, bringing together Al Rahma Association, our branch network, employees and community partners around a shared purpose. We are especially proud of the dedication demonstrated by our colleagues through the ahliCares team, whose efforts played an integral role in the initiative's success. Their commitment to supporting families in need reflects our collective drive to create tangible community impact."

Through its continued commitment to responsible banking and impactful community engagement, ahlibank remains dedicated to contributing to the wellbeing and development of communities across Oman, reinforcing its role as a true Partner in Excellence. By bringing together its people, partners and network around shared social priorities, the bank continues to translate its core value of responsibility into real action, contributing to a more inclusive and empowered society in alignment with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index.....	High.....	Low.....	Value.....	Prev. Value.....	Diff.....	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX.....	7,648.93	7,612.83	7,631.51	7,628.26	3.26	0.04 %
FINANCIAL INDEX.....	13,493.05	13,415.41	13,417.06	13,434.47	-17.41	-0.13 %
Industry Index.....	9,932.18	9,815.99	9,921.87	9,815.99	105.88	1.08 %
Services Index.....	3,080.84	3,060.00	3,079.34	3,060.00	19.34	0.63 %
MSX Shariah Index.....	622.92	617.50	622.04	617.50	4.54	0.74 %
MSX TR INDEX.....	11,858.81	11,802.84	11,831.80	11,826.68	5.12	0.04 %
FINANCIAL TR IDX.....	16,589.00	16,493.54	16,495.57	16,516.98	-21.41	-0.13 %
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX.....	12,320.60	12,571.79	12,707.40	12,571.79	135.61	1.08 %
SERVICES TR IDX.....	4,136.62	4,108.65	4,134.61	4,108.65	25.96	0.63 %
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
173,419,731	44,033,103	10,098	39,015,930,453	38	14	21	73

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. BID	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	183,465	59,904	14	0.320	0.340	0.320	0.335	0.316	0.019	6.013	0.335	0.315	0.334	0.100	35,175,000
OM0000001059	DHOFAR INT'L DEVELOPMENT & INVEST.	498,121	144,987	85	0.288	0.296	0.288	0.296	0.285	0.011	3,860	0.296	0.297	0.296	0.100	146,832,618
OM0000003141	BABAL WATER AND POWER	19,300	3,068	7	0.156	0.160	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.005	3,226	0.160	0.158	0.160	0.100	26,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,317,535	427,191	126	0.320	0.329	0.320	0.329	0.320	0.009	2,813	0.327	0.327	0.327	0.100	214,160,652
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,000	750	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.146	0.004	2,740	0.150	0.151	0.000	0.100	47,312,550
OM0000002440	AL SHARIQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	320,880	33,156	38	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.102	0.002	1,961	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.100	9,390,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	283,074	7,974	36	0.278	0.285	0.278	0.283	0.278	0.005	1,799	0.284	0.285	0.100	96,904,030	
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	6,186,065	117,817	293	0.187	0.193	0.187	0.189	0.186	0.003	1,613	0.189	0.189	0.190	0.010	189,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	39,511	9,900	10	0.250	0.254	0.250	0.254	0.250	0.004	1,600	0.254	0.254	0.275	0.100	10,882,120
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	572,959	114,925	63	0.201	0.205	0.199	0.200	0.197	0.003	1,523	0.200	0.200	0.201	0.100	134,977,486
OM0000000759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	77,06,653	3,829,640	317	0.472	0.480	0.468	0.477	0.472	0.006	1,271	0.477	0.478	0.010	3,824,000,000	
OM0000004735	SEMCORP SALALAH	290,800	76,756	26	0.262	0.265	0.261	0.264	0.261	0.003	1,149	0.264	0.263	0.264	0.100	252,006,989
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	57,607,378	10,965,576	1,656	0.189	0.192	0.189	0.192	0.190	0.002	1,053	0.192	0.171	0.192	0.100	1,473,793,089
OM0000004933	AL SIWADI POWER	822,553	165,595	100	0.202	0.205	0.198	0.199	0.197	0.002	1,015	0.199	0.201	0.199	0.100	142,166,862
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO	227,435	38,986	20	0.130	0.130	0.127	0.130	0.129	0.001	0,775	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.100	16,635,938
OM0000002367	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	6,108	2,645	4	0.433	0.433	0.433	0.433	0.430	0.003	0,698	0.433	0.430	0.433	0.100	21,798,249
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,440,191	1,400,489	657	0.408	0.410	0.406	0.410	0.408	0.002	0,490	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.100	3,077,622,795
OM0000000894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	428,944	174,308	221	0.404	0.409	0.404	0.406	0.405	0.001	0,247	0.406	0.406	0.406	0.100	312,701,200
OM0000003026	GLOBAL WATER SERVICES	3,250,553	4,502,945	70	1.386	1.388	1.382	1.388	1.387	0.001	0,072	1.388	1.386	1.388	0.100	1,041,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,069,282	203,160	6	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.190	0.209	0.100	58,426,809
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	9,000	8,264	4	0.920	0.920	0.915	0.915	0.915	0.000	0.000	0.915	0.917	0.920	0.100	114,281,533
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	236,500	20,812	19	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	31,339,202
OM0000004248	SHN POWER HOLDING	1,171	2,202	5	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.188	0.187	0.206	0.100	37,331,493
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	189,323	27,571	26	0.146	0.147	0.145	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.100	326,595,143
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	115,595	13,098	35	0.114	0.115	0.112	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.100	19,775,000
OM0000000894	MUSANDAM POWER	2,420	835	2	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.000	0.000	0.345	0.344	0.349	0.100	24,284,500
OM0000000707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,784	2,084	6	0.749	0.749	0.748	0.749	0.749	0.001	-0.133	0.749	0.731	0.749	0.100	307,671,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	175,800	80,068	1	0.343	0.343	0.343	0.343	0.344	0.001	0.291	0.343	0.338	0.378	0.100	86,600,000
OM0000000908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	37,383,928	9,725,591	1,625	0.261	0.262	0.259	0.260	0.261	-0.001	-0.383	0.260	0.261	0.260	0.040	899,467,621
OM0000003900	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MKRTNG	8,371	10,168	2	1.215	1.215	1.210	1.210	1.215	-0.005	-0.412	1.210	1.120	1.210	0.100	83,490,000
OM0000000107	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	7,904	25,133	15	3.445	3.460	3.430	3.430	3.445	-0.015	-0.435	3.430	3.430	3.460	0.100	307,671,000
OM0000000672	OQ GAS NETWORKS	23,922,249	5,393,544	1,720	0.225	0.227	0.224	0.225	0.225	0.001	0.442	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.100	974,390,383
OM0000000593	PHOENIX POWER	102,450	28,819	19	0.284	0.284	0.280	0.282	0.284	-0.002	-0.704	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.100	412,453,612
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	4,465,135	1,053,819	1,045	0.237	0.239	0.235	0.235	0.237	-0.002	-0.844	0.235	0.240	0.235	0.000	1,224,054,906
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	1,486,145	315,404	345	0.216	0.217	0.209	0.212	0.217	-0.005	-2.304	0.212	0.196	0.212	0.100	644,437,289
OM0000001033	OMINVEST	1,839	777	4	0.428	0.428	0.401	0.401	0.420	-0.019	-4.524	0.401	0.401	0.422	0.100	450,294,420
Total	36	151,996,540	39,829,517	8,623												

