

Oman, Nauru explore JVs

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, received David Ranibok Adeang, President of the Republic of Nauru, at the General-Directorate of the Foreign Ministry in Muscat Governorate. The meeting took place within the context of President Adeang's visit to Oman to participate in the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds. The meeting explored ways of enhancing diplomatic relations and economic cooperation. The two sides looked into opportunities for upgrading commercial communication. **DETAILS ON P2**

SUNRISE - 06:14 AM

PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR - 04:57 AM

DHUHR - 11:55 PM

ASR - 03:08 PM

MAGHRIB - 05:32 PM

ISHA - 06:43 PM



Established 1981. Editor-in-chief: Abdullah bin Salim al Shueili

OMAN OBSERVER

www.omanobserver.om

editor@omanobserver.om

P13

TENDER FOR
DUQM
FISHING PORT
EXPANSION



P12

SALAH SENDS
LIVERPOOL TOP, MAN
CITY SURRENDER
LONG UNBEATEN RUN



P20

MUSCAT ART FAIR
EXPLORES INTERWOVEN
WORLDS OF INNOVATION,
ARTISTRY AND IDENTITY



MUSCAT

RGO CELEBRATES ANNUAL DAY

The Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) on November 1 celebrated its annual day, which falls on the same date every year, under the auspices of Lt Gen Hasan bin Mohsin al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs. The ceremony, held at the parade field of the RGO Command, included the graduation of new recruits. It also featured diverse programmes that illustrate the development and modernisation enjoyed by the RGO under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander. During the ceremony, the chief guest presented top graduates with certificates of excellence and pinned the RGO Special Medal on some RGO personnel in appreciation for their dedication to serving the homeland. **DETAILS ON P3**

INDIVIDUALS BARRED FROM FUND RAISING



The Ministry of Social Development has issued ministerial decision No 336/2024 regulating licences to collect money from the public by private organisations. These regulations do not apply to committees, institutions and funds established or formed by units of the state's administrative apparatus and other public legal persons. As per the decision, it is prohibited to collect money from the public without obtaining a licence to do so from the ministry. The licence shall be granted within the limits of the objectives for which the body was established, and for charitable purposes, and it may not be granted for personal purposes. **DETAILS ON P2**

SEAOMAN A MEMBER OF GREEN FINS



SeaOman has strengthened its commitment to protecting coral reefs through sustainable tourism by becoming the first digital member of Green Fins in the Sultanate of Oman. SeaOman's practices already align with many of the goals of Green Fins. With membership status, the two organisations can work towards a future where environmentally friendly practices are standard across the marine tourism industry. **DETAILS ON P3**

Majlis Ash'shura to meet on Nov 10

MUSCAT: Based on the royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Majlis Ash'shura will open its second annual sitting (2024-2025) of the Tenth Term (2023-2027) on November 10, in line with the provisions of Article (41) of the Council of Oman Law (7/2021).
Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed al Nadabi, Secretary-General of Majlis Ash'shura, said in a statement that the Majlis Ash'shura is keeping pace with the national aspirations in the Sultanate of Oman.
"The Majlis Ash'shura has

reinforced its role in promoting the country's comprehensive development through effective implementation of the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, achieved integration with state institutions and activated community participation in the national decision-making process," Al Nadabi added.
Speaking about the agenda of the first regular session of the second annual sitting, Al Nadabi said that it will be dedicated to the discussion and endorsement of the draft law on special economic zones and free zones. The bill was forwarded

to the Majlis Ash'shura by the government.
During the session, the Majlis Ash'shura members will be briefed about the draft budget of the state for the Fiscal Year 2025, being studied by the Majlis Ash'shura's Economic Committee and Financial Committee.
Al Nadabi pointed out that, as part of ongoing transparency and direct communication with the media, the Majlis Ash'shura will organise a press gathering on November 5 with media representatives and specialists in legislative affairs. — ONA

HM ISSUES FOUR ROYAL DECREES

National Records Centre established

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Sunday issued four Royal Decrees.
Royal Decree No (51/2024) establishes the National Records Centre and defines its prerogatives.
Article (1) stipulates that a public administration, to be named "the National Records Centre", shall be established within the organisational structure of the Royal Oman Police.
Article (2) states that the prerogatives of the National Records Centre shall be defined in accordance with the annexe attached to this Decree.
Article (3) stipulates that all allocations, assets, rights, obligations and origins of the national records at the Electronic Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020 Project shall be transferred to the National Records Centre.
Article (4) states that employees of the Electronic Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020 Project shall be transferred to the National Records Centre, along with their financial grades.
Article (5) the Inspector-General of Police and Customs

shall issue the regulations and decisions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Decree.
Article (6) cancels all that contradicts the Decree or contravenes its provisions.
Article (7) says that this Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.
Royal Decree No (52/2024) promulgates the National Records Law.
Article (1) stipulates that the National Records Law attached to this Decree shall be enforced.
Article (2) states that the Inspector-General of Police and Customs shall issue the regulations of the attached law, after the approval of the Council of Ministers. Till such time, the existing regulations and decisions in force shall continue to be applied without prejudice to the provisions of the attached law.
Article (3) cancels all that contradicts the attached law or contravenes its provisions.
Article (4) says that this Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of issue. **TURN TO P5**

ISRAEL POUNDS LEBANON AGAIN



Lebanese American Marion Mourtada holds photos of family members she said were killed in Southern Lebanon during Israeli air strikes during a 'No Vote for Genocide' protest in Dearborn, Michigan, US. The death toll from Israeli attacks on Lebanon has now climbed to 2,986, and the number of injured is 13,402 since October 2023, including 18 dead and 83 injured in the past 24 hours, the Lebanese health ministry said. **DETAILS ON P6**

US election rivals race to photo finish

DETROIT: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump began a frantic last push across US swing states on November 3, with less than 48 hours of campaigning left to secure a decisive edge in a bitterly fought and historically close presidential election.
Over 75 million people have cast early ballots ahead of Tuesday's climax, and the race is down to the wire — with more states functionally tied in polls at this point than in any comparable election. The closeness of the race is all the more remarkable given its dramatic twists — including an assassination bid and Harris's stunning late entrance — and the fact that the candidates could hardly be further apart in their campaign styles and visions for the future.
A final New York Times/Siena poll on November 3 flagged some incremental changes in the key battleground states, but the results from all seven remained firmly within the margin of error. Harris — desperate to shore up the Great Lakes states seen as essential to any Democratic ticket — was to spend the day in Michigan, beginning



A combination of pictures shows Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump. — AFP

in Detroit before a stop in Pontiac and an evening rally at Michigan State University.
Trump's Sunday timetable centres on Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia, the three biggest prizes in the "Electoral College" system that awards states influence according to their population.
The 78-year-old has been scrambling to distract from the now week-long scandal around his rally at New York's iconic Madison Square Garden in which warm-up

speakers alienated Hispanics and women with racist language. Trump surrogates winced at the unforced error, which looked especially unprofessional when contrasted with Harris's address to a massive, jubilant crowd in Washington, with the White House providing the backdrop. None of Trump's Sunday events take place in areas with large Hispanic populations, but Pennsylvania is the swing state with the most Puerto Ricans, a community particularly angered by the bigotry at Trump's rally. Michigan is one of the seven closely watched battlegrounds.
WAR ON GAZA
Trump flipped the state, a former Democratic stronghold, on his way to defeating Hillary Clinton in 2016. Joe Biden returned it to the Democratic column in 2020, buoyed by unionised workers and a large Black community. But this time, Harris risks losing the support of a 200,000-strong Arab-American community that has denounced Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. **SEE ALSO P7**

برجيل
burjeel
hospital
by Burjeel Holdings

24399777
burjeelhospitaloman.com



Surgery Redefined, Lives Transformed!

Explore innovative solutions for Parkinson's Disease

Dr. Ramnarayan Ramachandran

Consultant Restorative Neurosurgeon

Burjeel Hospital, Al Khuwair

Renowned Visiting Consultant from India

Available On 9th Nov. 2024



Oman and Nauru discuss relations

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, on Sunday received David Ranibok Adeang, President of the Republic of Nauru, at the General Diwan of the Foreign Ministry in Muscat Governorate. The meeting took place within the context of President Adeang’s visit to the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF).

The meeting explored ways of enhancing diplomatic relations and economic cooperation. The two sides looked into opportunities for upgrading commercial communication and establishing bilateral and multilateral partnerships that could generate benefits for both countries, notably in the sectors of tourism, mining, energy and fisheries.

The two sides also underlined the importance of exchanging expertise on protecting the environment and oceans in a manner that preserves natural resources.



Sayyid Badr on Sunday received David Ranibok Adeang, President of the Republic of Nauru. — ONA

They also discussed ways of addressing climate change.

The meeting was attended by Delvin Thoma, Deputy Minister for Deep Sea-Bed Mining, and other officials from the two countries. — ONA

Individuals prohibited from collecting money for charity

VINOD NAIR
@vinot_nair

Individuals are now prohibited from collecting money from the public or advertising the collection of money for any purpose, including charitable causes, as per a new decision from the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) on Sunday.

Decision 336/2024 aims to regulate licences for collecting money from the public by private organisations, excluding committees, institutions and funds established by units of the state’s administrative apparatus and other public legal entities. The decision specifies that collecting money from the public is only allowed after obtaining a licence from the ministry. This licence must align with the organisation’s objectives, such as charitable purposes, and cannot be granted for personal gain. Organisations can publish content related to fundraising after receiving approval from the ministry.

Fundraising for events like parties, exhibitions, charity markets, sports, cultural and entertainment events can be done through various methods like applications, websites, purchase vouchers, SMS messages, and electronic payment devices. In-kind funds can be converted into cash through public auctions with approval and supervision from the competent authority.

Organisations can deduct up to 2 per cent of collected funds for administrative and operational expenses.

Penalties for violations include licence suspension, fines ranging from RO 10 to RO 500, and seizure of unlawfully collected funds. When applying for event licences, organisations must provide details like dates, locations, and expected attendance. Entrance tickets should clearly display information like serial numbers, organising body, event location, date, ticket price, and licence number.

Organisations cannot contract out event management but can engage ticket distributors with a commission not exceeding 2 per cent of ticket value. Funds collected must be deposited in the organisation’s approved bank account within two working days.

Initiative to ensure equal rights to individuals with disabilities

AFRAH AL BALUSHI
@afrahbalushia

The Ministry of Social Development has launched the second phase of the “Family as a Partner in Rehabilitation Programmes” initiative in Muscat Governorate. The two-day event is designed to support around 20 families having children with disabilities enrolled at the Early Intervention Center. The initiative is part of the ministry’s ongoing commitment, as outlined in its 2024 development plan, to engage families in the rehabilitation journey of their children.

Hala al Wahaibi, Director of the Department of Persons with Disabilities at the ministry, highlighted that the programme enables families to work alongside specialists, supporting the fulfilment of rehabilitation goals set for their children. She explained that the initiative aligns with the Social Work Strategy (2016-2025), aiming to promote equal rights for individuals with disabilities across age and gender, encouraging their active participation in society.

The initiative’s objectives include empowering families to deliver rehabilitation support at home, enhancing service quality through family involvement, and diversifying rehabilitation approaches. By extending rehabilitation beyond the centre and involving family members, the programme helps transfer skills learned in formal settings to everyday environments, encouraging consistent application in various social and unplanned contexts.

Additionally, the programme fosters a community culture that begins with family engagement and includes siblings as part of the supportive network.

In its initial run during 2021/2022, the programme trained 20 families at the Oman Rehabilitation Centre. It was praised for enabling these families to collaborate closely with specialists, reinforcing the individualised goals outlined in each child’s rehabilitation plan using standardised tools provided by the ministry.

Reflecting on the programme’s success, Narjis al Maliki, a rehabilitation supervisor at the ministry, stated that the second edition builds on the positive outcomes of the first phase. This phase ensures comprehensive rehabilitation services in collaboration with 32 specialists from both public and private rehabilitation centres and from educational institutions under the Ministry of Education. The goal is to prepare participants for early educational integration in schools and expand the programme’s reach.

On the first day, Dr Muhammad Reda al Sayed, an autism rehabilitation specialist, delivered a presentation outlining key aspects such as categorising cases by level, the required equipment, and programme planning and follow-up methods. He also discussed plans for expanding the initiative across Oman’s governorates.



The initiative’s objectives include empowering families to deliver rehabilitation support at home.

Tender Announcement

ET18/2024/OPAZ

الهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة
Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones
Sultanate of Oman

سلطنة عمان

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) invites the reputable and experienced Omani and Saudi companies (JV) for the following tender; through an E-Tendering Portal (Esnad).

Construction of Main Roads And Wadi Channel of Economic Zones at AL Dahira (EZAD) - IP1 -

Place of Buying and Collecting the Softcopy of Tender Documents:	Through E-Tendering System https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om.
Start of Tender Document Sale (Date):	Sunday, 3 rd November 2024 (10:00AM, Muscat Time)
End of Tender Documents Sale (Date):	Monday, 18 th November 2024 (06:00PM, Muscat Time)
Site showround / Visit (for all bidders):	Tuesday, 19 th November 2024 09:00 am , Muscat Time at Oppsite Al Dhahirah governor’s office.
Tender Closing (Submission) and Opening of Technical Bids Date:	Thursday, 2 nd January 2025 (12:00 PM, Muscat Time)
Cost of Tender Documents:	OMR. 3,000 (Three Thousand Omani Rial only)

- All specialized and interested companies that are registered with the Tender Board participate and get the specification and conditions of the above tender from the following website: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om
- Bidders should submit their bids online on the given website Signed and Sealed. The Bidders shall submit Tender Bond electronically through the e-tendering system, which will verify the validity of the submitted bond and this Bid bond shall be issued from Local Bank in the Sultanate of Oman or it’s accredited branches in Saudi Arabia of (2%) of the Tender Value, valid for (180) days from the Proposals submission date, addressed to H. E. THE CHAIRMAN, OPAZ Tender COMMITTEE (OTC).
- OPAZ is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid, (EZAD) - IP1 - offer without giving reasons.

For further clarifications, you may contact:
Tel. +968 24402200 and/or,
Email: etenderhd@gstb.gov.om

PUBLIC AUTHORITY
FOR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES
AND FREE ZONES (OPAZ)

+968 2450 7500
+968 2458 7474
P.O Box: 77 P.C: 100 Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

@omanopaz
info@opaz.gov.om
www.opaz.gov.om

HEAC opens registration for second sorting vacant

MUSCAT: The Higher Education Admission Centre (HEAC) at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation on Sunday announced the opening of registration for vacant seats of the second sorting for the 2024-2025 academic year, which will close on Sunday, November 10.

The HEAC stated that students who are not registered in the system can also apply for the vacancies of the second sorting. Also entitled to apply are students who have previously registered but have not obtained a seat, students who obtained a seat but have not completed the registration procedures, as well as students who have resigned from their study seats.

Students who have obtained a study seat and completed the registration procedures are not entitled to apply for seats in the second sorting.

The HEAC indicated that the student guide for joining higher education institutions in the 2024/2025 academic year available on the website contains all the academic seats and their details. — ONA

SHORTTAKES

State Council reviews programme of standing committees



The panels' programme review took place during the Office's 6th meeting of the first regular session of the 8th Term. — ONA

MUSCAT: The State Council Office on Sunday reviewed the programme of its standing committees that prepare to discuss proposals and studies set for debate during the second regular session of the Council's 8th Term.

The panels' programme review took place during the Office's 6th meeting of the first regular session of the Eighth Term, held under the auspices of Salim bin Musallam Qatan, Vice-President of the State Council.

During the session, the bureau also discussed the Council of Ministers' reply to its study titled "Efficiency of Public Spending in the Sultanate of Oman", as well as reports filed by the Council members about their visits to other countries. The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General of the Council. — ONA



Restaurants were closed for not adhering to health requirements.

Crackdown on restaurants, barber shops in Salalah

SALALAH: Seven restaurants and eight other businesses, including barber shops, were closed in Salalah for not adhering to health requirements as part of the efforts made by the Health Control Section that monitor various activities.

Restaurants were closed for not adhering to health requirements such as not properly storing food, using workers' housing as a place to store food and meat used in preparing skewers and burgers.

Samples of food offered for sale were taken to be tested in the laboratory to verify their compliance with standard specifications. Samples of water used in restaurants and food activities were also taken to ensure its suitability for use.

Royal Guard of Oman marks annual day

MUSCAT: The Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) celebrated on Sunday its annual day, which falls on November 1 every year, under the auspices of Lt Gen Hasan bin Mohsin al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs.

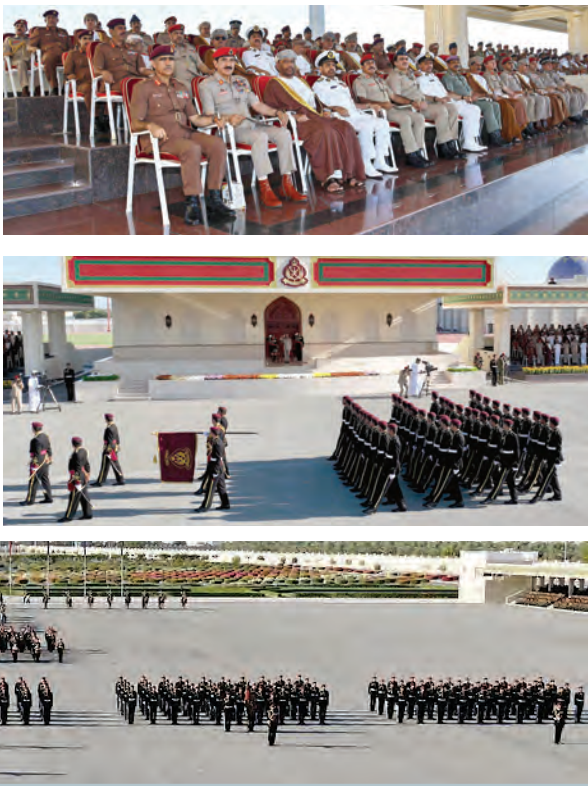
The ceremony, which was held at the parade field of the RGO Command, included the graduation of new recruits.

The ceremony also included diverse programmes that Illustrate the development and modernisation enjoy by the RGO under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

During the ceremony, the chief guest presented the top graduates with certificates of excellence. He also pinned the RGO Special Medal on some RGO personnel in appreciation for their dedication in serving the homeland.

After that, the graduates chanted the RGO anthem accompanied with a parachute performance by the RGO free jumping team and proclaimed thrice Long Live His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

The event was attended by some ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces and other military and security units, as well as senior military and civil officials. — ONA



The ceremony, which was held at the parade field of the RGO Command, included the graduation of new recruits. — ONA

SeaOman becomes digital member of Green Fins

SEAOMAN HAS strengthened its commitment to protecting coral reefs through sustainable tourism by becoming the first digital member of Green Fins in the Sultanate of Oman.

SeaOman's practices already aligned with many of the goals of Green Fins. With membership status, the two organisations can work towards a future where environmentally friendly practices are standard across the marine tourism industry.

Khamis al Anbouri, Commercial Director at Oman Sail, said, "Oman is blessed with a wonderfully diverse natural environment and SeaOman is proud to continue sharing this beautiful underwater world with global visitors while always being considerate of nature. Snorkelling and other forms of marine tourism are fantastic activities to introduce people to the marine environment, share our nation with visitors, and create new ocean advocates.

However, unmanaged, these activities can have negative impacts on fragile ecosystems like coral reefs. It is our goal to champion conservation efforts and share that message with more people across Oman and around the world."

The Green Fins Code of Conduct outlines 15 environmental standards for marine



Coral reefs provide the planet with many benefits, such as plentiful seafood, a first line of defence against storms, and cutting-edge medicines.

tourism operations to adopt. This comprehensive list covers best practices for both above and below the water and considers the role of managers, operator staff and tourists. Although designed around protecting coral reefs, these standards can apply to all marine environments

Coral reefs cover 1 per cent of the seafloor but coral reefs hold 25 per cent of all marine life, making the reefs some of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth.

Coral reefs provide the planet with many benefits, such as plentiful seafood, a first line of defence against storms, and cutting-edge medicines developed to treat cancer,

heart disease, Alzheimer's and other illnesses — and many more.

Established in 2004, Green Fins is the world's first independent certificate to stop the environmental impact from marine-based tourism.

Green Fins is a proven conservation management approach — implemented internationally by The Reef-World Foundation and the UN Environment Programme — which leads to a measurable reduction in the negative environmental impacts associated with marine tourism. It aims to protect coral reefs through environmentally friendly guidelines. — ONA

Projects planned under 'Green Muscat' initiative

STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 3

Celebrating Oman Agriculture Day, the Muscat Governorate has unveiled a series of environmental initiatives under the 'Green Muscat' initiative.

In partnership with the Muscat Charity Team, more than 4,000 seedlings were distributed across various areas, contributing to the governorate's existing 2,730,446 sqm of green space.

This includes 19,565 palm trees and 84,205 sqm of seasonal flowers. In a joint step with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MoHT), Muscat Municipality inaugurated Fins Beach Park in the Wilayat of Qurayat, covering 7,000 sqm.

The park offers 3,000 sqm for car parking, catering to camping vehicles with essential electricity and sewage facilities. The park includes landscaped areas, children's play zones, a prayer room, a restaurant, a café, and modern irrigation systems. Parks Additional green projects in the governorate include Nahda City Park in Al Amerat (6,000 sqm) and the Southern Maabela Park in the Wilayat of Al Seeb, which spans over 10,000 sqm. The park will include bike paths, a sports area, children's play areas, extensive landscap-



In partnership with the Muscat Charity Team, more than 4,000 seedlings were distributed across various areas.

ing, and advanced lighting and irrigation networks. Hail Al Ghaf Park in the Wilayat of Qurayat offers 3,000 sqm of green space, walking paths, smart irrigation, shaded areas, and rest facilities.

Another major development project is Al Saleel Natural Park in the Wilayat of Qurayat, set to cover 670,000 sqm in its first phase. This park will provide camping areas, recreational services, sports amenities, green spaces, and walking and cycling paths. The municipality announced

the re-operation of Wadi Al Kabir Park in the Wilayat of Muttrah, allocating 41,209 sqm for a recreational area with modern sports and entertainment facilities.

These include two football fields, two padel courts, a bowling alley, a sports equipment shop, restaurants, and other entertainment options.

As part of its commitment to promoting physical activity, the municipality announced ongoing efforts to develop walkways. The Ministries District Walkway in Al Khuwair spans 24,000 sqm, featuring 15,000 sqm of green areas, modern lighting, and a smart AI-based irrigation system.

It also includes a 1,900 m pedestrian walkway and 428 metres of bicycle paths, connected to an external 1,255-metre path. Work is progressing on the Golden Jubilee Walkway in the Wilayat of Al Seeb, which features a 1,972-metre bicycle path and spans 84,400 sqm.

The walkway includes three resting plazas, sheltered seating, cafes, and other leisure facilities. Muscat Municipality has recently signed an agreement to develop an integrated project in South Maabela, which will include a public park, commercial outlets, and a factory for Omani Halwa 'Al Diwaniya'.

SPOTLIGHT

AI and culture

Over-reliance on digital interaction means children lose exposure to foundational social practices. Salim al Hosni, a parent, has reservations: "While AI is valuable for education, I'm concerned about my children's ability to engage in the traditional Omani way. Hosni, personal interactions, family are essential for passing values, language customs, and social identity."

AI-BASED
LANGUAGE
TOOLS COULD
MAKE OMANI
DIALECTS
MORE
ACCESSIBLE

SIHAM AL SAIDI

AS **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)** becomes ever more ingrained in daily life, it impacts various spheres, from business to education, often intersecting with cultural practices in profound ways. For Oman, a country with a rich history and deeply rooted traditions, these advancements offer both potential and challenges. While AI has the capacity to preserve Omani customs, language, and art, there is growing concern about its influence on cultural identity, particularly among the younger generation. Used thoughtfully, AI tools can be leveraged as resources for safeguarding and promoting these elements, folk

If used thoughtfully, AI tools can be powerful resources for safeguarding Omani heritage. They can digitise archives of historical documents, Talal tales, and traditional songs, making these accessible to future generations. Talal al Saidi, a history teacher specialising in Omani culture, highlights AI's role in modernising cultural access: "With AI, we can create databases that allow young Omanis to access, learn, and engage with their heritage in new and meaningful ways, ensuring its longevity."

Language is another key area where AI could be transformative. Arabic, especially in regional dialects, often faces digital limitations. AI-based language tools could make Omani dialects more accessible, yet such tools must be adapted carefully. Standard AI models often overlook unique expressions specific to Oman, risking a loss of cultural depth. Concerns are rising about AI's impact on Oman's language development and its effects. Virtual assistants, increasingly for

Concerns are rising about AI's impact on children's language development and cultural connections. Virtual AI characters, used increasingly for learning and entertainment, might miss the nuances of Omani cultural warmth. Jawaher al Ghafri, an early childhood educator, observes, "Our society values how children greet elders, express respect, and show hospitality. AI characters, though engaging, lack the cultural context to reinforce these values."

AI'S IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

AI
CHARACTERS,
THOUGH
ENGAGING,
LACK THE
CULTURAL
CONTEXT TO
REINFORCE
THESE VALUES

Over-reliance on digital interactions could mean children lose exposure to these foundational social practices.

Salim al Hosni, a parent, shares his reservations: "While AI is valuable for education, I'm concerned it may impact my children's ability to engage with others in the traditional Omani way." For Al Hosni, personal interactions within the family are essential for passing down values, language customs, and social etiquette.

Omani, social interactions are deeply rooted by warmth and respect, often involving shared meals and these traditions are essential for passing down values, language customs, and social etiquette.

In Oman, social interactions are characterised by warmth and respect, values that are challenging to replicate digitally. Children learn these through firsthand experiences with family and community, experiences that cannot easily be replaced by AI. "If digital characters take over these roles, essential cultural lessons might fade," Al Hosni notes, emphasising the importance of children's participation in family gatherings and special occasions. Despite these challenges, Al Hosni, a cultural researcher, calls for

Despite these challenges, many see potential in culturally aware AI. Iman al Shebli, an AI researcher, calls for AI applications when engaging with children. She advocates for creating culturally conscious AI tools that reinforce positive social behaviours, encouraging traditional greetings and teaching Omani proverbs. Educators and cultural leaders agree that AI should complement, not replace, real-life cultural experiences. Al Shebli advises that AI be used to enhance, not substitute, traditional balance AI tools within families balance AI tools and cultural

Oman's approach to AI and cultural identity requires careful consideration and community input. With policies that prioritise cultural values, AI can help bridge the past and future, fostering progress while preserving the essence of Omani culture. The ongoing dialogue around AI's role in Oman will ultimately determine whether it becomes a means to preserve heritage or a force for transformation.



Recall



Recall Date: 4/11/2024

Brand of Commodity	Year of Production	Number of Affected Commodities
SUZUKI JIMNY	2018-2019	38

Recall consequence

In these vehicles, Due to the deformation and swelling of the fuel feed impeller in the fuel pump made of resin, the fuel injection quantity is incorrect, the material leaks into the fuel container, and in the worst case, the engine stops while driving.

Due to the importance of customer safety to the agent, as a precautionary measure, The agent will replace the fuel pump, ensuring the safety, and reliability of the Vehicle

To check the serial Numbers of the affected commodities, please visit the website for Recalls & Warnings: <http://recall.pacp.gov.om>



During official working hours:
MARH No. 80076200



ROYAL DECREEES

NATIONAL RECORDS CENTRE ESTABLISHED

FROM PI

Royal Decree No (53/2024) appoints a Permanent Representative for the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations in New York.

Article (1) transfers Omar bin Said bin Omar al Kathiri, the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and appoints him as Oman's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

Article (2) says that this Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No (54/2024) appoints judges at the Supreme Court.

Article (1) states that the persons named in the list attached to this Decree shall be appointed as judges at the Supreme Court.

Article (2) says that this Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

List of judges appointed at the Supreme Court: Mohammed bin Said bin Khalfan al Yahya'ee, Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Sulaiman al Mahrouqi, Abdullah bin Masoud bin Ali al Sunaidy, Khalfan bin Salim bin Nasser al Busaidy, Dr Ahmed bin Said bin Ahmed al Shukaili, Dr Jabir bin Khalfan bin Salim al Hattali, Aqeel bin Salim bin Mohammed al Sharif Ba'alawi, Dr Saif bin Ali bin Abdullah al Hadidi, Juma bin Sulaiman bin Rashid al Gharibi, Hisham bin Obaid bin Khalfan al Abri, Said bin Salim bin Said al Ghusaini, Dr Hilal bin Nasser bin Abdullah al Seyabi, Dr Said bin Musabab bin Mohammed al Gharibi, Dr Badr bin Khamis bin Said al Yazidi, Dr Ali bin Mohammed bin Salim al Adawi, Abdullah bin Amer bin Khayef al Amri, Dr Nasser bin Rashid bin Salim al Mushaifri, Yahya bin Saud bin Mattar al Ramadani,

Moosa bin Salim bin Saleh al Farsi, Malik bin Humaid bin Salim al Bahri, Dr Mazin bin Saud bin Hamad al Maashari, Dr Mahfoud bin Mayoof bin Ali al Sharji, and Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Nofali. — **ONA**



OMAN PARTICIPATES IN BRUNEI BOOK FAIR

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth (MoCSY) and the Ministry of Information (MoI), the Sultanate of Oman is taking part in Brunei Darussalam Book Fair (Pesta Buku Brunei 2024) held in Bandar Seri Begawan from November 2 to 11. Oman's participation in the event was aimed to consolidate cultural ties with Brunei and celebrate the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. — **ONA**

‘Sur’s heritage in stamps’ exhibition opens at National Museum

BALQEES AL ORAIMI
MUSCAT, NOV 3

In celebration of Sur’s designation as the Arab Tourism Capital for 2024, the National Museum has launched a new exhibition, ‘Sur in the Memory of Postal Stamps,’ inviting visitors on a historical and cultural journey through the art of philately. Running until November 14, the exhibition illuminates Sur’s rich heritage through a rare collection of postage stamps curated by Abdullah bin Saeed al Saadi, a noted member of Friends of Oman Museums and an Arabic language supervisor in Al Sharqiyah South Governorate. Each stamp represents a unique aspect of Sur’s cultural identity, revealing layers of Omani tradition and its significance to the region and beyond. The exhibition’s inauguration,

attended by Dr Yahya bin Badr al Maawali, Governor of Al Sharqiyah South, along with local dignitaries and cultural enthusiasts, reflects Oman’s commitment to preserving and celebrating its past. Stamps such as the 1996 ‘Omani Ships’ issue celebrate Sur’s historical prominence in shipbuilding and its role in linking Oman to global trade networks. The stamp featuring ‘Ganja,’ a traditional Omani vessel, recalls Sur’s heritage in craftsmanship and maritime navigation, symbolising the city’s key role in fostering cultural exchanges across the Indian Ocean. In addition to maritime themes, the exhibition presents the ‘Sur Dagger’ stamp from 2001, which honours the artistry of Omani daggers, or khanjars, a cultural emblem in Sur and throughout Oman. The khanjar is more than a weapon; it represents a deeply-



Dr Yahya bin Badr al Maawali opened the ‘Sur in the Memory of Postal Stamps,’ exhibition.

rooted craft passed down through generations, embodying pride, identity, and tradition in Oman. Dr Fatma bint Mohammed al Balushiyah, Director General of Museum Affairs, emphasised the significance of this collection: “This exhibition aims to evoke memories of a time when postal stamps were more than symbols of communication — they were re-

flections of identity, heritage, and legacy. Each stamp carries with it stories of origin and pride, connecting us to the essence of Sur.” Among other notable stamps, the ‘Omani Aflaj’ stamp sheds light on Oman’s ancient water management systems, featuring Falaj Al Jaylah, a Unesco World Heritage Site in Sur. This piece captures the ingenuity of Oman’s traditional aflaj irrigation methods, a testament to the resourcefulness of the Omani people in arid environments. The 2023 ‘Omani Writing Alphabet’ stamp further explores Oman’s intellectual heritage, emphasising Sur’s historical role in connecting Oman with other cultures through trade and maritime endeavours. The exhibit’s collection also highlights Omani scholarly achievements with stamps such as the ‘Omani Manuscripts’ stamp, which features Maadin Al Asrar

fi Uloom Al Bihar (The Mine of Secrets in Marine Sciences), a renowned manuscript by Sur native Nasser bin Ali al Kharousi. This manuscript underscores Sur’s historical expertise in navigation and marine sciences, reinforcing its legacy as a centre for seafaring knowledge. Beyond stamps, the National Museum has launched the Friends of Oman Museums membership program. Dr Fatma al Balushi shared, “We hope this program encourages Oman’s residents and visitors alike to deepen their engagement with our nation’s cultural heritage, forging connections that honour our past and inspire our future.” Al Saadi, the passionate collector behind the exhibit, reflected, “These stamps are miniature messengers, each one encapsulating a piece of our heritage and the pivotal moments in Sur’s history.