Parallel Market

OM0000001368.....	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	15,263	1,133	5	0.071	0.077	0.065	0.077	0.071	0.006	8,451	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	4,812,500
OM0000002168.....	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,741,402	424,868	300	0.150	0.158	0.150	0.158	0.147	0.011	7,483	0.158	0.157	0.158	0.100	34,760,000
OM0000001590.....	MUSCAT FINANCE	134,823	9,076	17	0.066	0.070	0.066	0.070	0.066	0.004	6,061	0.070	0.068	0.072	0.100	21,500,243
OM0000003281.....	TAAQEER FINANCE	100	12	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.114	0.004	3,509	0.118	0.114	0.120	0.100	33,475,513
OM0000001151.....	OMIPCO	15,654,299	3,353,337	775	0.209	0.218	0.209	0.216	0.209	0.007	3,349	0.216	0.214	0.216	0.000	1,444,905,000
OM0000001160.....	NATIONAL GAS	989,394	114,936	83	0.112	0.118	0.112	0.117	0.114	0.003	2,632	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.100	9,945,000
OM0000000740.....	DHOFAR GENERATING	84,695	7,030	11	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.002	2,469	0.083	0.082	0.086	0.100	18,445,920
OM0000003221.....	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	486,644	76,284	61	0.158	0.159	0.155	0.158	0.155	0.003	1,935	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.100	32,071,858
OM0000000505.....	AL MAHA CERAMICS	1,500	405	2	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.265	0.005	1,887	0.270	0.265	0.270	0.100	14,850,000
OM0000004776.....	TAKAFUL OMAN	1,000	62	1	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.001	1,639	0.062	0.060	0.064	0.100	15,500,000
OM0000000710.....	AMAN REAL ESTATE	67,485	4,724	8	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.069	0.011	1,449	0.079	0.069	0.079	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000000628.....	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	67,000	4,809	13	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.001	1,408	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	1,512,000
OM0000001962.....	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	176,243	12,950	25	0.070	0.075	0.070	0.074	0.073	0.001	1,370	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	319,400
OM0000001178.....	MUSCAT GASES	125	18	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.001	0.719	0.140	0.131	0.140	0.100	4,200,000
OM0000001400.....	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	560	328	1	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.585	0.581	0.004	0.688	0.585	0.585	0.590	0.100	101,581,504
OM0000000868.....	THE PEARL REEF	16,605	2,986	9	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.179	0.178	0.001	0.562	0.179	0.179	0.180	0.100	10,567,202
OM0000002036.....	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	3,998	931	5	0.230	0.233	0.230	0.233	0.232	0.001	0.431	0.233	0.230	0.233	0.100	4,311,629
OM00000010823.....	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	2,435	259	2	1.051	1.051	1.051	1.051	1.047	0.004	0.382	1.051	1.051	1.072	0.000	28,823,509
OM0000001426.....	OMAN REFRESHMENT	863	882	1	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.000	0.000	1.100	0.000	1.100	0.100	35,000,000
OM0000000320.....	OMAN ARAB BANK	602,000	157,122	91	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.009	0.261	0.269	0.261	0.269	0.100	522,716,000
OM00000007084.....	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	1,031	91	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	13,688,435
OM00000008447.....	OMAN RETI FUND	48,870	5,172	8	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	89,222,313
OM00000016108.....	OMAN PACKAGING	1,321	301	1	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.230	-0.002	-0.870	0.228	0.210	0.228	0.100	7,395,376
OM00000009569.....	JABAL REEF	20,872	2,208	13	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.106	0.108	-0.002	-1.852	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	18,444,000
OM00000018197.....	MAJAN COLLEGE	500	67	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.139	-0.005	-3.597	0.134	0.135	0.146	0.100	13,266,000
Total		25	211,095,058	4,182,390	1,436											

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Flights cancelled as Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupts

The cloud of ash was detected up to a height of 6,000 metres (20,000 feet) on the Java side of the volcano and a plume of up to 15,000 metres on the Sumatra side and some parts of Banten province in Java



JAKARTA: Hundreds of flights were cancelled at Jakarta's international airport after Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted early Sunday morning, more than 150 kilometres (93 miles) away. The volcano produced a fountain of lava and loud sounds heard up to 700 kilometres away, Indonesia's geological agency said in a statement.

The cloud of ash was detected up to a height of 6,000 metres (20,000 feet) on the Java side of the volcano and a plume of up to 15,000 metres on the Sumatra side and some parts of Banten province in Java, the meteorological agency BMKG posted on its website.

No incidents of casualties were reported, and no evacuation orders were issued.

The closest township is more than 16 kilometres away, but the authorities warned residents and visitors to stay at least 3 kilometres from the volcano's active crater.

Two new eruptions were recorded on Sunday, the volcanology agency warned.

The ash spread across parts of the capital Jakarta and Lampung province on the southern tip of Sumatra island, Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said.

Authorities have suspended operations at six airports following eruptions from Mount Anak Krakatau, the ministry said.

"The Husein Sastranegara Airport in Bandung showed indications of being affected. Consequently, we have declared... the airport closed to flights," Dudy Purwagandhi told a press conference Sunday, mentioning the latest airport to be shuttered.

Operations at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, the country's largest and in the capital, Jakarta, were suspended earlier.

Soekarno-Hatta International Airport posted on Instagram that it had suspended flight operations until 9:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) due to volcanic ash.

"Due to increased activity from the Mount Anak Krakatau eruption, Soekarno-Hatta Interna-

tional Airport has temporarily suspended flight operations from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.," the airport said.

The disruption of flight operations has impacted more than 22,000 passengers, the transport ministry said in a statement, adding that 209 flights were affected, particularly to and from Singapore.

Anak Krakatau lies in the middle between Java and Sumatra in Indonesia's vast island chain, which sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are frequent.

Anak Krakatau means "Child of Krakatau." The volcano is the offspring of the famous Krakatau, whose monumental eruption in 1883 triggered a period of global cooling.

Initially intended as a brief suspension, air navigation officials extended the operational halt until mid-afternoon to ensure runway safety. The Indonesia's Ministry of Transportation confirmed dozens of disrupted routes during the early hours, including 16 interna-

tional cancellations and numerous delayed arrivals, reported Al Jazeera.

Civil Aviation Director General Lukman F Laiza affirmed that safety protocols dictated the shutdown, as airborne volcanic glass poses catastrophic risks to aircraft jet engines and cockpit visibility.

"Safety remains the top priority in every operational decision, including flight schedule adjustments made by airlines," Lukman stated, adding that continuous coordination remains active alongside carriers, air navigation teams, and meteorological specialists.

Airlines operating in the region swiftly restructured their schedules to safeguard passengers.

Garuda Indonesia and AirAsia, both low-cost carriers, announced widespread schedule adjustments, urging passengers bound for or departing Jakarta to check digital portals before travelling to terminals.

In light of the disruptions, the airline has advised travellers to verify their flight statuses prior



to departing for the airport. Passengers can connect with the Garuda Indonesia Contact Centre through the dedicated telephone numbers 0804 1 807 807 or 021 2351 9999, alongside monitoring the carrier's official digital channels for ongoing updates.

Emphasising that passenger well-being remains the primary institutional priority, the airline expressed gratitude to travellers for their cooperation and patience during the weather-related scheduling changes.