3 Omani students win Namat Awards

KABEER YOUSUF
@kabeeryousef

THREE OMANI students and six schools were awarded for their innovative environmental and sustainable projects the Namat Competition awards at the esteemed annual competition celebrating Omani government schools for their outstanding sustainability initiatives, under the auspices of Dr Madeeha bint Ahmed al Shaibaniyah, Minister of Education.

The annual competition, currently in it’s 4th edition, attracted a remarkable 164 schools nationwide, with 144 qualifying for the competition, underscoring the growing commitment of schools across the Sultanate of Oman to environmental stewardship, inspiring a new generation of leaders dedicated to sustainability. Sponsored by Veolia Oman, which is part Veolia group, a global leader in waste, water and energy efficiency sectors, the 2023-2024 edition of Namat Competition was organised by the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) under the auspices of the Ministry of Education (MoE). The winners of the 2023-2024 Namat Competition are as follows: The first prize went to Al Azher bin Muhammed Al Azkawi School from Dakhiliyah Governorate with a cash prize of RO 2,000. The second place was bagged by Jimah School from Al Dakhiliyah Governorate getting a cash prize of RO 1,500 and the third prize to Om Dher Al Ghafari School from Al Buraimi Governorate bagging a cash prize



The Namat Competition awards were held under the auspices of Dr Madeeha bint Ahmed al Shaibaniyah, Minister of Education, and sponsored by Veolia Oman

of RO 1,000. The Namat Competition Award for Leadership and Innovation went to Jmail bin Khamis School from Al Batinah North Governorate while the Namat Competition Award for Community Partnership went to Wadi Bani Omar School also from Al Batinah North Governorate and the Namat Competition Award for Sustainability to Al Amal Deaf School from Muscat Governorate. “Through Namat Competition, the ESO has inspired students and teachers across the country to tap into their creativity and problem-solving abilities to develop unique solutions for advancing environmental sustainability. Namat Competition has the potential to spark meaningful climate action among Oman’s student population, driving lasting change,” said Dr Amer al Mataani, President of the Board of Directors of ESO, Three schools were awarded top prizes

for their exceptional sustainability projects, while three additional schools received special Namat Competition Awards following a comprehensive three-stage evaluation process. “The environmental themes of the Namat Competition are closely aligned with Veolia’s core values and expertise. By empowering young minds to develop innovative solutions, we’re not just shaping the future of sustainability — we’re actively creating it,” said Erwan Rouxel, CEO of Veolia Oman. “We are proud to support this initiative, which aligns perfectly with our GreenUp 2024-2027 strategic programme based on decarbonisation, depollution and regeneration of resources. These students are the change-makers of tomorrow, and their passion for environmental protection gives us great hope for a greener, more sustainable future,” he added.

‘Journey of Souls’ exhibition wraps up

STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 3

The contemporary art solo exhibition titled ‘Journey of Souls’ by Dr Shalini Gupta Kumar concluded at The Gallery Sarah, Bait Al Zubair, on November 2. The exhibition, curated by Fahad al Hasani, coincided with the Diwali celebrations and was inaugurated by Anil Khimji, Director of Khimji Ramdas. During a visit by students from the University of Technology and Applied Science with Professor Tahira Fida, Dr Shalini explained about her artworks on display. The concluding day of the exhibition saw an interactive session of paint with artist in which children and others tried hand painting with



An art exhibition titled ‘Journey of Souls’ by Dr Shalini Gupta Kumar

palette. ‘Journey of Souls’ offered an intimate look into the artists artistic vision, featuring 14 large abstract artworks created with acrylics and mixed media on canvas, and an installation using indigenous vegetation, rock pigments, and sand. The collection encapsulates her spiritual reflections and the emotional journeys encountered in life. “We are divine yet imperfect beings, shuttling between the material and spiritual worlds while striving for self-mastery and knowledge,” she says,

describing the use of vibrant hues like yellow, orange, blue, violet, brown, and gold to create “an enchanting view for the beholder.” There is also an installation artwork embodying the title — Soul of Oman — done using indigenous vegetation, rock pigments and sand of Oman. Dr Shalini explains, that in life, one undergoes a myriad of emotional journeys, in one’s pursuit of a means of subsistence — this often brings on confusion and disillusionment that leaves the individual struggling to find meaning and fulfilment in his/her life. Though spiritual encounters do bring about reflection and refinement, it often leaves one at the crossroads given the compulsions of modern living, she asserts.

WORLD

SHORTTAKES



King Felipe VI (C) of Spain walks during his visit to Paiporta, in the region of Valencia. — AFP

KING FELIPE VI ARRIVES IN FLOOD-HIT REGION

PAIPORTA: Spain’s King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia on Sunday just after midday arrived in the Valencia region where devastating floods have killed more than 200 people, television images showed. The royals, accompanied by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, visited Paiporta — one of the worst affected towns — and were due to move on to Chiva, another battered town close to Valencia, later in the day.

Hopes of finding survivors ebbed five days after torrents of muddy water wrecked towns and infrastructure in Spain’s worst such disaster in decades. Nearly all the deaths have been in the Valencia region, where thousands of security and emergency services frantically cleared debris and mud in the search for bodies. Restoring order and distributing aid to destroyed towns and villages — some of which have been cut off from food, water and power since Tuesday’s torrent — is a priority. The monarchs’ visit comes as Spain’s meteorological agency issued a fresh warning for heavy downpours in the Valencia region. — AFP



Riot police carry an injured officer during clashes, in Parotani. — AFP

SUPPORTERS OF BOLIVIA’S MORALES DETAIN 200 SOLDIERS

LA PAZ: Supporters of former Bolivian president Evo Morales are holding at least 200 soldiers hostage, the Foreign Ministry said, as their weeks long standoff with the state escalates. Three military units in central Bolivia’s Chapare province were “assaulted by irregular groups”, with the assailants “taking more than 200 military personnel hostage” from three barracks, the ministry said. “They seized weapons and ammunition,” it added.

Backers of Morales, the country’s first Indigenous leader, began blocking roads three weeks ago to prevent his arrest on what he calls trumped-up rape charges aimed at thwarting his political comeback. The government had sent troops to the area in Cochabamba department to help police clear the roadblocks. “They have cut off our water, electricity and are keeping us hostage,” a uniformed man is heard saying. On Friday, police arrested 66 people, adding to the dozens who have been arrested since the roadblocks began on October 14. — AFP

RUSSIA SAYS CAPTURED UKRAINE VILLAGE NEAR LOGISTICS HUB

MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday claimed to have captured another Ukrainian village, just a dozen kilometres from the key eastern logistics hub Pokrovsk, as its troops advance rapidly. The Russian defence ministry said it had “liberated the settlement of Vichneve following offensive operations”. Russia has been making swift advances in the eastern Donetsk region for weeks, taking dozens of towns and villages. On Saturday, Moscow said its forces

had captured the large village of Kurakhivka close to the industrial town of Kurakhove, which Russia is also aiming to capture, and the small village of Pershotravneve in the Kharkiv region close to the eastern Lugansk region.

Capturing Pokrovsk, a key logistics hub for Ukraine that connects several fortresses in the Donbas, is one of Russia’s main objectives in the region. It is also home to a major coke coal mine that is crucial to Ukraine’s

steel production for its military. Russian troops have advanced to just a few kilometres outside the town.

The Russian army took 478 square kilometres of Ukrainian territory in October, according to an analysis of data from the American Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

Ukraine said on Saturday Kyiv had come under heavy drone attack overnight, as fresh explosions were heard in the capital and other regions were struck. — AFP



An Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) is pictured on an elevated track amid smoggy conditions in Lahore. — AFP

PAKISTAN SHUTS SCHOOLS OVER RECORD POLLUTION

LAHORE: Pakistan’s second city of Lahore will close primary schools for a week over record pollution, government authorities said on Sunday, to avoid exposing millions of children to smog several times above levels deemed dangerous. The city of 14 million people has been enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning and winter cooling. The air quality index, which measures a range of pollutants, exceeded 1,000 on Saturday — well above the level of 300

considered “dangerous” — according to data from IQAir. The Punjab government also recorded peaks of over 1,000 on Sunday, which it considered “unprecedented”. “Weather forecast for the next six days shows that wind patterns will remain the same. Therefore we are closing all government and private primary schools in Lahore for a week,” Jahangir Anwar said, a senior environmental protection official in Lahore. “All the classes” for children up to the age of 10, “public, private & special education... shall remain closed for one week”. — AFP

Israel issues evacuation order in Baalbek region

THE ISRAELI military on Sunday called for the evacuation of the Baalbek area in eastern Lebanon, warning that it was ready to strike Hezbollah targets there and in nearby Douris. The latest evacuation call came as the military’s Home Front Command activated sirens at regular intervals along the border as dozens of projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israeli territory since Sunday morning.

The military said its forces continued to carry out “targeted raids” in southern Lebanon aimed at eliminating Hezbollah fighters. “You are currently located near the facilities and assets associated with Hezbollah, which the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will be targeting in the near future,” the Israeli military’s Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee said in a post on X addressed to residents of Baalbek and Douris. The Israeli air force intercepted several projectiles that were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory, while some fell in open areas, the military said in a statement.

Israel and the Lebanese armed movement Hezbollah have been locked in a deadly war since September 23 that has killed more than 1,900 people in Lebanon, according to Lebanese health ministry figures. Israel’s military says 38 soldiers have been killed in the Lebanon campaign since it began ground operations on September 30.

Meanwhile in Gaza, the World Health Organization said four children were among six people wounded on Saturday in a strike on a polio vaccination centre. “We have received an extremely concerning report that the Sheikh Radwan primary health care centre in northern Gaza was struck today while parents were bringing their children to the life-saving polio vaccination in an area where a humani-



Lebanese army soldiers secure the area outside a building that was targeted in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut’s southern suburbs. — AFP

tarian pause was agreed to allow vaccination to proceed,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Six people, including four children, were injured.”

Tedros did not specify who carried out the strike but a source in Gaza’s civil defence agency said that it was “an Israeli quadcopter that fired two missiles which hit the wall of Sheikh Radwan clinic”. The WHO launched the second round of child polio vaccinations

in northern Gaza on Saturday after Israeli bombing halted an earlier attempt.

“A WHO team was at the site just before” Saturday’s strike, Tedros said. “This attack, during humanitarian pause, jeopardises the sanctity of health protection for children and may deter parents from bringing their children for vaccination,” he added. The WHO says some 119,000 children in the north are awaiting their second dose. — AFP

JOINT EXERCICE

US bomber joins drill with S Korea, Japan



South Korea, Japan, and the United States on Sunday conducted a joint air drill involving a heavy bomber. “The exercise demonstrates the commitment of the ROK-US alliance to integrated extended deterrence in response to the advancing nuclear and missile threats from North Korea,” said South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff in a press release. The drill mobilised the US’ B-1B bomber, South Korea’s F-15K and KF-16 fighter jets, and Japan’s F-2 jets. — AFP

TENSE ELECTION

Moldovans vote in election on EU future



Moldovans were voting on Sunday in a tense presidential election runoff that could decide whether the ex-Soviet country continues on a pro-European path or tilts back toward Russia’s influence. The election is taking place just two weeks after a referendum on joining the European Union passed by a razor-thin margin. Pro-EU incumbent Maia Sandu scored 42.5 per cent of the vote in the first round of the presidential election two weeks ago. — AFP

POLICY MEETING

Germany’s Scholz summons top ministers



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will hold meetings with his top two ministers to try to find common ground after they put forward contradictory plans to fix the nation’s ailing economy. A document leaked by Christian Lindner’s finance ministry raised eyebrows in Berlin, with its push for tax cuts and fiscal discipline widely interpreted as a challenge to the multibillion-euro investment plan put forward by Economy Minister Robert Habeck. — Reuters

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024



WHITE HOUSE RACE

KEY MOMENTS IN AN EXTRAORDINARY CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON: Courts, bullets and two dramatic debates have made their mark on this year’s US election campaign — one of the most extraordinary in the nation’s history. Here are key moments as candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris edge towards Election Day on Tuesday.

Trump the felon

“Trump Guilty,” is splashed across the world’s front pages. On May 30, the Republican becomes the first former US president to be convicted of felony crimes — 34 counts to be exact.

Debate drama

Democratic hopes appear shattered after President Joe Biden, the party’s presumptive nominee, delivers a disastrous debate performance against Trump on June 27. Post-debate polling shows Trump pulling away from Biden but the White House insists there is zero chance he will withdraw.

Assassination attempt

A sun-baked Trump rally in Pennsylvania on July 13 provides the election campaign’s most shocking moment yet. Popping sounds ring out, Trump touches his ear, sees blood, and drops to the stage floor. Secret Service officers surround him as screams ring out in the crowd.

Biden says ‘bye’

At 1:46 pm on Sunday, July 21, Biden announces in a tweet that he will not seek reelection. It makes him the first sitting president since 1968 not to seek reelection and upends the White House race. Kamala Harris, the first female, Black and Asian-American to serve as US vice-president, gains Biden’s endorsement to replace him in the campaign.

Trump’s second scare

Trump’s weekend round of golf in Florida on September 15 is shattered by the sound of gunshots — this time fired by a Secret Service agent foiling what the FBI calls an apparent assassination attempt. The Republican nominee is unharmed in the second such scare in two months.

The Harris surge

Within a few weeks, Harris hurtles from being a relatively unknown and unpopular vice-president into a surging candidate on an unprecedentedly tight deadline. A key moment in her campaign is her one and only debate with Trump on September 10. She is widely credited with besting Trump. — **AFP**

Rivals race to tape as US election heads to end

DETROIT: Kamala Harris targeted the Rust Belt, while Donald Trump headed to the biggest US swing states in a frantic last push, reaching Election Day in a historically close campaign. Seventy-five million people have cast early ballots ahead of Tuesday’s climax, and the race is down to the wire — with more states functionally tied in polls at this point than in any comparable election.

As of Saturday evening, neither candidate had a margin greater than three points in any of the seven battleground states set to determine the presidency, according to polling averages maintained by RealClearPolitics.

Harris — aiming to shore up the Great Lakes states seen as essential to any Democratic ticket — was to spend the day in Michigan, beginning in Detroit, then stopping in Pontiac, and concluding with an evening rally at Michigan State University. Trump’s Sunday itinerary centres on Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Georgia, the three largest prizes in the Electoral College system, which awards states influence according to their size.

The 78-year-old has been attempting to distract from a week-long scandal stemming from his rally at New York’s Madison Square Garden, where warm-up speakers alienated Hispanic and female voters with offensive language.

Trump’s surrogates reacted uneasily to this misstep, which looked especially unprofessional compared to Harris’s speech to a massive, jubilant crowd on Washington’s Ellipse, with the White House in the background.

None of Trump’s Sunday events take place in areas with significant Hispanic populations, but Pennsylvania is the swing state with the largest Puerto Rican community, which has expressed anger over the rhetoric at Trump’s rally.

“The choice could not be clearer for Pennsylvanians: President Donald J. Trump stands for America First policies, while Kamala Har-



US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gesturing as he arrives on stage in Michigan, while Vice-President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris walks on stage in Las Vegas. — **AFP**

As of Saturday evening, neither candidate had a margin greater than three points in any of the seven battleground states set to determine the presidency

ris represents incompetence and dangerously liberal policies that are devastating Pennsylvania families,” said the Trump campaign.

Michigan is one of the seven closely watched battlegrounds. Trump flipped the Great Lake State, a former Democratic stronghold, in his 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton. President Joe Biden returned it to the Democratic column in 2020, buoyed by unionised workers and a large Black community.

Seeking to broaden her appeal, Harris ended her Saturday campaign with a surprise appearance on Saturday Night Live, where she satirised her election rival Donald Trump on the iconic sketch show. “Keep Kamala and carry on-ala!”

the Vice-President said, in a well-received appearance alongside Maya Rudolph, who has portrayed her as “America’s fun aunt” on the show.

Aiming for as much television exposure as possible, the Harris campaign booked a two-minute slot to air on Sunday during NFL games, including the Green Bay Packers versus Detroit Lions — teams from critical swing states. In the ad, Harris pledges to be “a president for all Americans” and promises to “build a brighter future for our nation.”

“Campaign research indicates that the last week has proven decisive in solidifying the choice in this election among both undecided and lower-propensity voters,” her campaign stated. — **AFP**

THOUSANDS AT US WOMEN’S MARCH STRESS RIGHTS



People look through during the National Women’s March in Washington, DC. — **AFP**

WASHINGTON: Thousands of women descended on Washington in a passionate show of support for Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and her calls for access to reproductive health care. The Vice-President has made women’s rights a central plank of her White House bid against Republican Donald Trump, and the issue came up constantly among demonstrators at the annual Women’s March.

Other signs had slogans like “Voting prevents unwanted presidencies” and “A woman’s place is in the Oval Office.” Organisers

estimated turnout was about 15,000 people. Other US cities hosted sister marches. With the dome of the US Capitol as the backdrop, speakers at Freedom Plaza whipped up support for 60-year-old Harris. “We’re not going back!” the crowd chanted. Retiree Marlene Wagner, 70, came from Nebraska, saying she was joining “for my grandkids and my children because I fear for their future.”

Trump is “very dangerous” and “dismisses women,” said 66-year-old Abby Cohen of New York, standing near a Planned Parenthood booth. — **AFP**

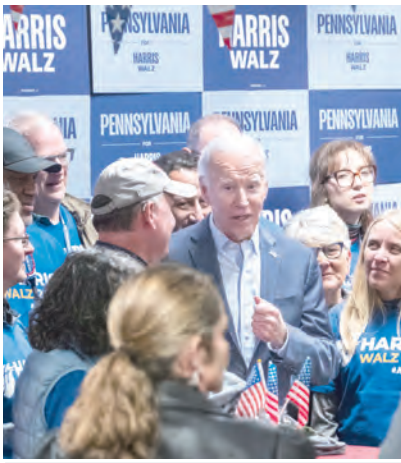
Biden to make final pitches for Harris

SCRANTON: In the final weeks of the presidential campaign, Biden has been cast in the shadow of Vice-President Kamala Harris amid concerns that his unpopularity could be a liability in her race against former president Donald Trump. But as he rallied union members in his hometown during one of his last campaign events in office, Biden was in one of the few places Democrats feel he can still help Harris on the campaign trail.

Scranton is certainly the exception in that respect. Biden rattled Democrats this past week when he appeared to call supporters of Trump “garbage” while denouncing racist comments made by a comedian at a Trump rally.

Even though Biden later explained that he had meant that the comedian’s “hateful rhetoric” was garbage, Harris had to spend time on the campaign trail distancing herself from the comment.

Harris’ rallies are far more enthusiastic and energetic than Biden’s, with crowds of thousands dwarfing those at his events. But Harris campaign officials believe that the incumbent president can still provide a



President Joe Biden speaks with volunteers at a union office in Scranton, Pennsylvania. — **NYT**

key benefit to Harris by rallying working-class white voters and union members in battleground states. “Scranton becomes part of your heart,” Biden said to union members cramped inside a carpenters’ union hall. “It crawls into your heart. It’s real.”

Biden used the speech to argue that Trump would repeal much of his domestic agenda if he beat Harris, including efforts to invest in unions.

He said that even those in the crowd who disagreed with Harris should vote for her if they wanted to keep aspects of

his agenda. “I’m not just asking for me,” Biden said. “I’m going to be gone. I’m asking you to do something for yourself and your families.”

It was Biden’s second day rallying union workers in Pennsylvania, a pivotal battleground state. But Biden’s frequently garbled words and verbal mis-cues provided a reminder of why Democrats had grown so concerned about his ability to defeat Trump.

Paul Begala, a Democratic strategist who has worked on multiple campaigns in Pennsylvania, said the Harris campaign was right to distance itself from Biden in the final stretch of the race. “This is the time for a change election,” Begala said. “People really do want to turn the page.”

But he said Biden’s personal roots in Scranton made him the ideal person to address a vulnerability of Harris’.

“Kamala definitely needs help with high school-educated white men, which is the heart of Trump’s appeal and for Biden, a group he is very strong with,” Begala said. “She will make it up with the women, but if you can send Biden over there, there’s no downside.” — **NYT**

OPINION

The US election is not about popularity alone



SANDHYA RAO MEHTA

The writer is Assoc Prof, Dept of English Language and Translation, SQU

WITHIN THE next few days, the winner of the US presidential election will be announced. Vice-President Kamala Harris and former US president Donald Trump are the contending candidates, and either one will become the 47th president in the 60th quadrennial election. Most people might assume that the winner would simply be the more popular candidate. However, the presidential system is not solely about popularity. There have been instances when a candidate won the popular vote but did not win the election. George Bush Jr’s victory over Al Gore in 2000 and President Trump’s win over Hillary Clinton in 2016 are recent examples of candidates winning the popular vote but losing in the electoral college. The United States Constitution mandates that the winning candidate must secure the majority of electoral college

votes. Each state is allocated a certain number of electoral votes based on its population. In reality, voters cast their ballots for members of the electoral college, who then vote to select the president. Usually, the candidate who wins the most votes in a state also wins its electoral college votes, meaning popularity aligns with victory. The Electoral College comprises 538 votes, and an absolute majority of 270 or more is required to win the presidency. Population size thus plays a significant role. States like California have as many as 54 electoral seats, while others like Wyoming and Alaska only have three each. The primary reason for establishing the electoral college was that, in 1787, the US was a vast country with limited communication networks, making a direct presidential election impractical. The college allowed a select group to represent the people’s will, and it accom-

The constitution of the United States mandates that the winning candidate is the one who gets the maximum number of electoral college votes

modated the fact that southern states had large Black populations who could not vote. However, issues have emerged with this system. As seen in recent years, when the popular vote winner does not win the presidency, it can lead to voter dissatisfaction. Furthermore, swing states hold disproportionate influence in the electoral process. Critics argue that the system is undemocratic, as it grants significant power to a select few in the elite to represent the people’s wishes. Third-party candidates can also be impacted. For example, although Jill Stein has supporters, it is unlikely she would win a state. A vote for her is more symbolic. The fairest outcome would reflect the popular vote through the electoral college. While this is often the case, recent elections have shown it is not always guaranteed.

BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE DISAGREES ON FINANCING

LAURA ALMANZA & ANNETT STEIN

The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) in Cali, Colombia, has ended without agreement on certain financing issues, with representatives of around 200 countries unable to strike a deal overnight. “The goal of halting and even reversing the destruction of nature by 2030 remains a distant prospect after this conference,” said Florian Titzte, an expert in international politics at WWF Germany. Environmental protection organisations had called on representatives of around 200 countries at COP16 to reach a compromise as the two-week negotiations drew to a close on Friday. The conference focused on the technical implementation of the global biodiversity conservation agreement, adopted at the last meeting in Montréal two years ago, as well as on financing issues. The main point of contention in Cali was how to distribute financial support for the countries of the Global South. “It is regrettable that the UN Biodiversity Conference has ended without a strategy for raising further funds for nature conservation having been adopted,” said Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Discussions around the establishment of a new wider biodiversity fund, as well as other key decisions, were postponed and the meeting suspended because there were no longer enough negotiators in the room to take decisions. “The outcome of COP16 represents a mixed bag,” said Ginette Hemley, senior vice-president for wildlife at the World Wildlife Fund-US. “We saw real progress on important issues like benefit sharing related to digital sequence information, health and biodiversity, mainstreaming biodiversity into infrastructure and other sectors, and enabling the increased participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities.” “But the lack of progress on finance will hold back efforts to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030,” Hemley added. The conference, the biggest meeting of its kind yet with around 23,000 registered delegates, was tasked with assessing, and ramping up, progress toward reaching 23 targets set in Canada two years ago to halt humankind’s rapacious destruction of nature’s bounty by 2030. — dpa

The story of kids who lose their rhythm

AMONG THE countless stories I have witnessed in my life, none have been more difficult to share than that of the kids who lose their rhythm. Childhood experiences shape our minds, lives, and relationships. In the womb, we are first comforted and regulated by the steady rhythm of our mother’s heartbeat. But for some of the people we know, this rhythm is shattered by acts of violence that leave them forever altered. The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that at least one in six boys and one in four girls endure abuse during their childhood. This is not just a dehumanisation and violation of the body; it is a profound breach of trust and a physical, mental, spiritual and emotional rupture that reverberates through every aspect of their lives. Globally, the cost of addressing violence is staggering. In the US, the economic burden is estimated at around \$1.2 trillion, including direct medical expenses, lost productivity, mental health care, and legal costs. These figures emphasise the urgency of investing in policies that prevent and address abuse while helping survivors rebuild their lives. Assault trauma is a heavy burden that erodes survivors’ sense of self, their strength, and their hope. Survivors often experience intense feelings of shame and hypersensitivity triggered by a culture that misunderstands, stigmatises and isolates them. Historically, this tactic of breaking the human spirit has been evident in the brutal practice of ‘breaking the buck,’ a method used by slavers to publicly humiliate and control the enslaved. Today, similar tactics persist. The UN has documented that Israeli occupation forces employ abuse to break the spirits



Oman has made progress with the Child Law of 2014, which established Child Care Committees in each of the eleven Governorates



KHALID AL SAFI AL HURAIBI

khalidalharibi@gmail.com

of Palestinian children, a stark reminder of the enduring use of violence as a weapon of domination and control. In the Sultanate of Oman, progress has been made with the Child Law of 2014, which established Child Care Committees in each of the eleven governorates. These committees comprise social workers, educators, mental health experts, and law enforcement officers who implement policies to prevent, address and prosecute abuse. However, challenges remain. Recent data indicate a steady increase in reported cases that doubled between 2017-2018 to reach almost 200 cases, in part due to improved reporting systems and rising cyberbullying incidents. Authorities are implementing several initiatives to bridge critical gaps, including public mental health services that currently lack the infrastructure to offer confidential appointments with specialists, and private hospitals that often are not able to provide the level of privacy that survivors need. Addressing violence effectively requires a multi-faceted approach involving four types of policies: preventative, curative, punitive, and alleviative. Curative or palliative policies focus on long-term, survivor-

centred mental health services, modelled after international best practices like Australia’s ‘Respectful Relationships’ programme and Iceland’s ‘Trauma-Informed Care’ model, which prioritise empathetic, holistic care. Punitive policies must ensure swift and transparent legal actions, signalling zero tolerance for abuse while avoiding re-traumatising victims. Alleviative policies involve creating safe spaces and supportive environments through community-based initiatives that provide support groups, resilience-building activities, and accessible mental health care. We, as a society, measure true civilisation not by our power or wealth, but by how we care for our most vulnerable members. Each one of us has a role to play in restoring the rhythm of those who have lost it. If you work in the private sector, propose to your colleagues that your company sponsors child safety programmes. Public sector employees can advocate for adequate public funding and the thoughtful implementation of relevant policies. Medical professionals, please dedicate more of your time and expertise to healing those burdened with trauma. Educators, take special care in applying the preventative measures outlined in the School Education Law of 2023. And to law enforcement officers, act with urgency and empathy, ensuring that victims are not burdened with shame. Most importantly, let us all strive to be kind. Survivors need kindness, not judgement, compassion, not isolation. Together, we can build and nurture communities, including mosques, schools, peers, playgrounds, workplaces, support groups and media where no child loses their rhythm and every survivor finds hope and healing.

Experience the language of spirit



ABDULAZIZ AL JAHDHAMI
aljahdhami22@gmail.com

An author, columnist, creative writer, translator and a communications professional

HAVE you ever experienced the thrill of listening to a specific type of music that calms you down and refreshes your mind? This kind of music can evoke deep emotions and bring back old memories. Often, such music is tied to particular times or occasions and is played for those purposes. There is no doubt that music has a profound impact on our emotions! As Plato, an ancient Greek philosopher, said, “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

Music affects our emotions in unique ways, captivating listeners regardless of their age, background, or beliefs. When you hear music, it can draw you in, even if you don't typically consider yourself a music fan. This is how music resonates with people and stimulates their senses! Emotions and memories are easily stirred by music. Kahlil Gibran, a Lebanese-American writer, poet and visual artist; wisely noted, “Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life, bringing peace and abolishing strife.”

Though some people may not love music, it is an integral part of our lives. Can you imagine spending a day without listening to music? Whether it is the tunes on the radio during your commute, background music while you shop, or soundtracks in TV shows or movies, music influences our moods, tells stories, and can even bring us down. If you don't want to experience this personally, just observe chil-

dren's reactions when music plays! It captures their attention and makes them move instinctively.

In fact, music has touched cultures all over the world since ancient times. There isn't a single human culture on Earth that has existed without music. Every culture has its own distinct musical forms, unique to its region, much like language and cuisine. For instance, both Native Africans and Native Americans used music in the form of chanting for rituals and healing ceremonies. In Ancient Greece, music was employed to ease stress, soothe pain, and improve sleep patterns. Many have claimed that music heals the soul, and there seems to be truth in that notion.

GOOD THING ABOUT MUSIC

On a different note, have you ever wondered how music affects our health? People are born with the ability to distinguish between music and noise. Our brains have different pathways for processing various aspects of music, including pitch, melody, rhythm, and tempo. Fast-paced music can increase heart rate, breathing, and blood pressure, while slower music tends to have the opposite effect. As Bob Marley, a Jamaican singer, songwriter, and guitarist, once noted, “One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.”

Some researchers suggest that music not only helps people cope with pain, but also

benefits physical and mental health in numerous ways. For example, music can improve sleep quality, encourage healthier eating habits, enhance blood vessel function, reduce stress, alleviate symptoms of depression, and aid recovery in stroke patients. However, more studies are needed to fully confirm the potential health benefits of music.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It is hard to imagine any culture where music does not play a vital role. The benefits of music for the human soul may be intangible, but they are immense. Music opens new worlds for people; it can tell stories, inspire, or help us relax. Regardless of your taste in music, melodies have a significant impact on your brain and spirit.

Generally, music is a universal language that goes beyond culture and time, weaving its way into the fabric of human experience. It evokes emotions, tells stories, and connects people in profound ways. From ancient chants to modern pop, music reflects the diversity of human expression and creativity. Whether experienced live in concerts, played at home, or streamed on digital platforms, music can uplift our spirits, provide relief, or inspire action.

Music has the power to bring people together, serving as a backdrop for celebrations, rituals, and moments of reflection. Its rhythm, melody, and harmony resonate deeply within humans.

In fact, music has touched cultures all over the world since ancient times. There isn't a single human culture on Earth that has existed without music

AMID WAR, GAZA FISHERMEN STRUGGLE TO FEED FAMILIES

MOHAMMED SALEM

After over a year of war in Gaza, Palestinian fishermen gather along the coastline, desperately casting their nets in hopes of catching enough for their families amid widespread hunger.