AirAsia has cancelled or rescheduled multiple flight services operating to and from Jakarta after Soekarno-Hatta International Airport halted operations until 9:30 am local time (10:30 am Malaysian time).

Singapore Airlines cancelled nearly 20 scheduled flights on its busy Singapore-Jakarta corridor throughout the day, warning that the fluid movement of ash clouds could force further schedule modifications across Indonesian routes.

The affected services span major departure windows throughout the day. Singapore (SIN) to Jakarta (CGK): SQ950, SQ952, SQ956, SQ958, SQ968D, SQ960, SQ962, SQ964, and SQ966. Jakarta (CGK) to Singapore (SIN): SQ953, SQ955, SQ957, SQ959, SQ951D, SQ961, SQ963, SQ965, and SQ967.

In its latest advisory, Singapore

Airlines said the situation remains fluid and more flights between Singapore and Indonesia could face delays or cancellations as ash clouds from Mount Anak Krakatau continue to drift across regional flight corridors.

The airline has advised affected passengers to check their flight status on its official website, ensure their contact details are updated to receive timely notifications, and use the online assistance form for rebooking or refund options.

Customers who made their bookings through travel agencies have been asked to contact their respective agents directly for assistance.

Mount Anak Krakatau, which emerged in the 1920s from the submerged caldera created by the catastrophic 1883 Krakatoa eruption, began its latest eruptive phase late Friday.

The state meteorological agency BMKG recorded lava fountains and shockwaves heard hundreds of kilometres away, accompanied by massive ash columns drifting over Banten province, Java, and Sumatra.

Despite the intensity of the ash plumes and seismic activity, national disaster mitigation authorities confirmed that the current eruption poses no immediate tsunami threat to coastal populations.

— Agencies

FRESH EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE



US envoys Witkoff and Kushner arrive in Kyiv after Putin talks

KYIV: US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner made their first official visit to Ukraine on Sunday as part of fresh efforts toward peace with Russia.

As Ukraine's airspace remains closed due to the conflict, the pair arrived in Kyiv by train from Poland, having spent more than three hours in talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow a day earlier.

Putin had declared a three-day ceasefire to ensure the envoys' safety.

Ahead of the visit, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on social media that Kyiv is ready for a "constructive" discussion with its US counterparts.

"We are interested in bringing the end of the war closer," he wrote. "Peace is needed. Security guarantees are needed. A just and sustainable postwar peace is needed. Our proposals are prepared."

Reuters news agency reported that national security advisors from the United Kingdom, France and Germany were also in Kyiv for talks with the US envoys, citing a source familiar with the matter.

Momentum by US President Donald Trump to end the four-and-a-half-year-old conflict has stalled in recent months after talks with Putin at the Kremlin in January failed to produce a result.

Ukraine's Budanov expects war to continue for many months

Despite hopes of a breakthrough with the Russian leader on Saturday, there were no announcements after the meeting.

Putin's foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov described the Moscow talks as constructive, frank, and useful but didn't discuss specific outcomes.

Ushakov said the talks also focused on economic issues and potentially large Russia-US projects.

During previous talks, negotiators have struggled to bring both sides together on a range of key issues, including the future of the industrial Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.

For Ukraine, hard security guarantees from its European allies and Washington are crucial to deterring Russia from further aggression. Kyrylo Budanov, Zelenskyy's chief of staff, told the New York Times last weekend that he did not expect the fighting to end before spring 2027.

He also predicted further Russian strategic air strikes on Ukraine this winter.

The war has escalated in recent months, with Putin seeking the complete conquest of Donbas and Russian drones targeting the Ukrainian capital.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has focused its drone attacks on Russia's energy sector. It has also targeted online retailers deep inside Russia to try and bring the war home to the public. — DW

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS REPORT

Children must be centred in Ebola treatment and prevention research

KINSHASA: The current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been devastating. Since the outbreak began in mid-May, more than 3,000 people have died.

Almost half of people infected with Ebola are expected to die, and the mortality rate is particularly high for young children. According to a commentary by Doctors Without Borders recently published in medical journal The Lancet, the mortality rate for children under the age of 5 is over 60%.

But often, it's because of a lack of medication and information on how to use it with young patients, rather than the disease itself.

"Children must be centred in Ebola treatment and prevention research," the aid organisation wrote in early September.

At the heart of the debate is the EBO-PEP study, which began mid-July. The study looks at an experimental antiviral drug called obeldesivir, which is being studied for its ability to protect people exposed to the Bundibugyo Ebola virus, the strain responsible for the current deadly outbreak.

But children weighing less than 30 kilograms (about 66 pounds) and around 12 years old or younger, were not included in the original study. But that could change soon with protocols to include children weighing over 20 kilograms.

Children weighing less than 20 kilograms — that is, roughly 6 years old or younger — won't be included in the treatment. There is an alternative treatment for them: Another antiviral drug, remdesivir, given intravenously. But as Doctors Without Borders argued, a 10-day course of infusions is difficult to administer during an outbreak, especially for young children.

According to Neal Russell, a pediatric doctor based in London who consults for Doctors Without Borders and who was also the lead author of the Lancet commentary, young children are at particularly high risk from Ebola. This could be due to their weakened immune systems, underlying health condi-



tions, or the fact that treating them for Ebola is especially challenging in an outbreak. For example, children are often harder to diagnose than adults because early symptoms resemble other illnesses, and young children often find it difficult to describe their symptoms accurately. Other issues include the fact that children cannot always be accompanied into an Ebola treatment center by their parents or caregivers, something that is especially important in their recovery. Younger Ebola patients also require closer monitoring and specially trained staff.

Ebola in Berlin

In May, an American doctor was treated at Berlin's Charite hospital after contracting the Bundibugyo Ebola virus while caring for patients. His wife and their four children were also considered at high risk. The medical team in Germany decided to treat the family prophylactically with an experimental antibody drug called MBP134.

"Of course, a careful risk benefit assessment had to be carried out," said Han Ngoc Le, a doctor at the hospital who was involved in the treatments.

The available data about the drug's impact on children was very limited. But at the same time, the children were at high risk of catching Ebola after close contact with

their sick father. In the end, all the family remained healthy and no apparent side effects were seen. It's unclear whether the experimental treatment prevented infection in the children. Such a small sample can't be mapped onto the larger population either.

But the test was valuable nonetheless. "The mere fact that the antibody was so well tolerated even in 1-year-olds and children under 12 is a valuable finding upon which future studies can build," Le said.

Why do such gaps in knowledge exist?

Le explained that, from a medical perspective, children cannot simply be thought of as "small adults."

Their metabolisms function differently, they react differently to medications, their pharmacokinetics — what a body does with a drug — are simply different. The same sort of cautions also apply to pregnant women.

That's why dosages of medication can't simply be transferred from adults to children. It's also why any new medications require separate studies so that specific dosages can be determined and potentially special formulations can be developed. Children might require kid-friendly syrups instead of adult-size tablets, for example.

"All of this creates extra costs," said Marc Biot, access coordina-

tor for Europe at Doctors Without Borders, who works to ensure people in need can get affordable, good-quality medical products. He said research institutions and pharmaceutical companies often see investing extra in pediatric studies as a lower priority.