Since Israel began a military onslaught in Gaza after the October 2023 attack, Israeli restrictions in the waters off the enclave have made life almost impossible for fishermen, who no longer sail out to sea and instead must stay by the shore.

In Khan Yunis, Ibrahim Ghurab, 71, and Waseem Al Masry, 24, fish for sardines from the shoreline in front of a encampment of tents and makeshift shelters for those displaced by the war.

“Life is difficult,” Ghurab said. “One tries to secure food. There is no aid, we don't receive anything anymore. In the beginning there was some (humanitarian) aid, very little, but now there is no more.”

Fishermen like Ghurab and Al Masry struggle daily to bring in even a modest catch to feed their families. There is rarely any fish left over from a daily haul to be sold to others.

Fishing was an important part of daily life in Gaza before the war, helping people eke out a living by selling their daily hauls in the market and feed the population.

But scant aid is reaching Gaza amid Israeli restrictions and frequent fighting, and many people have no income. The price of simple goods are largely out of reach for most.

“We have to come here and risk our lives,” Al Masry said, describing shootings by the Israeli military from the sea that he accused of targeting fisherman on the beach in Khan Yunis.

Ghurab similarly said that Israeli military boats had fired upon fisherman at Khan Yunis.

The Israeli military did not respond to requests for comment on the claims the military had shot at fishermen.

Israel's retaliatory war has devastated densely populated Gaza and displaced most of the 2.3 million population. At least 43,341 Palestinians have been killed and 102,105 injured since Israel's military offensive on Gaza on October 7, 2023, Gaza's health ministry said on Sunday. — Reuters



A fisherman struggles daily to bring in even a modest catch to feed their families. — Reuters

Financial innovation meets sustainable development

WHENEVER THE world's financial and political leaders convene – whether at the G20 summit, the United Nations General Assembly, or the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings — the most urgent development challenges are nearly always on the agenda. Increasingly, the solution these leaders propose to such problems, from poverty alleviation and public-health crises to climate change and the energy transition, is more financing.

They are not wrong. Addressing each of these challenges requires more than a trillion dollars. For example, Latin America and the Caribbean need \$2.2 trillion to invest in sustainable infrastructure, while emerging markets worldwide require \$1.5 trillion per year for such projects. And much of this financing will come from multilateral development banks (MDBs), which have already started to use their balance sheets more aggressively.

But equally important is MDBs' innovative deployment of instruments — including capital-market mechanisms, structured finance, and sustainability-linked bonds – to mobilise more public and private finance for such investments. Moreover, MDBs are offering guarantees, debt swaps, contingency financing without commitment fees, and climate-resilience clauses to client countries in exchange for commitments to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions and protect nature.

To be sure, these instruments are not necessarily new. The Code of Hammurabi, which is nearly 4,000 years old, allows for the suspension of debt payments following a flood or drought. The use of green capital-market instruments dates back to at least the 1640s, when Dutch water boards issued perpetual bonds to finance improvements to local canals. And credit guarantees have existed since the nineteenth century.

The innovation is that MDBs have introduced these instruments into cross-border finance. Facilitating further progress requires ensuring that they are integrated into developing countries' economic policies and



For many emerging and developing economies, balancing economic growth with poverty alleviation and climate objectives is the central challenge.

become standardised — and thus replicable.

For many emerging and developing economies, balancing economic growth with poverty alleviation and climate objectives is the central challenge. Their governments must deploy the full range of available financial tools to combat global warming while ensuring that these efforts result in productivity gains and growth. Otherwise, their debt will become unsustainable.

The energy transition, for example, requires investing in renewables, expanding transmission networks to overcome the intermittency problem, and mitigating the risk of stranded fossil-fuel assets. In the many developing countries where utilities are financially constrained, the burden is unaffordable. Climate finance thus requires economic policymaking that considers the ability of consumers and taxpayers to repay these investments. Policies related to pricing, regulation, sector planning, and the investment environment will increasingly determine financial viability.

The dramatic increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather also requires a shift in economic thinking. Finance ministers generally rely on emergency-response financing to rebuild after such events, based on the belief

that catastrophes are few and far between. However, the most intense hurricanes are now more than three times more frequent than they were a century ago, droughts last longer, and more predictable events, such as seasonal storms, are increasingly severe. Worse, disasters – including pandemics – are increasingly overlapping.

Governments must therefore use proactive financial instruments — from loans that finance flood management systems to guarantees that support climate-change adaptation – to build resilience before extreme weather events occur. Each dollar spent on advance planning can save up to \$13 in reconstruction costs when a crisis hits, minimising emergency borrowing.

Another innovation is the standardisation of available mechanisms. This includes clarity on their intended use, because markets must understand the benefits accruing from instruments that incentivise sustainable practices in order to price them properly. To that end, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission recently issued guidance for the listing of carbon-offset derivatives, and the International Sustainability Standards Board is focusing on developing green bond standards.

©Project Syndicate, 2024



JORDAN SCHWARTZ

The writer is Executive Vice-President of the Inter-American Development Bank

SPORTS

SHORT TAKES



Show jumping competition

67 HORSES QUALIFY FOR INTERNATIONAL ENDURANCE RACE

WALEED AL JAHWARI
MUSCAT, NOV 3

The international qualifying endurance race concluded on Saturday with 105 horses competing over distances of 120 km and 100 km at Al Mahamid Endurance Village in the Wilayat of Barka. The race was organised by the Oman Equestrian and Racing Federation (OERF) and supervised by the International Equestrian Federation.

In total, 67 horses qualified across various races. Four horses qualified over a distance of 120 km out of five competitors, 27 horses completed 100 km out of 38 entries, 13 riders succeeded over an 80 km course among 80 participants, and 23 horses completed the 40 km race out of 32 entries.

The international 120 km race comprised four stages: the first stage (white) covered 40 km, the second and third stages (yellow) each covered 30 km, and the fourth stage (blue) covered 20 km. The required heart rate was 64 beats per minute, and the minimum speed was set at 14 km/h.

The 100 km race included three stages: 40 km (white), followed by two 30 km (yellow) stages. The heart rate requirement was also 64 bpm, with a speed limit of 14 km/h. The 80 km race had two stages, both covering 40 km (white), while the 40 km race comprised one stage. The heart rate requirement for both the 100 km and 80 km races was set at 56 bpm, with a maximum speed of 16 km/h and a minimum speed of 14 km/h.

Show Jumping Competitions
In parallel, the federation concluded its show jumping competitions at the Olympic field in Barka, featuring 108 horses across six categories.

In the 130 cm height category, Madin al Yousfi from the Royal Cavalry claimed first place. Jamal al Sharyani from the Royal Guard of Oman won the 120 cm height category. Bassam al Ghabshi from ROP triumphed in the 110 cm category, competing against 18 participants. In the 100 cm category, with 14 horses competing, Rashid al Mashaykhi from ROP emerged as the champion. Madin al Yousfi, also from the Royal Cavalry, secured first place in the 90 cm height category for the second time, competing against 28 entries.

In the beginners' category, set at 70 cm, 15 out of 36 riders successfully completed the round.



Sohar, Ibri edge out close wins, Al Nahda held to draw

AHMED AL KAABI
MUSCAT, NOV 3

AS part of the tenth round of the Oman Football League, Sohar defeated Saham with a narrow 1-0 victory on Saturday at the Sohar Sports Complex. The first half saw a balanced game between the two teams, ending in a goalless draw. Saham had a slight edge but missed three key opportunities that could have changed the result, as their attack failed to capitalise. Meanwhile, Sohar did not perform at their usual level, with players struggling to meet expectations, leading to a scoreless first half.

In the second half, the game became more intense and competitive, marked by the dismissal of Saham's Salah al Kahali and Sohar's striker Mohsen Joher, leaving each team with ten players. The teams exchanged attacks, with opportunities and counters from both the flanks and the centre. Brazilian player João Pedro da Silva scored the winning goal for Sohar in the 86th minute, converting a cross, and Sohar maintained this lead until the final whistle, securing a 1-0 victory.

With this win, Sohar achieved their second league victory of the season, ending a seven-game streak without a win. This victory raised Sohar's points to 9, temporarily moving to seventh place, while Saham remained with the same



points but ahead on goal difference. Ibri claimed a valuable 1-0 win against Bahla in their match at Nizwa Sports Complex. The game was balanced, with Bahla showing solid performance but missing several chances thwarted by Ibri's goalkeeper, Mutia al Saadi. Bahla's attacks, led by Mohammed al Mufriji and Hosni al Hinai, varied from the flanks but lacked successful finishing. Ibri relied on counterattacks through Ishaad Ubaid and professional player Jacques Bessan, though the first half ended in a goalless draw.

In the second half, both teams continued their attempts, and as the match neared its end, Khalid bin Juma al Buraiki scored the winning goal for Ibri in the final minute, taking advantage of a defensive lapse by Bahla. Bahla attempted

to equalise in stoppage time but to no avail, ending the match with Ibri's victory.

With this win, Ibri raised their points to 10 and climbed to sixth place in the standings, while Bahla remained at 8 points, temporarily dropping to eighth.

Al Nahda and Oman Club played to a goalless draw in their match at Al Buraimi Sports Complex. The first half was relatively balanced, with Al Nahda showing a slight edge by attacking from the flanks and earning several corner kicks. Bilal Bin Sahah missed a close opportunity from a direct free kick that Oman Club's goalkeeper saved skilfully. Oman Club relied on zonal defence and quick counterattacks, attempting to exploit long balls behind Al Nahda's defence but without scoring.

In the second half, the pace of the attacks increased, with both teams exchanging chances. Daniel Etor missed a clear chance for Oman Club after a defensive error by Al Nahda. Both coaches made substitutions to strengthen the offence, but Oman Club's defence held firm, and Al Nahda couldn't convert their opportunities.

The match ended scoreless, costing Al Nahda two valuable points in the title race with Seeb, although they retained the top spot temporarily with 25 points, while Oman Club moved up to 18 points, holding third place in the standings.

Chinese paddlers dominate WTT Contender Muscat with clean sweep

ADIL AL BALUSHI
MUSCAT, NOV 3

Chinese paddlers made a clean sweep in all the events at the competitive WTT Contender Muscat 2024, which concluded in Muscat Governorate on Saturday at the indoor hall of the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex. Young players from China, including both genders, produced a series of impressive results to top the leaderboard in each of the events. The only South Korean pairs and the Hong Kong duo who were in the finals of the women's doubles event and mixed doubles event suffered defeat to the Chinese pairs.

World No 2 Lin Shidong confirmed his top show with a 4-1 win over his teammate Wen Ruiho (Seed No 2 in the tourna-



ment). The top-seeded player in the event produced an excellent performance as he ended the opening set by 11-6 before Ruiho bounced back to make a powerful comeback in the next set, winning 9-11. In the following three sets, Lin Shidong dominated to seal his victory by 11-1, 11-2, and 11-7, securing the men's singles event title.

Chinese paddler Kuai Man stole the limelight as she crowned champion for two titles: women's singles and the mixed doubles event with Lin Shidong. The young paddler managed to end the women's singles on a successful note, wrapping up the match at 4-2 (12-10, 8-11, 12-10, 11-7, 5-11, 11-9), while in the mixed doubles event, they won against Doo Hoi and Wong Chun from Hong Kong.

In the men's doubles final, China's duo of Yuan Lichen and Xiang Peng grabbed the title following their defeat of their teammates Zhou Qihao and Xue Fei by 3-1 (11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8). The Chinese pair of Yang Yiyun and Zhu Sibing blanked the South Korean duo of Kim Seoyun and Yoon Hyobin by 3-1 (9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 9-11) to clinch the title of the women's doubles.

The event offered a total cash prize of \$80,000 in five disciplines, including men's and women's singles/doubles and mixed doubles. All the paddlers who reached the main draw received their cash prizes.

The six-day event featured the participation of 180 paddlers, referees, and officials representing 22 countries across the world,

including China, Croatia, France, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Chinese Taipei, Yemen, Bahrain, Palestine, Egypt, Czech Republic, and the hosts, the Sultanate of Oman.

Basil bin Ahmed al Rawas, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports and Youth, was the chief guest for the final, in the presence of Abdullah bin Mohammed Bamakhilif, Chairman of the Oman Table Tennis Association (OTTA). The chief guest awarded the trophies and individual awards to the winning players. The representatives of OTTA's commercial partners took part in distributing the awards to the winners in different categories.

SHORT TAKES



TRANSPORT TEAM WIN RCA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

WALEED AL JAHWARI
MUSCAT, NOV 3

The General Directorate of Transport team was crowned champion of the 13th football championship of the Royal Court Affairs Units (RCA) in Muscat, after beating the General Directorate of Human Resources team on penalty kicks. The final match was under the auspices of Nasr bin Hamoud al Kindi, Secretary-General of the Royal Court Affairs, at the Royal Court Affairs Stadium in Al Khoudh.

The player Hatem al Hamhami from the General Directorate of Human Resources team received the best player award, Said al Saadi from the General Directorate of Veterinary Services team received the top scorer award with 6 goals, and Zahran al Jabri from the General Directorate of Transport team received the award of the best goalkeeper, while the Royal Camel Corps fans won the award of the best fans. In the group stage, the General Directorate of Human Resources team was able to qualify by achieving 9 points, then passed the quarter-finals to the semi-finals after defeating the Royal Aviation team on penalties, and in the semi-finals, it was able to eliminate the Royal Cavalry team with a clean goal.

As for the champion, the General Directorate of Transport team, it was able to qualify from the group stage by achieving 12 points. In the quarter-finals, they defeated the General Directorate of Gardens and Royal Farms team with three clean goals, to complete its journey to the semi-finals and eliminate the Royal Cavalry team with a clean goal.

Nasr al Wahaibi, coach of the General Directorate of Transport team said that “This tournament has a special flavour after a four-year hiatus, and we were able to achieve victory over the General Directorate of Human Resources team on penalty kicks after a positive draw of one goal for one goal despite the difficulty of the match, and this victory came as a result of the solidarity of the team players and will be an incentive for the team in the upcoming versions to be on the podium of the coronation”. With this victory the General Directorate of Transport team raised the number of the titles to four after winning it in the years 2019, 2018, and 2016.



Al Harthy finishes sixth in FIA WEC in Bahrain



BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL Circuit provided a challenging final race of the FIA World Endurance Championship season for Ahmad al Harthy, Maxime Martin and Valentino Rossi on Saturday, 2nd November, with the trio ending the Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain 14th in LMGT3.

While round eight didn't deliver the result the Team WRT drivers had hoped or worked for, largely due to tyre degradation issues, they still managed to close out a very strong season in the World Championship sixth in the LMGT3 driver standings – the inaugural year for the class.

Lining-up 13th on the class grid for the eight-hour season finale, OQ, Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Omantel, Experience Oman and BMW Oman supported racer Al Harthy made a customary good start and gained two places. Leapfrogging the sister Team WRT BMW M4 in the process, he ended the opening lap in 11th position.

Moving into the top 10 later in the first hour, as the first round of pit-stops started to be served, the Omani stayed out on track initially and climbed further into the top six as a result with just under 55 minutes elapsed.

Following his first visit to the pits soon after, Al Harthy emerged in 10th position and aimed to make progress but was instead shuffled back to 12th in the second hour. He then pitted again ahead of the



end of hour two.

Rossi climbed behind the wheel of the No.46 BMW M4 for his first race miles and when the order settled he was 12th. Gaining a couple of places to reappear in the top 10, Rossi pitted around 45 minutes into hour three and rejoined in 12th once again. Al Harthy returned to the driving seat for his final stint before the end of hour four, running in 14th and staying in that position up to the next pit visit. Martin then took over driving duties, joining

the race in 15th place. With two and a half hours to go he was up into 13th position, before Rossi took over for his final running of the race.

Thereafter, the final couple of hours passed in similar fashion with Martin doing his utmost to gain some ground but being ultimately frustrated. Running in 13th with less than half an hour to go, Martin had to make one final pit visit and so eventually took the chequered flag at the end of eight hours in 14th place in LMGT3.