"It is faster and it can be cheaper if you only focus on adults," said Biot — which is why treating children and pregnant women usually only becomes part of the research at a later stage of drug development. "That is our plea — a plea not only to the scientists, to the pharmaceutical companies, but also to those who fund and allow trials to happen — to allow that to happen on the same speed for adults as for children and pregnant women."

Biot said it's sad to see that pressure is needed to make it happen. "Whenever you start a clinical trial, you also should include pregnant woman or children," he argued.

A difficult balance

None of this is new. In 2020, the Global Accelerator for Pediatric Formulations network was founded — supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) — to accelerate the development and availability of child-friendly medicine worldwide. — DW

FRITZ, COBOLLI SUFFER SHOCK EXITS; ZVEREV SURVIVES

Fritz, the American ninth seed, became one of the six top-10 seeds to be ousted in the men's draw of the US Open



NEW YORK: Taylor Fritz was unable to explain how he let a two-set lead slip against Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo, becoming one of six top-10 seeds eliminated from the men's draw in the first week of the US Open.

The American ninth seed was in complete control and went an early break up in the third set, only for 24th seed Cerundolo to produce a shock 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win to reach the fourth round on Saturday. Less than an hour later, fifth seed Flavio Cobolli of Italy fell to a 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 defeat by Belgium's Alexander Blockx, opening up the men's draw even further.

However, German top seed Alexander Zverev did survive. The French Open champion won 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 against Chilean 25th seed Alejandro Tabilo to move into the last 16.

"I don't even know what to say," Fritz said. "I don't really want to talk to anybody, see anybody."

"I need to get out for a couple days and then get back to work. I don't know how I let that happen



today." Fritz, a finalist at Flushing Meadows in 2024, was bidding to become the fifth American through to the fourth round at this year's tournament.

With world No.1 Jannik Sinner out injured and Carlos Alcaraz only recently returned from a long-term wrist problem, excitement has been growing there may finally be another home winner in the

men's singles - 23 years on from Andy Roddick's triumph.

That chance remains with Ben Shelton, Frances Tiafoe, Tommy Paul, Alex Michelsen and Learner Tien left - but Fritz will know he has let a golden opportunity slip.

Cerundolo and 28th seed Blockx will now meet in the fourth round with a place in the quarter-finals up for grabs.



Cobolli defeat clears path for Zverev

The chance of a maiden Grand Slam title has also escaped Cobolli after his capitulation against Blockx. Having edged the first set on a tie-break, the Italian lost his way and could not recover after surrendering the third set to love in just 20 minutes.

"I think my energy was a little bit

lower than the other days," said the French Open finalist. "I feel a little bit more tight and maybe more tired."

With Cobolli and Fritz out, Zverev and 14th seed Learner Tien - who completed a five-set win over Czech 17th seed Jakub Mensik at 1:35am in New York - are the only top-20 players left in the top half of the draw.

It means Zverev could reach the final without playing a top-10 opponent. But first he must focus on getting past Italian 21st seed Luciano Darderi after seeing off Tabilo in another late-night finish.

Zverev's opening two matches were five-set victories finishing around 2am, but this time he got the job done in straight sets at 1:09am local time.

However, he had to save two set points to prevent Tabilo levelling the match at one-set all, and survived two break points early in the third set, before reasserting his authority.

"My coach was smart because he explained to me that a best-of-five match doesn't mean you have to play five sets - which I didn't know until today," joked Zverev.

"I'm happy with the improvements and happy my level is going in the right direction. But I can still play better."

Meanwhile, Tien enthralled the home crowd with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-7(2), 6-3, 6-4 win over Czech Jakub Mensik. - Agencies

US OPEN WOMEN SINGLES

Gauff triumphs but mixed fortunes for home hopes

NEW YORK: Coco Gauff marched into the fourth round of the US Open but compatriots Amanda Anisimova and Madison Keys exited on a mixed day for home hopes in New York.

Gauff, the most recent American champion in New York in 2023, did not have things all her own way but maintained her bid for a second triumph by overcoming Spain's Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-4.

However, Keys said she felt "scared" as she slumped to defeat despite leading her third set against China's Zheng Qinwen 5-0, while last year's runner-up Anisimova lost in straight sets.

But there still will be five American women in the last 16, with teenager Iva Jovic winning later on Saturday to join Gauff, Jessica Pegula, Taylor Townsend and Emma Navarro.

Despite the weight of expectation that she has had to deal with from a young age at her home major, the 22-year-old Gauff is through to the second week at the US Open for a fifth successive year.

Gauff, who became the first American teenager to win the US Open since Serena Williams in



1999 with her breakthrough major success three years ago, heads into the fourth round as the form player in the women's game. Victory over Bucsa was the 2025 French Open winner's eighth straight-set WTA Tour-level win in a row.

The fourth round is where Gauff's US Open challenge ended in the previous two editions, and she admitted that she struggled to handle the pressure last year.

Gauff goes on to face 14th seed Jovic, who came through a pulsating contest against Filipina sensation Alexandra Eala.

Both players showed why they are already firmly in the WTA Tour spotlight during a high-quality bat-



tle which ended in Jovic securing a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 victory after three hours and three minutes.

Keys appeared on course for a first fourth-round appearance at her home slam since 2023 after

taking a commanding third set lead against Olympic champion Zheng. But the 2025 Australian Open winner would miss a match point and lose each of the final seven games in a 1-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 loss that stunned the crowd.

Anisimova, beaten by world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka in last year's US Open final, lost in straight sets to Russian-born Austrian 24th seed Anastasia Potapova.

Meanwhile, two-time champion Naomi Osaka fought back from a break down in the decider to see off Belgian 23rd seed Elise Mertens.

Osaka, seeded 13th, won 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 to set up a last-16 match against second seed Elena Rybakina.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina, who knows she will be guaranteed to become the new world No.1 if she reaches the semi-finals, demonstrated her quality in a 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 victory over Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva.

Iga Swiatek held her nerve across two tie-breaks to beat Czechia's Marie Bouzkova 7-6(3), 7-6(3) in the third round. The Pole, winner at Flushing Meadows in 2022, will next face Olympic champion Zheng. - Agencies

FIFA president Infantino will stand for re-election

LONDON: FIFA president Gianni Infantino will stand for re-election in March, football's world governing body said on Sunday.

Infantino, who has filled the role since 2016, has been under pressure following his scrapped plans to sell stakes in FIFA competitions to private investment firms.

Infantino's lucrative plan sparked a global outcry, with European football's governing body UEFA threatening to boycott all FIFA competitions, including the World Cup.

"The FIFA president announced in April that he will stand for re-election in 2027," read a FIFA statement.

"Of course, nothing has changed. Mr Infantino will be standing for re-election."

It is the first time FIFA has said he will aim to run for a fourth term since the



scandal began following the summer's World Cup.

FIFA this week accused UEFA of a "smear campaign against it and its leadership", in a challenge to litigation over Infantino's plan.

Last week UEFA filed legal papers in the US requesting disclosure of evidence and documents from FIFA, warning it could lodge a criminal complaint in Switzerland. Media reports suggest UEFA is confident that a candidate can be found to stand against Infantino. - Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Alpine's Gasly edges past Russell to stunning Monza pole

MONZA: Alpine driver Pierre Gasly took a stunning pole position at the Italian Grand Prix on Saturday.

The Frenchman, whose sole Formula 1 victory came at this race for Red Bull's junior team in 2020, beat Mercedes' George Russell by 0.060 seconds.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri was third but was later given a three-place grid penalty for impeding Liam Lawson in the Red Bull.

The Australian's penalty moves up the Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton, who originally qualified fourth and fifth, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

The other McLaren of Lando Norris was only ninth after a messy session for the world champion.

Championship leader Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes qualified seventh but will start at the back be-

cause of a grid penalty for taking a new engine.

Gasly's pole comes a day after he lost his third place from the Monaco Grand Prix because the FIA Court of Appeal reinstated a penalty he was given at the race in June.

Saturday's unexpected performance makes him the first Frenchman to take pole for a grand prix since Jean Alesi for Benetton at this race in 1997.

The result is a hiccup for Russell, who has a golden opportunity to make up ground on team-mate Antonelli, who has a 30-place grid penalty. Antonelli was employed for much of the session in front of Russell to give him a tow, so to be beaten by an Alpine and be only 0.12secs ahead of Piastri was a disappointment.

Russell said he started his final lap too close to Verstappen, who



let Antonelli by before the start of it to avoid running in clean air.

"Going into Parabolica, Max just slammed on the brakes and didn't want to be the lead car," Russell said. "In hindsight, it would probably have been better not trying this, but P2 is a good place to start."



Alpine put a large upgrade on their car at the last race in the Netherlands, where Gasly could qualify only 11th. This result came out of nowhere.

The 30-year-old said: "It was amazing. Thank you to everyone. It was an incredible qualifying. From

the first lap in Q1, I felt very good in the car, trying to chip away a bit every single session.

"It felt like a very good lap. It has been nine years trying to chase a pole position and to take my first win here and then my first pole here is amazing."

Russell, who had been a strong favourite for pole in the light of Antonelli's penalty, said: "Firstly, massive congrats to Pierre because that's an incredible performance."

"We were finishing a game of chess 15 minutes before qualifying and he beat me there and I thought, 'well, I will beat him in qualifying' But here we are. I am disappointed not to be on pole but Pierre was very fast from Q1."

Ferrari had looked set to be in the mix at the front before qualifying with their new engine that was believed to be worth about 0.1secs per lap. But the session did not go their way.

Pole is an extraordinary story for Gasly, who lives in nearby Milan and spoke in Italian to the crowd in the trackside interviews afterwards. "It exceeded all our expectations," Gasly said. - Agencies

SPORTS



Haaland on target for Man City

Enzo Maresca’s men highlighted their early season credentials by maintaining their 100 percent winning record after three Premier League games with victory over Coventry

MANCHESTER: A new-look Manchester City. Same old Erling Haaland.

The Norway striker scored his third goal of the season as City extended their 100% start by beating Coventry 1-0 to stay at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

City have spent more than \$600 million revamping their squad under new manager Enzo Maresca, but Haaland remains their prize asset. His 26th-minute header at the Etihad Stadium provided the decisive moment against newly promoted Coventry and maintained Maresca’s perfect start since taking on the daunting task

of following in Pep Guardiola’s footsteps.

Maresca’s job will be easier if Haaland can maintain his scoring form, with the forward hitting his third goal in two games. “It’s an important win, different from the first two,” Maresca said.

“I’m very happy. I know the players day-by-day, we know each other. It means we will get better and better.” City’s lavish spending in the post-Guardiola era carried on right up until deadline day with the signings of Enzo Fernandez and Ilman Ndiaye. Both started against Coventry.

“(We) started with a win, so it couldn’t get any better,” Ndiaye said.

City are three points clear of defending champion Arsenal, who will play Chelsea on Sunday.

Tottenham picked up their first point of the season with a 0-0 draw at Nottingham Forest, and Newcastle remained unbeaten under new coach Matthias Jaissle thanks to a late equaliser from Jacob Ramsey in a 2-2 draw with Bournemouth.

Crystal Palace twice came back against Fulham to eventually win 3-2 at Craven Cottage for their first points of the campaign while Brighton drew 1-1 with Leeds.

Brentford and Sunderland also drew 1-1.

Hull flying high

Hull’s unlikely start to the season continued with a point against Aston Villa that was so nearly a third straight win.

After securing promotion to the top flight via the playoffs Hull have been the surprise package so far after stunning Manchester United

in its opening game and following that with victory against Coventry.

Mohamed Bellouni was fractions away from hitting the winner against Villa, but saw his second-half curling effort come back off the bar. Villa’s struggles go on after a summer of heavy change and the loss of star players like Morgan Rogers, Ollie Watkins, Ezri Konsa and Emi Martinez.

Unai Emery’s team is yet to score this term, but at least picked up its first point after back-to-back losses.

Late drama

Newcastle rallied from 2-0 down to rescue a point at St. James’ Park after Ramsey came off the bench and struck late to salvage a draw with Bournemouth.

Ramsey fired home from inside the box in the 88th to spark wild celebrations from Newcastle fans.

Bournemouth led through Marcus Tavernier’s goal in the ninth minute and went 2-0 ahead when Malick Thiaw deflected the ball into his own net in the 35th.

Harvey Barnes responded two

minutes later with a brilliant solo goal by cutting in from the left and curling the ball into the top corner.

Newcastle looked to be heading for their first defeat of the season until Ramsey lashed low past Bournemouth goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic.

It was the third time this season Bournemouth squandered a lead late in games. The Cherries conceded in stoppage time against Manchester City — after allowing a late equaliser — and Everton in their opening two games of the campaign.

Spurs get off the mark

Big spending Tottenham got their first point of the season, but they are still without a league goal despite revamping its attack in the transfer window.

Summer signings Omar Marmoush and Savio were both blunted at the City Ground, while on-loan Mykhailo Mudryk also failed to find a breakthrough after coming on to make his debut.

“The problem is the last third,

not because we have not the quality. We have great players,” said Spurs coach Roberto De Zerbi. “We have to be better in the last decision, to keep calm when we are in the last third and take the best decision.”

Forest thought they had found the winner through Neco Williams, but the goal was ruled out by VAR because of a handball.

Fulham’s struggles go on. It’s been a difficult start for new Fulham coach Alvaro Arbeloa after three straight league losses.

The former Real Madrid coach might have thought he was set for a first win after his team led 1-0 through Josh King and then 2-1 through Cesar Palacios.

Palace had other ideas, with Tyrick Mitchell twice equalising and Ben Chilwell scoring the winner in the 77th.

Sunderland secured a late draw at Brentford through Enzo Le Fee’s penalty in the 82nd. Leeds were looking for a third straight win and led Brighton 1-0 thanks to Jayden Bogle until Luka Vuskovic leveled in the 71st. - Agencies

EUROPEAN LEAGUES

Martínez leads Inter’s comeback over Napoli

MILAN: Reigning Serie A champions Inter Milan came from 2-0 down to earn a superb 3-2 win against last year’s runners-up Napoli.

Lautaro Martinez scored twice for the hosts - including a 90th minute winner - either side of a Marcus Thuram header.

Inter were two behind when Napoli scored twice in three minutes at the start of the second half.

Napoli’s second came in strange circumstances when the Inter defence switched off, assuming a loose ball was going out of play.

It was kept in and played to Rasmus Hojlund, who swept a shot into the far corner.

But Inter - who have won their opening three league matches of the season - recovered and are still unbeaten at home in Serie A since November 2025.

Matias Soule led Roma with a late assist and goal to beat Atalanta 2-1.