AHMAD AL HARTHY:
“Bahrain has been one part of a very busy and competitive World Championship. It's been a huge honour to represent Oman, and achieve some amazing results, in FIA WEC this year – it really is one of the toughest championships in endurance racing. We wanted to have ended the WEC season stronger, but it just wasn't our weekend. The tyre degradation meant we struggled a lot compared to our other competitors.

“Once again, I want to thank everyone who has worked with us this season in WEC, my team-mates Maxime and Vale, and everyone behind the scenes at BMW and WRT for a very, very hard-fought season in World Endurance. Of course, I am also so grateful for all of the amazing support we have had this year from our incredible partners and everyone back in Oman.”

Nizwa and Seeb Clubs claim decisive wins

AHMED AL KAABI
MUSCAT, NOV 3

The preliminary round matches of the Junior Basketball Championship for the 2024-2025 sports season, held at Al Amal Club Hall and Sohar Sports Complex, concluded with Nizwa Club defeating Qurayat with a score of 83-52, and Seeb Club triumph over Masirah with a score of 58-33.

In the first match, Nizwa Club achieved victory over Qurayat with a score of 83-52.

Nizwa started by scoring 29 points, while Qurayat scored 15 points. In the second quarter, Qurayat came up offensively, but Nizwa continued their lead, scoring 17 points to Qurayat's 13, ending the second half with Nizwa leading 46-28.



In the third quarter, the competition continued, with Qurayat scoring 15 points and Nizwa adding 16 points, to finish the quarter with a score of 62-43 in favour of Nizwa. In the fourth quarter, Nizwa maintained defensive dominance, scoring 21 points to Qurayat's 9, ending the game with Nizwa's victory at 83-52.

The match was officiated by Ali al Salmani, Husain al Awameri, Al Mahdi al Alawi, the table managed by Musa al Siyabi, Rayan al Dhahbouni, and Mariam al Zadjali.

In the second match, Seeb Club achieved a significant victory over Masirah Club with a score of 58-33 in an exciting encounter at the Sohar Sports Complex. Seeb controlled the game and secured points through the focused efforts of its players, especially Azan al

Ajmi, who scored 19 points, Zaid al Bahlani with 15 points, and Saif al Yahya with 12 points. On the other hand, Badr al Farsi scored 8 points for Masirah, with Ayham al Shizawi and Rashid al Eisai contributing 6 points each. In the first quarter, Seeb dominated scoring 14 points while Masirah managed 4 points. Seeb continued their lead in the second quarter, ending the second half with Seeb ahead 37-13.

In the third quarter, Seeb widened the gap further, scoring 14 points to Masirah's 6, finishing the quarter at 51-19. The fourth quarter saw a noticeable improvement in Masirah's performance as they attempted to close the gap, successfully scoring 14 points, while Seeb added 7 points, concluding the game with Seeb's victory over Masirah at 58-33.

SPORTS

SALAH SENDS LIVERPOOL TOP

Man City surrender long unbeaten run

LIVERPOOL ENJOYED a perfect day as they came from behind to beat Brighton and Hove Albion 2-1 and Premier League title rivals Manchester City and Arsenal both suffered defeats on Saturday.

Mohamed Salah secured the points for Liverpool at Anfield to put Arne Slot's side two points clear of injury-hit champions City who lost in the league for the first time in 11 months, going down to a shock 2-1 defeat at Bournemouth.

Arsenal lost 1-0 at Newcastle United, meaning Mikel Arteta's side have managed only one point from their last three games.

Nottingham Forest's dream start to the season continued as they crushed West Ham United 3-0 to move into third place.

Liverpool have 25 points from 10 games with City on 23 while Forest have 19. Arsenal are fourth with 18 points although could slip out of the top four if fifth-placed Aston Villa avoid defeat at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Slot has enjoyed the best start by any new Liverpool manager since replacing Juergen Klopp and Saturday's victory was his side's 13th in 15 matches in all competitions.

While the defeats for City and Arsenal were a bonus, the Dutchman said he was only concerned with his own side.

"Not because of those results but it feels special because we faced Arsenal last week who are a very tough team," he said.

"Today we faced the same quality and idea about football and both times we had to come from behind to get a result. That is what makes my day, not so much the results from other games."

Liverpool fell behind after 14 minutes against Brighton with Turkey international Ferdi Kadioglu rifling in a stunning effort as the visitors seized control.

Slot's side were struggling to get back on level terms but got a break when Cody Gakpo's 69th-minute cross went straight into the net to lift the mood.

Three minutes later Salah curled home a stunning effort from the right side of the penalty area and that proved enough.

"The second goal was a Mohamed Salah special," Slot said.

City boss Pep Guardiola had lamented his side's injury list in the build-up to their game at Bournemouth and his side were without John Stones and Ruben Dias as well as several others as their club record 32-game unbeaten Premier League run ended.

"We couldn't match up to the intensity," Guardiola said.

MISERABLE RUN
Bournemouth had lost all 14 of their previous Premier League meetings with City with an ag-



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah celebrates with Diaz. — Reuters

gregate score of 45-7 but ended that miserable run as City lost for the second time this week after a League Cup exit at Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday.

Bournemouth went in front after nine minutes with Antoine Semenyo touching in a low cross by Milos Kerkez.

Evanilson doubled the home side's lead in the 64th minute after more good work by Kerkez before Josko Gvardiol halved the deficit to set up a tense finale in which Erling Haaland somehow hit the post from point-blank range.

Arsenal managed only one shot on target in the early kick-off at St James' Park where Newcastle striker Alexander Isak's early headed goal proved the difference between the sides.

Forest won a third Premier League game in a row for the first time since 1999 as they took West Ham apart.

In-form striker Chris Wood gave his side the lead against West Ham who were reduced to 10 men on the cusp of halftime as Edson Alvarez chopped down Anthony Elanga. Callum Hudson-Odoi doubled Forest's lead after the break before Ola Aina blasted in a third goal to send the City Ground fans into raptures.

"I think we can get better," Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo said of taking Forest as high as third in the Premier League for the first time since 1998, said.

Promoted Southampton celebrated a first Premier League victory of the season as Adam Armstrong struck a late winner to clinch a 1-0 triumph over Everton at St Mary's.

Ipswich Town thought they hade also registered a first Premier League win of the season as they led Leicester City 1-0 at Portman Road thanks to a Leif Davis volley.

But Jordan Ayew scored deep into stoppage time to salvage a point for Leicester. Ipswich had tried to hang on with 10 men after Calvin Phillips was sent off with 12 minutes left.

Ipswich and Southampton both remain in the relegation zone with Wolverhampton Wanderers still bottom after a 2-2 draw at home to Crystal Palace in the late kick-off.

— Reuters



Liverpool's Mohammed Salah celebrates scoring second goal. — Reuters

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE
4,747.429

BUSINESS



THE DIFFERENCE...
Our History with you
Banking that is proudly human



MoUs signed to empower SMEs

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 3

IN A STRATEGIC move to support the growth and sustainability of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) signed three key memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on November 3. The agreements, made with Sharakah (Youth Projects Development Fund), Ooredoo Oman and Al Wadiah Business Company, aim to drive economic diversification and innovation within Oman's private sector.

The signing event was attended by Shaikh Faisal bin Abdullah al Rawas, OCCI Chairman, and several board members.

Zakaria al Saadi, CEO of the Chamber, highlighted that these partnerships are essential for fostering the long-term growth of SMEs, aligning with the Chamber's goals to build a sustainable, knowledge-based economy.

"These MoUs play a pivotal role in supporting SMEs by offering them economic opportunities, expanding their reach, and boosting their competitiveness," Al Saadi said. He emphasised that these partnerships contribute to Oman Vision 2040, which prioritises private sector



Zakaria al Saadi, CEO of the Chamber, highlighted that these partnerships are essential for fostering the long-term growth of SMEs, aligning with the Chamber's goals to build a sustainable, knowledge-based economy.

growth and national economic development. The MoU with Ooredoo aims to enhance digital capabilities and provide SMEs with essential tools to compete in the market. Ooredoo will offer specialised training programmes, communications packages, and marketing solutions tailored to SMEs, especially those led by young Omani entrepreneurs.

Bassam al Ibrahim, CEO of Ooredoo, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, noting, "Our collaboration with OCCI will

open new sales channels, provide targeted support, and help SMEs increase access to digital solutions across various sectors."

Under the agreement, Ooredoo will also facilitate training for sales staff in partnership with local offices and institutions, enabling SMEs to tap into new market opportunities.

Sharakah's collaboration with the Chamber focuses on data-driven support, with plans to create a comprehensive SME database. This project will serve as a vital resource for identifying high-potential

The agreements, made with Sharakah (Youth Projects Development Fund), Ooredoo Oman and Al Wadiah Business Company, aim to drive economic diversification and innovation within Oman's private sector.

SMEs and connecting them with employment contracts, direct funding, or other resources based on business readiness.

ECONOMIC GROWTH
Ali Muqbil, CEO of Sharakah, described the database as a "strategic foundation" for Oman's SME ecosystem, enabling targeted support to fuel economic growth. Sharakah and OCCI are committed to leveraging shared expertise to drive meaningful economic development and ensure that opportunities reach SMEs in line with Oman's broader economic goals. Al Wadiah Business Company, a financial technology provider, will work closely with OCCI to expand SMEs' access to finance. Through workshops, training sessions, and direct support, Al Wadiah aims to streamline loan processes, connect SMEs with investors, and facilitate access to banking and government programmes. Al Wadiah CEO, Hamza al Lawati, emphasised the importance of creating a supportive financial ecosystem for SMEs, saying, "Our joint efforts with the Chamber will enable us to direct financing toward promising SME projects and connect these businesses with essential funding channels."



The average export price stood at \$82.6 per barrel.

Oman's oil exports hit 230 million barrels

MUSCAT: Oman's oil exports reached 230.6 million barrels by the end of September 2024, accounting for 84.6% of the country's total oil production of 272.4 million barrels.

The average export price stood at \$82.6 per barrel. Data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information showed a slight 0.1% increase in exports compared to the same period in 2023, despite a 5.1% drop in production year-on-year.

By the end of September 2024, crude oil production fell 6.7% to 208.5 million barrels, while condensate production rose slightly to 63.9 million barrels. The average daily production was 994,200 barrels.

China remained the top importer of Omani oil, receiving 219.6 million barrels, a 4.5% increase.

Japan followed with 4 million barrels (down 46.4%), South Korea with 3.8 million barrels (up 31.8%), and India with 2 million barrels (down 26.3%).

TENDER FOR DUQM FISHING PORT EXPANSION



The project will include roads, lighting, drainage, sewage, water and communication networks.

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has issued a tender for infrastructure upgrades at the Duqm fishing port, funded by the Saudi Development Fund.

The project will include roads, lighting, drainage, sewage, water, firefighting, and communication networks.

OPAZ is inviting bids from Omani and Saudi consortiums, with submissions due by November 18 via the "Esnad" platform. The port, covering 7.5 sq km, has six floating berths, a 1.3-km fixed quay, and a dedicated Coast Guard berth. The expansion aligns with plans to support fisheries and green energy initiatives, boosting Duqm's strategic position for food and renewable industries.

The port is operated by Duqm Port Investment Company, a coalition involving Oman's Investment Authority (OIA), Asyad Ports, Al Wusta Fisheries, Oman Food Investment Holding, and France's Lorient Port Company.



TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) announces the following tender:

SR. NO.	TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	FLOATING DATE	LAST DATE FOR OBTAINING THE DOCUMENTS	BID SUBMISSION DATE	REQUIREMENTS FROM PARTICIPATORS	TENDER DOCUMENT'S FEES (INCLUDING VAT) (RO)
1	120/2024	Consultancy Services for Design and Supervision of Construction of Al Kamil 400/132kV Grid Station along with Associated 400KV LULO.	04/11/2024	18/11/2024	17/12/2024	Local Companies with Experience in Same Field, Have A Valid Commercial Registration.	525/-
Participation		Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity Apply on E-tendering					
Buying the Tender		By E-Tendering System.					
Fees		Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document. (Payment Through Bank Transfer), SMEs are exempted from tender's fees.					
The deadline for clarification		Before (21) Days from bid submission date.					
Submission		The submission of hard copy will be only for Bid Bond & other documents by E-Tendering					
Terms and conditions		- Specifying the name of the Company or whatever refers to in the Bid Guarantee Envelope. - The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from bid submission date. - The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value and should be valid for (90) days from bid submission date, addressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC). - Small & Medium Enterprises are exempted from the submission of 1% of the bid bond. - Any bid not comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted.					
Offer		The bid bond should be submitted in Tender Box No. (1) at the company's building before 11:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.					
Company Address		Muscat - Al Mawaleh Road No: 2153 - Building No. 423 0 Block No: 321 - Contact Details: 91777378					
Email Website		tenders@omangrid.com www.omangrid.com / Link of E-Tendering System https://www.omangrid.com/en/Pages/Services.aspx					

ADVERTORIALS



BANKDHOFAR
LAUNCHES BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS
INITIATIVE

MUSCAT: BankDhofar - the second largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of branch network - has organised a special initiative to raise awareness among its customers about breast cancer prevention methods by providing a mobile screening unit in three branches; Bausher, Al Qurum and Seeb Town, to conduct early detection tests and raise awareness of this global disease. This initiative coincides with the month of October, which is dedicated to raising awareness of breast cancer, in partnership with the Oman Cancer Association.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the Sultanate of Oman. The Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre received approximately 1,145 cases of breast cancer last year. This centre provides counselling and genetic testing for all newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. The centre also receives patients suspected of having breast cancer at the One-Stop Breast Clinic, with the aim of obtaining a rapid diagnosis and starting treatment as soon as possible in case of confirmation.

Said bin Juma al Busaidy, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at BankDhofar, emphasised that the bank's top priority is to support issues that concern the community, which is why we support initiatives launched by various government and private entities.

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the bank supports the initiatives and directions taken by the Oman Cancer Association and other organisations to educate society about this disease and raise awareness about it.

He said "Breast cancer is one of the most common diseases among women in the Sultanate of Oman, which is why the bank takes this cause very seriously by educating customers about the seriousness of the disease and emphasising the need for early screening, which contributes to a speedy recovery from the disease.

He explained that BankDhofar is keen to launch several awareness programmes and initiatives every year, thus reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility initiatives that address the well-being of customers and the entire community."

The civil society organisations, especially the Oman Cancer Association, are making strenuous efforts to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention, screening and treatment, especially during the month of October, by organising a number of activities, initiatives and various events to achieve the desired goal.

MGD wins jewellery retail chain of the year award

MALABAR Gold & Diamonds (DGD), the world's 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 365 showrooms across 13 countries, has won the Jewellery Retail Chain of the Year award at the 'Business Leadership summit & awards 2024'.

Najeeb K, Regional Head of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Oman received the award in the presence of Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in the presence of Mohamed bin Issa al Zadjali, Chairman of Muscat Media Group and Muhasin P, Branch Head of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

"Malabar Gold & Diamonds is extremely honoured to have been presented with the Jewellery Retail Chain of the year award. This accolade is a testament to our unwavering dedication towards providing our expansive customer base with an exceptional jewellery shopping experience in a responsible and sustainable manner.

With 12 world-class showrooms and more in the pipeline, our position as the most premier jewellery retailer in Oman has been strengthened further by this award.

We dedicated this incredible achievement to our loyal customers in the region, inspiring us to keep pushing the boundaries in jewellery retail, offering unparalleled quality and innovation in our products and services", commented Najeeb K,



ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) has been a primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, setting 5% of its net profits towards such causes in every region of operation.

Regional Head- Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Winner of Oman's Most Trusted Brand awards since 2016, Malabar Gold & Diamonds currently operates 12 showrooms across Oman at Muscat, Seeb, Barka, Salalah, Sohar, Muthra Souk, Ibri, Nizwa and Al Khoud.

ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) has been a primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993,

setting 5 per cent of its net profits towards such causes in every region of operation. The group operates on the strong belief that the most successful companies are the ones that integrate responsibility and sustainability into their core business. The key focus areas of Malabar Group's ESG initiatives are Health, Housing, Hunger Eradication, Education, Environment & Women empowerment.