The forward set up Mario Hermoso in the 90th, canceling out the opener by Ederson. Soule then struck three minutes into stoppage time to grab the victory.

Torino beat Fiorentina 2-1 away.

Atletico Madrid shocked

In Spain, Athletic Bilbao struck three times in the second half to stun Diego Simeone’s Atletico Madrid 3-0 in La Liga.

Bilbao scored with second-half goals from Nico Williams, Robert Navarro and Oihan Sancet.

It was a second straight win for Athletic under their new German coach Edin Terzic.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang made it four goals in as many games since joining Deportivo to help the promoted club remain unbeaten since its return to the top flight.

The 37-year-old Aubameyang struck in the 88th minute to clinch a 3-2 victory at Villarreal.

Also, Sergio Camello netted twice to lead Rayo Vallecano to a thrilling 3-2 victory over Racing Santander. - Agencies

Modric plans to play for Croatia past 41st birthday

LONDON: Luka Modric turns 41 on Wednesday but is not ready to retire from international football just yet.

The Croatia FA has announced, that their captain intends to continue playing for the national team in upcoming Nations League games, including against England.

His decision coincides with the return of Slaven Bilic as manager, with the former West Ham boss helping to guide Modric’s fledgling international career in his first stint in charge of the Croatia side, between 2006 and 2012.

Modric earned his first senior cap in March 2006, just before Bilic was named Croatia manager for the first time, and has since gone on to make 202 appearances for his country. He was expected to call it a day after this sum-



mer’s World Cup, when Zlatko Dalic’s side were knocked out in the last 32 by Portugal.

“Of course, Luka’s decision makes me extremely happy,” said Bilic, who was manager of Croatia when they denied Steve McLaren’s England side qualification for the 2008 Euros. “We are all aware what he brings to Croatia, both on and off the pitch.

“I’m looking forward to

working with him again, after 14 years, and we both share a strong ambition to keep Croatia a top, successful team, shoulder to shoulder with the best teams in the world.”

Modric, who currently plays for AC Milan, won the Golden Ball at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, when he helped Croatia reach the final, where they lost to France. He was also part of the side that finished third in Qatar, four years later.

After playing his part in McLaren’s “wally with the broly” moment at Wembley in the 2008 Euro qualifiers, Modric helped Croatia reach the quarter-finals in Austria and Switzerland. Croatia’s next internationals are in the Nations League - away to Czech Republic on 26 September and Spain on 29 September. - Agencies

MLS



Messi shines in first match since retirement from international duty

MIAMI: Lionel Messi may have retired from international football, but he’s certainly not done making an impact on the pitch.

Messi had two assists for Inter Miami on Saturday night as his MLS club played Atlanta United to a 2-2 draw in his first match since announcing that his time playing for his native Argentina is done.

Luis Suárez and Casemiro scored for Inter Miami, who are second in the Eastern Conference and 10 points behind first-place Nashville with 11 matches left in the regular season.

Casemiro headed home a corner from Messi to open the scoring in the 32nd minute.

Miguel Almirón equalised for Atlanta a couple minutes later before Messi lofted a pass toward Telasco Segovia, who set up Suárez’s 12th goal of the season — a right-footed shot from the centre of the box just before halftime.

Breel Embolo, converted a penalty in the 87th, and Atlanta withstood a series of last-minute chances by Inter Miami for the draw. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern fail to score for first time in 59 games

MUNICH: Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich failed to score for the first time in 59 competitive matches as newly promoted Schalke held them to a goalless draw in Gelsenkirchen on Saturday.

Luis Diaz came closest to putting Bayern in front when he spurned one-on-one chances either side of half-time.

First, he shanked a shot wide with only Loris Karius to beat, before he saw a tame chip over the goalkeeper cleared well before it reached the goalline.

After opening the season with a thumping 5-1 win against VfB Stuttgart and a 4-1 victory over second-tier side Osnabruck in the DFB Pokal, Bayern manager Vincent Kompany opted to rotate his side.

Harry Kane and Michael Olise watched from the bench as Bayern dominated possession, but did little with it in a disjointed first-half performance.

England captain Kane come on at the break, but it was not until the introductions of Olise and Jamal Musiala with 35 minutes remaining that Bayern began to ramp up the pressure.

Musiala was included in the squad for first time this season after suffering seizures during two



pre-season matches.

Bayern’s Konrad Laimer sliced into the side netting from close range, before Kane forced Karius into a stunning fingertip save with a late drive destined for the top corner.

Bayern could not penetrate a compact and disciplined defence as Schalke held on to collect their

first point of the season.

This was Kane’s 96th Bundesliga appearance, and he needs two more goals to reach 100 in the competition. The record for the fewest matches to reach a century is 129.

Kane began the day having scored against all 20 teams he had faced in the Bundesliga, and has

now netted against 20 out of 21.

It is the first time in 67 Bundesliga matchdays - almost two years - that Bayern will not finish on top of the table.

Bayern host Bodo/Glimt in their opening Champions League game on Thursday before travelling to Bundesliga newcomers Elversberg on 13 September. - Agencies

Sohar International sponsors OFA Cup and Oman Super Cup

Through the sponsorship of the Sohar International Cup, Sohar International will lend its name to one of Oman's key domestic football competitions, reinforcing the Bank's commitment to supporting platforms that bring communities together and celebrate local talent



MUSCAT: Sohar International is strengthening its commitment to Omani sport and national talent through a new strategic partnership with the Oman Football Association (OFA), becoming the official and exclusive sponsor of the OFA Cup for the 2026-2027 season, to be held under the title "Sohar International Cup," as well as the Oman Super Cup for the same season.

The partnership was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Sohar International's headquarters in Muscat by Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Acting Chief Wholesale Banking Officer at Sohar International, and Eng. Qutaiba Saeed Al Ghailani, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Football Association.

Commenting on the partnership, Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Acting Chief Wholesale Banking Officer at Sohar International, said: "At Sohar International, we believe that our role extends beyond banking to supporting the aspirations and ambitions of the communities we serve. Football brings people together, inspires generations and provides a powerful platform for

Omani talent to shine. Our partnership with the Oman Football Association reflects our commitment to contributing to the continued development of Omani sport and creating meaningful experiences for football fans across the Sultanate."

Through the sponsorship of the Sohar International Cup, Sohar International will lend its name to

one of Oman's key domestic football competitions, reinforcing the Bank's commitment to supporting platforms that bring communities together and celebrate local talent. The Bank's sponsorship of the Oman Super Cup further strengthens this commitment, supporting a competition that brings together the champions of Omani football in a highly anticipated fixture.

Eng. Qutaiba Saeed Al Ghailani, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the OFA, said: "Partnering with Sohar International reflects the importance of strong collaboration between national institutions and the private sector in advancing Omani football. The Bank's support of the OFA Cup and Oman Super Cup will contribute to strengthening our national competitions, enhancing the experience for fans and participants, and creating greater platforms for Omani talent to thrive. We value this partnership and look forward to building on our shared commitment to the continued development and growth of football in the Sultanate."

For the Oman Football Association, the partnership represents an important step in strengthening the profile of national competitions and enhancing the overall football experience for players, supporters and the wider community. The partnership builds on the shared vision of Sohar International and the Oman Football Association to create greater momentum around Omani football, support the development of the game and provide platforms through which national talent can thrive.

Sohar International continues to support initiatives that contribute to the development of the Sultanate's sporting, social and economic landscape.

Through strategic partnerships such as this, the Bank remains committed to creating lasting value beyond its core business and supporting the ambitions that shape Oman's future.

NEW GATHERING POINT

Premium Motors brings The Audi Race Day experience to Oman

MUSCAT: As part of Audi Middle East's regional Formula 1® Screening Series, Premium Motors has already hosted two Race Day experiences at its Audi showroom in Muscat. The first, held on 19 July, welcomed members of the media and influencers, while a second screening on 23 August brought Audi customers together to experience the race in a shared setting.

More than simply watching the action on screen, the events are designed to immerse guests in the world of Audi performance. The showroom featured a display of Audi RS models alongside Audi Formula 1® merchandise, creating a direct connection between the performance credentials customers know from Audi today and the brand's next chapter on the Formula 1® grid.

"Formula 1® gives us an exciting new way to connect with our Audi community in Oman. These Race Days are about bringing people together around a shared passion for performance, innovation and motorsport, while giving our customers the opportunity to be part of Audi's Formula 1® journey from the beginning," said Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, Strategy Manager of Audi Oman at Premium Motors

From the showroom to the starting grid - Audi's move into Formula 1® marks an important new



chapter for the brand, taking its engineering and performance ambitions onto one of motorsport's most demanding global stages.

For Premium Motors, the screening series provides an opportunity

to build that story locally. Each Race Day transforms the showroom from a retail environment into a meeting place for customers, motorsport enthusiasts, media and the wider Audi community.

Premium Motors will continue to host screenings around selected upcoming races, including Madrid, giving the Audi community in Oman more opportunities to experience Race Day together.

MARKET POTENTIAL

Why German companies are ramping up investment in China

TIANJIN: Inside the production workshop of a German precision technology company located in north China's Tianjin Municipality, automated equipment hums at full capacity as precision springs roll rhythmically off the production line.

KERN LIEBERS Group, a 138-year-old German family-owned company, has just completed the second-phase expansion of its Tianjin plant in August, with an additional investment of 120 million yuan (about \$17.7 million).

With the expansion, the newly added medical spring production line is set to become the group's most advanced of its kind globally.

Erek Speckert, chief executive officer of KERN LIEBERS Group, said China is not only one of the company's most important markets, but also a global hub for manufacturing innovation and industrial development.

He noted that continued investment in China, close alignment with customer needs, and the strengthening of local capabilities form an integral part of the group's long-term growth strategy.

His confidence in China's long-term investment potential is echoed by executives from several other German companies operating in Tianjin, as they cited vast market, strength in supply chains, and a favorable business environment as essential draws.

Innomotics, a global provider of motors and large drive systems, is another German company that



doubled down on its "China bet." Its new plant began operation in Tianjin this June, with total investment of about 600 million yuan.

The facility has become the company's most comprehensive R&D and production base for high-voltage and high-power low-voltage motors outside Germany. With an annual production capacity of up to 2,500 MW, the new plant is capable of generating enough electricity to power a megacity for an entire year.

Lu Zheng, general manager of Innomotics Large Motors (Tianjin) Ltd., explained the importance of expanding local production capacity in China. China has already become Innomotics' largest single market globally. Key customers for the company's products, including marine engineering equipment, vessels and data centers, are all based in China. Ramping up local capacity helps shorten delivery times and reduce costs.

Data published by Germany's Federal Statistical Office in August shows that, with a bilateral trade volume of 125.5 billion euros, China remained Germany's most important trading partner in the first half of 2026.

DEALER EXPANSION

Milano targets 20% growth, eyes expansion into project business

< FROM B1 "Our mother warehouse is in the UAE, and we also have a warehouse in Barka. At this particular period, I have been hearing that goods have landed at Sohar Port. It has been very useful," he said.

The proximity of Sohar to the UAE also makes it a practical option for the company's Oman operations.

Targeting 20% growth
Sahil said Milano is targeting approximately 20% growth, with timely supply, competitive pricing and expansion into project business among the main drivers.

"We want to make our dealer network bigger. We are targeting projects," he said.

While the company remains grateful for its strong trader network, he said future growth would increasingly depend on securing projects.

"One thing is the trader business, which we are so grateful for. But secondly, we have to target more and more projects," he said.

Hospitality and other development projects are expected to provide significant opportunities as Oman continues to expand its infrastructure and tourism sectors.

Sahil said Oman's growth trajectory reminded him of the UAE's expansion following the pandemic.

"Oman has been growing in the past few years, like how the UAE grew after Covid. Oman is also getting there, and they have done a very good job," he said.

Family considering further investment
Sahil also indicated that his family could look at increasing its personal and business ties with Oman. He said discussions had already taken place about acquiring property in the Sultanate, potentially for long holidays or future investment.

"We would definitely love to get that investor visa and maybe get a wonderful house here," he said.

Water heaters remain a key product
Looking ahead, Sahil said water heaters would be one of the key products attracting attention at the dealers' meet. "The water heater is the most talked-about thing in our sanitaryware business, espe-

cially in our market. Customers are always keeping an eye on what the water heater prices are for Milano," he said.

The company also has a wide range of mixers, showers and WCs, with its WC products already well known in Oman.

However, Sahil said Milano wants to create greater awareness about its electrical switches, hardware and furniture fittings.

"Sanitaryware is already famous, but hardware and electrical - I still feel customers are not fully aware of the product range we have," he said.

Counterfeit products remain a concern
Counterfeit products remain another challenge for the brand.

Sahil said the company had taken action, particularly in the UAE, while fake Milano products have also been identified in some African markets.

Although he said he had not heard of significant counterfeit activity in Oman over the past two years, he remained concerned about the broader problem.

"If your brand is like Gucci, you will see some fake products in the market. You have to face it and conquer it," he said.

He warned that counterfeit products could ultimately damage the reputation of the genuine brand because consumers may purchase poor-quality imitations at lower prices and subsequently blame the original brand for their experience.

"If people fall for these fake prod-

ucts, they are buying a very poor-quality product. They may buy another one six months later and think Milano is poor quality. I don't want customers to fall for that," he said.

Despite the challenges posed by freight costs, longer delivery times, geopolitical uncertainty and counterfeit products, Sahil remains optimistic about the Omani market. He said demand for Milano products remains strong across both the trading and project segments, and the company's focus over the coming months will be on maintaining stock, ensuring timely deliveries, expanding its dealer base and strengthening its presence in projects.

"For me, the next four months are about getting back and increasing the business as much as possible," he said.