CALTEX AND OTE GROUP HOST SUCCESSFUL TECHNICAL SEMINAR

MUSCAT: Caltex, a global brand in lubricants under the Chevron family of brands, and OTE Group, its authorised distributor in Oman, recently hosted a successful technical seminar in Muscat.

The event brought together industry experts, key decision-makers, and representatives from leading companies in Oman to explore the latest advancements in lubricant technology and its applications.

The seminar featured talks by Fawaz al Tamimi and a technical presentation by Colin Hodgson



from Caltex, along with the business head of OTE Lubricants.

The speakers discussed the importance of high-quality lubricants in ensuring optimal engine performance, fuel

efficiency, and overall vehicle health.

They also highlighted Caltex's commitment to innovation and research and development in the lubricants industry.

The event was well attended and generated significant interest among participants.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the latest trends in lubricant technology, ask questions, and network with industry peers.

"We are delighted to have hosted this technical seminar in partnership with the OTE

Group," said Fawaz al Tamimi, Associate Business Consultant at Chevron, Bahrain.

"This event provided a valuable platform for us to share our expertise with the Omani market and strengthen our relationship with our customers."

Business head for lubricants at OTE Group, added, "We are proud to be the authorised distributor of Caltex lubricants in Oman.

This seminar was a great opportunity to showcase the quality and benefits of Caltex products to our customers."

Race ready with Lynk & Co 03. Own the thrill

MUSCAT: In the vibrant automotive landscape of Oman, Lynk & Co emerges as a leader in performance and innovation, specifically designed for car enthusiasts and thrill-seekers.

The Lynk & Co 03, a sedan inspired by the thrill of racing, offers a driving experience that's as electrifying as it is elegant. Packed with advanced technology and designed for efficiency, it redefines the blend of speed and smart mobility, making every drive a pursuit of excitement.

Lynk & Co 03: Your ultimate racing sedan

The Lynk & Co 03 is powered by a high-performance 2.0-litre turbo-charged engine that generates an impressive 218 PS (160 kW), propelling the car from 0 to 100 km/h in just 7.2 seconds.



This sedan is engineered for speed allowing you to experience smooth driving without the frequent stops for fuel.

Its remarkable fuel efficiency makes it the perfect companion for both long-distance journeys and daily commutes. For those who

crave the rush of racing while enjoying modern luxuries, the Lynk & Co 03 is the epitome of smart mobility equipped with advanced features and elegant design.

Tech-driven safety and control
What truly sets the Lynk & Co 03 apart is its suite of 20 Advanced

Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS).

At the heart of this innovation lies the 'Smart Driving Assistance Solution' which incorporates 1 front-view camera, 4 panoramic cameras and 3 millimetre-wave radars.

Among its standout features is the 'Highway Assistant' (HWA) designed to assist with lane-keeping and speed adjustments, offering extra support during high-speed driving & low-speed queuing.

Additionally, the 540 Full View system combines a 360-degree panoramic view with a 180-degree transparent chassis view, allowing drivers to monitor surrounding road conditions comprehensively, enhancing overall driving safety.

The 03 further excels with its 'Smart Turning Lights', which synchronise with the steering wheel

to illuminate your direction ensuring you remain one step ahead while navigating tight city corners or racing on open roads.

Luxury ownership for everyone
Lynk & Co is revolutionising automotive ownership by making luxury more accessible.

With an EMI starting at just RO 118/month, this premium sedan is more attainable than ever for first-time buyers or anyone looking to upgrade their current vehicle, all at a price that fits within their budget.

Lynk & Co brings cutting-edge automotive innovation to Oman under the Mobility Auto business line from the Towell Group. To experience the Lynk & Co 03 for yourself: Visit our showroom at Ghala Heights, or call us at 7161 1137 to book a test drive.

MUSCAT
CONFERENCE
HIGHLIGHTS USE OF
AI IN MARKETING



The Oman AI Marketing Conference showcased the transformative role of artificial intelligence within marketing.

HIBBA AL KINDI
MUSCAT, NOV 3

A CONFERENCE highlighting the role of artificial intelligence within marketing was held here last week under the auspices of Dr Salim bin Sultan al Ruzaigi, Member of the State Council, who is also Chairman of Oman Information Technology Society (OITS). The conference was organised by marketing and communication consultancy Code 30 Strategies in collaboration with the Oman Information Technology Society (OITS). Speaking to the Observer, Christine Karan, Founder of Code 30 Strategies, shed light on the size of the AI market: “According to Global Newswire, the global AI market size is expected to grow from \$86.9 billion in 2022 to \$407 billion by 2027. This projection highlights the power of AI, especially as global spending on AI systems has surged. For example, AI spending reached \$97.9 billion in 2023, reflecting a 44% growth compared to 2021. This increase emphasises the significant rise in global AI investments.” Karan added: “Additionally, 80% of market leaders believe AI will revolutionise both the marketing field and overall business operations. By 2030, AI could contribute up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy. Furthermore, by 2025, it’s expected that 95% of customer interactions will be powered by AI.”

The expert also highlighted the role that AI plays in marketing. “It’s essential for marketers to understand AI tools because, as a digital marketer myself, I’ve seen the shift from traditional marketing to AI-driven marketing. This shift represents the next step in the industry.” “While AI has existed for some time, the spotlight has recently intensified, thanks largely to tools like ChatGPT, which have made AI utilisation more accessible. AI now plays a crucial role in content creation, imagery, video production, and more — all at a fraction of previous costs. It’s essential because AI reduces time, increases efficiency, and represents the future of marketing,” she further stated.

New initiatives to boost
Omani export markets

CONRAD PRABHU
MUSCAT, NOV 3

THE Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), continues to build the underpinnings of a robust system to drive Omani exports, as well as open up new export markets globally. According to the latest report of the Unit, some of these initiatives are in various stages of development and implementation, while others are being prepped for launch in the near future.

Notable is the Oman Exports Platform initiative, which is essentially a specialised foreign trade centre serving as a one-stop shop to enhance the business environment related to import and export operations.

Part of its remit is to boost foreign trade growth by improving export and import efficiency, facilitating access to international markets, and creating new opportunities for import-export ready companies.

Additionally, the platform aims to improve local policies and procedures related to foreign trade, thereby enhancing local and global indicators related to this sector.

Yet another initiative mooted by the Unit centres on the development of a comprehensive electronic Export & Import Guide outlining efforts by various government



A slew of initiatives has been outlined to help drive Omani exports, as well as open up new export markets globally.

and public sector agencies to facilitate export and import procedures.

Similarly, suitably trained and qualified Omani companies will be encouraged to register on popular e-commerce platforms with the goal of promoting their products.

The ‘Tadreeb’ training initiative aims to expand the scope of the Oman Exports Platform to include exporters with the goal to enhance their access to international markets.

Also on the anvil is a Global Export Promotion Initiative that aims to target new export markets by entering into new trade agreements and participating in international exhibitions and forums, according to the Oman Vision 2040 report.

It calls for identifying potential target markets, as well as integrating the ‘Incentives for Exporters Initiative’ to provide facilities for increasing exports and import substitution.

“The expected impact is to increase access to global markets by identifying potential target markets for exports, qualifying exporters to suit these markets, improving global and local indicators related to exports, and attracting foreign investments in local institutions,” the report stated.

Importantly, Exporter Training and Empowerment is a key part of these initiatives.

It espouses the need for Omani companies to increase their competitiveness in order to enter global markets.

To this end, specialised training programmes and workshop will be organised with a focus on three key factors: market analysis, product journey, and exporter journey.

For its part, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has pledged to develop a comprehensive Omani Export Development Strategy to identify target markets and promising products, along with the formulation of incentives to support Omani companies in increasing their export capacities.

In particular SMES will be mentored to export their products, thus enhancing the diversity and expansion of Oman’s export base.

OMAN HOSTS
REGIONAL
AIRPORT
SECURITY
TRAINING FOR
NATIONAL
INSPECTORS

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, through its Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), has launched the National Inspectors Course and On-the-Job Training for Quality Control, drawing participants from various neighbouring and friendly nations.

Running until November 14, the course aims to strengthen airport security monitoring by focusing on core security principles and practical inspection methods.

Participants will engage in hands-on training, including field visits, guided by the standards of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Audit Programme. This initiative is organised by the ICAO Regional Office in partnership with the ICAO headquarters and the Cooperative Aviation Security Programme in the



Middle East. By hosting this programme, Oman’s CAA seeks to raise the level of aviation security, enhance safety measures, and foster international collaboration, all while aligning with global standards. — ONA

H2-diplo forum explores Oman-Germany green hydrogen cooperation

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 3

THE recent ‘H2-diplo Decarbonisation Dialogue’ convened around 90 participants, including top executives, senior government officials, and industry leaders from Oman, Germany and other countries in Muscat.

This event marked a significant moment for Oman’s green hydrogen sector as it aligns with the goals of Germany’s H2Global initiative, which aims to establish a global clean hydrogen market through innovative procurement models and robust international partnerships.

Oman’s Minister of Energy and Minerals, Eng Salim bin Nasser al Afi, and the German Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Dirk Lölke, both highlighted the importance of such events and of a continuous dialogue.



Around 90 participants, including top executives, senior government officials, and industry leaders from Oman, Germany and other countries attended the forum.

Eng Salim al Afi reiterated the necessity of maintaining a focus on comprehensive decarbonisation strategies, stating, “Green hydrogen is Oman’s best chance to achieve net-zero goals while si-

multaneously building local value creation.”

Dirk Lölke stated, “Oman, a nation already investing heavily in hydrogen, is an ideal partner for Germany, given its strategic

location and abundant natural resources.”

The event also featured keynote addresses from Eng Abdulaziz al Shidhani, Managing Director of Hydrom, who underscored the essential role of the hydrogen ecosystem for sustainable economic growth, as well as from Markus Exenberger, Executive Director of H2Global, explaining the strategy behind the German initiative H2Global.

The two panels provided actionable insights into hydrogen trade and market readiness. Panel 1, moderated by Dr Ruth Prelicz, head of H2-diplo in Oman, addressed the pathway to net-zero and critical mechanisms for green hydrogen trade. Panelists from Oman’s Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Dutch Embassy, OQ Alternative Energy, VNG, and H2Global shared perspectives on building a sustainable hydrogen

market through partnerships, synchronised infrastructure development for export/import, CO2 pricing, and demand creation for renewable energy products, e.g. by mechanism suggested by H2Global.

Panel 2, led by Maria Noack from the H2-diplo global team, focused on creating an enabling environment for green hydrogen in the areas of skills and financing. Representatives from Hydrom, Deutsche Bank, and Sohar International Bank addressed the complexities of financing large-scale hydrogen projects, while Prof Dr Michael Braun, Vice-Chancellor of GÜtech, and a GIZ representative highlighted the need for strategic investments in education programmes to address Oman’s projected 200,000 new hydrogen-sector jobs through practical, industry-aligned training supported by international expertise.

OPINION

Beyond the glitter: Gold as a strategic asset class



R MADHUSOODANAN
pakku_ms@yahoo.com

The writer is the Executive Advisor to the Board, Global Money Exchange, Muscat.

GOLD has been a highly sought-after asset class for centuries for multiple reasons.

There are different types of investment vehicles such as fixed-income securities, stock markets, mutual funds, real estate, commodities, crypto, etc. The investment strategy depends on the primary goal of investment, time horizon, liquidity requirements, risk tolerance, and so on.

Gold remains an attractive investment due to its rarity, durability, and liquidity, historical significance as a medium of exchange, store value, and wealth preservation.

In the past few years, the price of gold has been on the increase. It was \$1,150 per troy ounce in October 2015, soaring to \$2,748 during the fourth week of October 2024. (One troy ounce is 31.10 grammes).

The main reason for the recent spike in the gold price is the fear of recession and the geopolitical issues in the Middle East.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)

and Portfolio Managers switch investments from equities to gold for wealth preservation during turbulent times.

The investment in gold is a ‘safe haven’ as it offers price stability, a hedge against inflation and currency devaluation. One important question often confronted by investors is how to invest in gold. One can buy physical gold directly as coins, bullion, or jewellery.

Also one can invest through e-gold which is a digital means.

Investments through mutual fund routes and investment in the shares of gold mining companies are also options available to investors.

Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are another online option available to investors.

Buying physical gold like gold bars, coins, ornaments, etc. has inherent risks namely purity, safekeeping, theft, loss of making charges on resale, and other factors.

Therefore it is advisable to invest in virtual gold rather than physical gold. In India, the government encourages

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Portfolio Managers switch investments from equities to gold for wealth preservation during turbulent times.

investment in gold through the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (SGBS), a virtual investment. It offers a marginal rate of interest for the investment besides the capital appreciation.

The medium to long-term horizon outlook for the investment in gold is bullish with expectations of continued strength in the market. The technological advancements in mining and the changing consumer demand in the jewellery industry will have a bearing on gold production and price.

Like any other investment, investment in gold is also not free from risks. It does not generate any periodical cash flows like fixed-income securities or dividends.

Gold is also sensitive to bond yields as a reverse switch happens when the bond yield increases.

Similar is the case when there is a boom in the equity market. No doubt, portfolio diversification is the need of the hour for a modern-day investor. Hence gold should be considered as a vital component of a diversified portfolio, as a long-term investment strategy.

SAUDI ARABIA’S DAVOS IS NO LONGER SUCH A DESERT

SAUDI Arabia’s big shindig is getting bigger. About 4,000 delegates showed up for the desert kingdom’s first Future Investment Initiative in 2017. This year’s gathering attracted twice that number, suggesting that the country’s Vision 2030 project to shed its historical dependence on oil has gained some traction.

The conflag often known as “Davos in the desert” has a turbulent history. In 2018, the top bosses of Western blue chips like Blackstone, JPMorgan and BlackRock stayed away.

So did SoftBank boss Masayoshi Son, who the previous year had shared a stage with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman after the Saudi state contributed \$45 billion to his tech-focused Vision Fund.

This year, the corporate titans were very much back in force at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Centre, though they still chose their talking points with care.

Attendees like BlackRock’s Larry Fink, Blackstone’s Steve Schwarzman, Ken Griffin of Citadel, and Ruth Porat, president of Google owner Alphabet spent relatively little time discussing the war raging in Israel, Gaza and Lebanon a mere 800 miles away.

Participants were much more eager to expound on the dominant investment topic of the moment:

artificial intelligence.

Son, despite recording underwhelming returns on his Vision Fund and dumping a 5% stake in chipmaker Nvidia long before it became a \$3.4 trillion company, predicted that AI could be worth \$9 trillion a year and that machines would become 10,000 times more intelligent than humans by 2035.

Tesla boss Elon Musk beamed in by video link to assert that AI would surpass the collective intelligence of all humans before the end of the decade.

The likes of Fink and Schwarzman are more or less obliged to attend, as Saudi has invested billions of dollars in their funds and deals.

But the balance has shifted. While the country is still way short of some key Vision 2030 targets, such as lifting the share of non-oil exports and increasing the private sector’s share of GDP, it has scored some successes.

The proportion of Saudi women in the workforce, for example, has reached almost 36%, nearly double the figure in 2016, and well ahead of the original 30% target.

A tangible rise in leisure activities is also making Saudi a less forbidding place to live and work. A rooftop reception for Gulf venture capital types at the Huqqa bar on Wednesday evening offered a vibe little different to that of a high-end establishment in London. — Reuters



ALENA DIQUE

The writer is Founder of ESG Middle East Insights.



Oman’s participation represents not just attendance, but a strategic commitment to a greener future.

AS the critical COP29 climate summit approaches in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Sultanate of Oman is preparing to take centre-stage.

Oman’s participation represents not just attendance, but a strategic commitment to a greener future, highlighting its vision for sustainability and dedication to combating climate change while transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

MULTI-FACETED APPROACH TO CLIMATE ACTION

The Environment Authority has crafted a comprehensive strategy for Oman’s role at COP29, emphasising vital themes such as carbon neutrality, climate adaptation, food security, and renewable energy.