ROUND-UP

Toyota Akeed extends its added-value benefits to Urban Cruiser



Recognised for its blend of practicality and refinement, the Urban Cruiser has steadily earned its place among Oman’s most trusted compact SUVs, offering drivers a confident, technology-led alternative for navigating city life

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing commitment to rewarding customers across the Sultanate, Toyota Akeed now extends its added-value benefits to the Toyota Urban Cruiser, one of the brand’s most

sought-after compact SUVs. Buyers who purchase the Urban Cruiser under this campaign will be entitled to a 5-year or 50,000 km service package, Thiqah Loyalty Points, and one year of vehicle registration at no additional cost — benefits designed to complement the model’s already strong reputation for efficiency and dependability. The campaign runs until 7 October. Recognised for its blend of practicality and refinement, the Urban Cruiser has steadily earned its place among Oman’s most trusted compact SUVs, offering drivers a confident, technology-led alternative for navigating city life. Rather than chasing raw power,

the Urban Cruiser’s engineering focuses on making every litre of fuel count. A 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine is paired with an Integrated Starter Generator (ISG), a hybrid-style system that switches between acting as a motor and a generator with the help of a lithium-ion battery. Together they produce 102 hp and 135 Nm of torque, routed through a six-speed automatic transmission. Owners can expect 19.8 km/l in fuel efficiency — a figure that adds up to real savings on the daily commute, all while the ride stays quiet even when traffic doesn’t. Chrome detailing and clean exterior lines give the Urban Cruiser a look that works just as

well parked outside the office as it does outside the mall. Inside, the SUV leans into technology: 9-inch infotainment touchscreen, both compatible with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto. A Head-Up Display keeps speed and navigation prompts within the driver’s sightline, complemented by a 7-inch digital instrument cluster. Overhead, a dual-sliding panoramic roof opens up the cabin to natural light on request. **Safety** Behind the wheel, drivers get the reassurance of six SRS airbags alongside Vehicle Stability Control, Traction Control, ABS and Hill-start Assist Control (HAC)

— a combination that covers both stability and control in unpredictable conditions. Parking becomes far less of a chore thanks to a Panoramic View Monitor, rear sensors, and a Tyre Pressure Warning System that flags issues before they become problems. For families, an automatic climate control system with rear AC vents keeps everyone comfortable, and 60:40 split-folding rear seats mean cargo space can be reconfigured whenever the trip calls for it. The Toyota Urban Cruiser, backed by Toyota Akeed benefits, is available now at Saud Bahwan Automotive showrooms across Oman. Visit today for a closer look and a test drive before the offer ends.

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

Bank Muscat continues to empower newlyweds through financial literacy workshops as part of community-driven Maliyat initiative



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, continues to extend the effect of its community-driven “Maliyat” initiative with financial literacy sessions targeting this year a new segment of society. In this context, Bank Muscat held, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, the second financial literacy workshop dedicated to the newlyweds and those preparing for marriage in Nizwa, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. The workshop featured around 40 participants who were equipped with the knowledge and practical skills needed to build sound financial habits and achieve long-term financial and family stability. The workshop follows the successful implementation of the initiative in Dhofar Governorate and reflects Bank Muscat’s continued efforts to expand financial literacy initiatives across the Sultanate. Through these workshops, the Bank aims to empower participants with the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions, manage household finances effectively and plan for a secure financial

future. The initiative also reinforces Bank Muscat’s commitment to delivering sustainable community programmes and strengthening partnerships with government entities and community organisations in support of Oman’s broader social and economic development goals. The workshop features a range of interactive sessions covering key aspects of personal and family financial management. Topics include the importance of financial planning in married life, household budgeting, effective spending and saving strategies, setting shared financial goals, and fostering transparency and mutual understanding in managing family finances. Participants will also explore common financial challenges faced by newly married couples, practical approaches to overcoming them, and the role of financial intelligence in enhancing long-term family wellbeing and financial resilience. Bank Muscat continues to invest in specialised financial literacy initiatives that encourage positive financial behaviours across different segments of soci-

ety, reflecting the Bank’s belief that financial awareness is fundamental to improving quality of life and strengthening the economic wellbeing of individuals and families. As part of these efforts, the Bank has recently delivered a series of workshops tailored to diverse community groups, including specialised financial literacy sessions for more than 120 students with hearing impairments at the Scientific College of Design, as well as dedicated workshops for women held in Nakhal, Muscat, Sur, Ibra and Liwa, benefiting more than 200 participants. In addition to these workshops, Bank Muscat continues to implement flagship financial education initiatives, including the Maliyat Academy programme for school students, which has reached more than 100,000 students to date. The Bank also continues to expand the reach of Maliyat, its online financial literacy platform launched in 2019, offering free educational courses for adults aged 18 and above to advance sound financial management and strengthen financial awareness across the community.

EMPOWERING OMANI YOUTH

Alizz Islamic Bank celebrates graduation of 4th batch of ‘Manahil Alizz’ internship programme

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank celebrated the graduation of the fourth batch of the ‘Manahil Alizz’ Internship Programme, reaffirming the Bank’s continued commitment to empowering Omani youth and investing in human capital as a fundamental pillar of Oman’s development and future. The ceremony was attended by Ali Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, other members of the bank’s executive management team and representatives from universities and colleges across Oman. Families of the graduates were also invited to celebrate this remarkable achievement. Batch IV of Manahil Alizz comprised 49 students from colleges and universities across the Sultanate, who embarked on a holistic development journey designed to strengthen their personal and professional capabilities, enhance their leadership skills and provide practical experiences that support their transition into the next stages of their careers and lives. With the graduation of this cohort, the Manahil Alizz Internship Programme has now empowered and graduated more than 150 talented young Omanis from colleges and universities across Oman, marking an important milestone in the programme’s journey and reflecting its growing contribution to creating meaningful opportunities for young people to learn, develop and gain practical exposure. Manahil Alizz was established on Alizz Islamic Bank’s belief that empowering youth is a strategic investment in Oman’s future. The role of national institutions extends beyond their core business activities to contributing meaningfully to society and developing the capabilities of the Omani youth. Through the programme, participants are provided with an enriching environment that brings together learning, practical experience and engagement, enabling them to discover their potential,



build confidence and develop the capabilities needed to become active contributors to their workplaces and communities. Commenting on the occasion, Ghalib Al Kharusi, Head of Human Capital at Alizz Islamic Bank said: “We are proud to celebrate the graduation of the fourth batch of Manahil Alizz and the impact the programme has created in the lives of more than 150 young Omanis since its inception. For us, youth empowerment is not a one-time initiative; it is a responsibility and an investment in Oman’s future. Every young person we give an opportunity to learn, experience and grow represents an investment in our national human capital, and every journey we help shape has the potential to contribute to the progress of an entire nation.” Al Kharusi added: “What differentiates Manahil Alizz internship programme particularly building the student’s confidence, developing their character and recognising their ability to create a positive impact. “We are proud to see our graduates move forward carrying the knowledge, experience and values they gained during their journey at Alizz Islamic Bank. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all of those involved in the success of this program including the colleges and universities for their valuable collaboration and trust in our programs.” Throughout the programme, participants took part in a range

of learning and development experiences designed to strengthen communication, teamwork, leadership, project management and problem-solving skills, while providing opportunities to gain first-hand exposure to the workplace and learn from experienced professionals. The programme also reflects Alizz Islamic Bank’s commitment to contributing to the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, particularly those focused on developing national capabilities and strengthening the role of young people in Oman’s economy and society. By investing in youth, the Bank continues to fulfil its role as a national institution committed to giving back to the community and contributing to the development of a generation equipped with the knowledge, skills, confidence and ambition to play an active role in Oman’s journey of development. Manahil Alizz programme continues to create meaningful experiences and opportunities for Omani youth, reinforcing the belief that investing in people is among the most sustainable and impactful investments an institution can make, and that empowering today’s generation is an essential part of building a stronger tomorrow for Oman. Alizz Islamic Bank remains committed to supporting initiatives that empower Omani youth, develop national human capital and strengthen its engagement with the community and educational institutions.



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