Oman plans to unveil ambitious initiatives aimed at significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a necessity underscored by the recent IPCC report, which warns of a concerning 1.52°C rise in global temperatures, particularly affecting the Arabian Peninsula.

A standout feature of Oman’s COP29 agenda is the promotion of Oman Climate Week, a national initiative set for 2025. This event will convene experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore innovative solutions for climate challenges and sustainable development.

BEYOND COP29: A BLUEPRINT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Oman’s commitment to sustainability extends well beyond the summit. The country is finalising a ground-breaking blueprint for a sustainable future, set to be unveiled at COP29.

This blueprint is informed by the Oman

Climate Dialogues, a national forum that has united experts to devise a roadmap for the nation’s climate action strategy. This comprehensive approach positions Oman as a regional leader in shaping its sustainable future.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Renewable Energy: Oman is making significant investments in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power, to harness its abundant natural resources for clean energy generation.

The goal is to establish Oman as a key player in the renewable energy sector.

Green Hydrogen: Oman aspires to become a global hub for green hydrogen production, leveraging its renewable energy resources to generate clean hydrogen fuel.

Sustainable Cities: The nation is investing in sustainable urban development, promoting energy-efficient buildings, green transportation, and waste reduction initiatives.

Oman recognises the pressing need for action and is ready to contribute meaningfully to global efforts in mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts.

Its participation in COP29 underscores a commitment to international cooperation and a strong awareness of the urgency of this global challenge.

The Sultanate of Oman is prepared to actively engage in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Oman’s Vision 2040 and the Oman Sustainability Centre emphasise developing detailed implementation and decarbonisation plans across various sectors.

By adopting innovative technologies, promoting sustainable practices, and fos-

tering international collaboration, Oman aims to lead in climate action.

ACHIEVING THE VISION OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Looking ahead, a critical focus should be on how Oman integrates climate governance strategies through diverse research methods to enhance its climate initiatives.

Quantitative methods can support predictions and establish relationships, while qualitative research offers deeper insights into the complexities of climate change. Collecting robust climate data and developing economic adaptation models will also be essential. This multidimensional approach is not just beneficial but necessary. As Oman navigates the intricate landscape of climate action, it must remain adaptable and innovative.

Importantly, engaging youth in these efforts is crucial; they are the future stewards of the environment and possess the creativity and drive to push towards climate change awareness.

As COP29 unfolds, the world will be watching closely to see how Oman’s ambitious climate governance goals translate into concrete actions.

With a strong commitment to sustainability and a strategic geographical position, Oman has the potential to lead the way in climate action—not just regionally, but on the global stage.

It is essential for Oman to leverage this moment to address its own climate challenges and inspire other nations to adopt similar proactive measures.

The future of our planet depends on the willingness of leaders like Oman to take bold steps now.

WJ Towell Group Company

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218 Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com

• Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
• Choose from a wide range of brands & models
• PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
• Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

أوربيت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

Classifieds

URGENT HIRING

LEADING LAB CHEMICAL/CONSUMABLE/EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION COMPANY IN OMAN HIRING

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Knowledge of lab chemical, consumable.
- Minimum 2-year work experience in Oman/GCC.
- Driving license in Oman preferred.

Suitable candidate can send CV to:
recrutment74@gmail.com

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 4, 2024 | JUMADA AL ULA 2, 1446 AH

ALL SEASON AYURVEDA CLINIC

The most efficient and authentic Ayurvedic Treatment & Medicine, Panchakarma, Yoga, Kalari, Massage Dhara etc... Rehabilitation, Marma Therapy & Post Delivery Care

Zaher Building, 1st Floor, Flat 8A, Al Khuwair Service Road, Near Al Zawawi Mosque & Burger-King
Tel: 24475280, GSM: 95371664, 92504980, Website: www.siddhayur.com



FOR RENT

16,000 sqm
(2 portions of 8,000 sqm each).
Open yard/ storage area with compound wall 24 hours CCTV surveillance & other amenities for rent in Jifnain close to Muscat Nizwa Highway.
Contact: 99105784.

PEST CONTROL OMAN CO. L.L.C.

Supply of Pesticides, Gel (crocoraches), Public Health chemicals, Agriculture chemicals, Snake repellent, Rodent baits and other insect repellent from UK & USA

PROFESSIONALS in Pest Control Service, Bedbug Treatment, Rodent Treatment, Snake Treatment and Termite Treatment [Pre & Post Construction]

Tel: 24787606, 24787503
Direct Line: 24786077
GSM: 99382355, 99172309

pcomctom@omantel.net.om
P.O. Box 565, Al Wadi Al Kabir 117, Sultanate of Oman

FOUR STAR TECHNICAL SUPPLIES LLC
(FORMERLY OMEIR NASSER AL FALAHY & PARTNERS TRAD. CO. LLC)
"Quality products defined by exceptional service"

Our Products:
ELECTRICAL, BUILDING MATERIAL, HARDWARE, OILFIELD INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT & TOOLS

KNIPX, DEWALT, Schneider Electric, Honeywell, DELTA, HITACHI, DORMER, Makita, BOSCH, Beta, Milwaukee, STANLEY, MOLYSLIP, IRWIN, MK, OLFA, ALENITE, shindaiwa, Clarke, Drill Center, USAG, STEINEL, KLINGSPOR, PCE, SENCOR, DURACELL, KING TONY, ELORA, VICTOR, RIDGID, METZ CONNECT, CRC, Wera, DEVCON, BLACK & DECKER

P.O. BOX 3897, P.C. 112, RUWI, MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN
Tel: +96824837874, Fax: +96824831341
Mobile: +96899354944
Email: onasser@omantel.net.om / nelson@onasser.com

FOR RENT

WAREHOUSE / workshop
2,600 sqm for rent in Misfa near Oman Cement Factory including accommodation
contact: GSM 98286899, email: sales@jetsoman.com

Driving School

Special offers for those wishing to learn driving in (Aziba - Khwair Qurum - Ruwi Al Amirat)

Contact No: 99074072

SIT. VACANT

Looking for a Local Sponsor cum Investor to start a new profitable industrial business in Oman. Email- pradeepdivakar69@gmail.com

SIT. WANTED

Indian male 14 years experience light/ heavy driver. Looking for suitable opening currently in Oman. Contact: 77050986/ 91280205, email: kokkadmou@gmail.com

Indian male (Mechanical Engineering) with 3 years experience in Diesel engine works (Gensets / Engines) 2 years in Machine Maintenance seeks job. Contact: 78022420

Sri Lankan Male- (CGMA ACMA+ CPA+BBA) Asst. Finance Manager / Chief Accountant, 12+ Experience in Oman & GCC, Expert in Finan. Reporting (MIS), VAT, Audit, Cashflow, Budget, AR AP Recon, IFRS, Payroll, Banking. Contact: 78773250. Email: ali.mohamedown@gmail.com

I am a Business Analyst seeking part-time / contract work. Expertise in:

- Business Planning. Market Research.
- Financial Projections.
- Technical Writing.
- SOPs, Manuals.
- Workflows.
- Templates, Presentations.
- Event Planning.
- Digital Marketing Contact: vincyth@gmail.com, 79823038

Indian Female, M-Tech in Environmental Engineering, B-Tech in Civil Engineering. 7 years of Teaching experience as Asst. Professor, 2 years of professional experience in civil construction and soil investigation. Seeking suitable job, now in Muscat. Contact: 95136664, 79620397 Email: mayakrish.1804@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer with 3 years experience in Automotive and Manufacturing industry with good Knowledge of AutoCAD and CATIA seeking full time employment in Oman. Available immediately for interviews. Contact: 99467878 Email: jamesmathew240@gmail.com

29 years old Indian female, MBA holder with 2 years experience. Seeking a suitable position. Currently in Muscat on visit visa. Contact: 78641071, shazashakeel@gmail.com

FOR RENT

In Ruwi, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hall, kitchen, with car parking. RO 150 monthly only. Tel: 94402003.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SUPPLY CHAIN EXECUTIVE

A leading company in the oil and gas industry is looking for a passionate and energetic candidate to join their team as a **SUPPLY CHAIN EXECUTIVE** in Bangalore, India.

- ✓ **Eligibility Criteria:** A minimum of 2 years of experience in procuring non-engineered consumables, particularly in the Oman market.
- ✓ **Qualification:** Commerce bachelor degree / Diploma or Graduate in Engineering.
- ✓ **Joining: Immediate**

Interested Candidates are requested to forward their CV's through

vacancybgl2024@gmail.com

Situation Vacant

Ras Al Hamra Recreation Centre (PDO Club)
Looking for Young & Energetic Candidates for the following job vacancies:

1) BARISTA

- ❖ Preparation of Hot Beverages, Coffee etc. and Operating Coffee Machines.
- ❖ Trained as Barista.

2) WAITERS

- ❖ Taking Orders & Serving Food and Beverage.
- ❖ Training in Food Safety & Hygiene and Customer Care.

3) CHEFS

- ❖ Preparation and Cooking of Grill & Omani Food.
- ❖ Certificate/Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery.

Experience: 3-5 years having worked in Restaurant/ Hospitality Establishment.
Note: Prospective Candidates will be required to attend interview.

Please email resume to: **hr@ocean.co.om; cc: minton@ocean.co.om**

HAVE A PROPERTY FOR RENT?

Advertise with us.

Contact us on: 99639264

Observer

For Advertisements
Please Contact with our Team:

Head Office
Muscat Al Bustan
99041230
theadoffice@yahoo.com

Salalah Office
Abdulrah Al Shihri
92905077
theadoffice@yahoo.com

Nizwa Office
Abdulrah Al Shihri
99420094
theadoffice@yahoo.com

Sohar Office
Muscat Al Bustan
99041230
theadoffice@yahoo.com

OMAN دAILY

Observer

FREE* CLASSIFIEDS

• **SITUATION WANTED**

* **NOW FREE CLASSIFIED IN OMAN DAILY OBSERVER ON THE ABOVE CATEGORIES ONLY**

Send your advertisement (Only one per coupon & no photocopies), either by mail or in person, with your local identity.

To advertise please contact:
Tel: 71455532/ 71455531/ 71455530
Email: adv@omaninfo.om

To advertise in Ministry of Information channels



To advertise

71455532- 71455531- 71455530
adv@omaninfo.om
izdihar_info izdihar.info

ازدهار izdihar



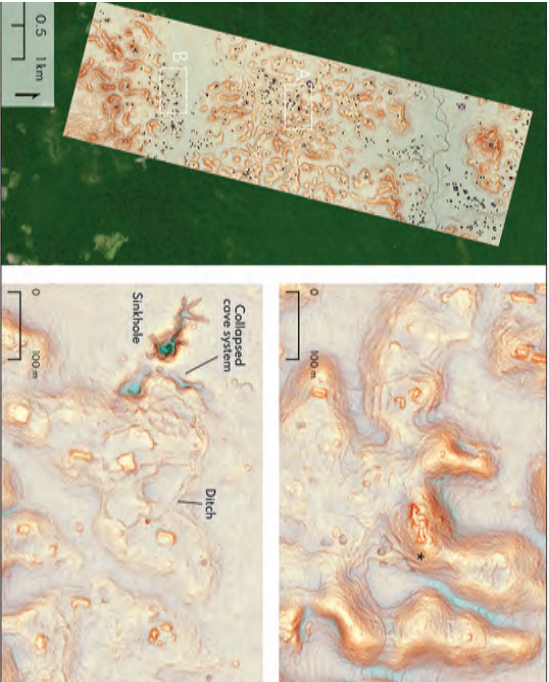
ART/LIFE



Muscat Art Fair explores interwoven worlds of innovation, artistry and identity >20

DISCOVERY

Lost Mayan city discovered in southern Mexico jungle



Archeologists in Mexico have discovered a huge, lost Mayan city, which they named Valeriana, hidden deep in the southern jungle of Campeche — a sprawling, urban settlement, replete with architectural marvels and agricultural infrastructure.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT
The discovery of what appears to have been a bustling urban landscape challenges the existing knowledge about the prevalence and density of ancient Mayan settlements.
Valeriana was discovered by chance thanks to Lidar, or Light Detection and Ranging, a technology that uses lasers to map and analyse archaeological landscapes.
The dataset used for the study came from approximately 122 square kilometres (47 square miles) of high-quality airborne Lidar data collected in 2013 as part of a forest monitoring project called Alianza and led by the Nature Conservancy in Mexico, to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation.
“We argue that the Alianza data demonstrate a range of ancient settlement densities comparable to those documented by site-focused archaeological survey in the region, from nearly vacant rural landscapes to dense urban areas,” said the researchers in the study, published by Cambridge University Press.
“The discovery of Valeriana highlights the fact that there are still major gaps in our knowledge of the existence or absence of large sites within as-yet unmapped areas of the Maya Lowlands,” added.
Lidar technology revealed a sprawling, urban settlement, replete with architectural marvels and agricultural infrastructure.
The classical-era Maya civilisation dates back to the period between 250 and 900 AD, when it extended its dominion over present-day southern Mexico and what are now Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.
The analysis of the archaeological site yielded an aggregate settlement density of 55.3 structures per sq km. The researchers identified a total of 6,764 structures, hinting at a populous ancient city. The researchers will carry out further detailed quantitative analysis of the archaeological features within the dataset and conduct field validation of their remote analysis. The discovery serves as a stepping stone for understanding the ancient Mayan urbanisation and settlement patterns.
— Reuters

QUICK FEATURES



LIFESTYLE
Candidate from the French TV show “Star Academy” Charles poses during a photo session at a Halloween party organised by the Instagram social network in Paris. — AFP



CULTURE
An attendee takes part in a parade for Dia de la Mascarada dressed in a homemade mask and costume, as an alternative tradition to Halloween, in Barva, north of the capital San Jose. — AFP



ENTERTAINMENT
British actress and singer Cynthia Erivo attends the CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America) Fashion Awards at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. — AFP

INSTAGRAM TOP PICKS



View from the Top



Racing through the Desert

SHARE A SLICE OF YOUR LIFE

We select photos daily for our Instagram Top Picks of the Day. To be selected, follow us on Instagram and every time you upload or share your photos, make sure to tag us and use #OmanObserver and #BeAnObserver.

‘Game of Thrones’ movie in early development: reports



Could the dragons of Westeros finally be coming to the big screen?

At least one “Game of Thrones” movie is in very early stages of development, trade outlets The Hollywood Reporter and Deadline reported on Thursday.

The original HBO “Game of Thrones” television show became a global cultural phenomenon during its eight-season run from 2011-2019, garnering huge audiences and a record 59 Emmys.

Based on George R.R. Martin’s fantasy novel series “A Song of Ice and Fire,” the hit show about violent, feuding noble families has already spawned TV spin-off “House of the Dragon,” with more small-screen adaptations confirmed to be in the works.

But while Martin and “Thrones” showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss have dis-

cussed potential movies based on the universe in the past, parent company Warner Bros Discovery has been opposed to bringing the franchise to theatres.

The Hollywood Reporter suggested on Thursday that recent leadership changes at the studio, and the success of franchises that have hopped between big and small screens such as “The Batman,” “Dune” and the upcoming “Harry Potter” TV series, may have finally prompted a change.

Warner Bros “has been quietly developing at least one film” set in the “Thrones” universe, it reported.

Deadline said there have been only “preliminary discussions,” and no stars are yet attached to the proposed movie.

“We have no comment on this,” a Warner spokeswoman said. —AFP



Oman set to dazzle at Dubai Design Week

BY YERU EBUEEN

OMAN-BASED design studio Altqadam, winner of the Urban Commissions competition, is set to host a captivating performance by an Omani musical troupe at their innovative installation, TukTukDum, during Dubai Design Week.

The performance, tapping an Omani Musical troupe, is slated for November 6 and served as one of the highlights of the Dubai Design Week event, that will take place from November 5 to 10 at Dubai Design District (d3).

The presentation is lauded as an exceptional opportunity to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Oman alongside contemporary design.

Dubai Design Week, under the auspices of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum and in strategic partnership with Dubai Design District, is the region’s leading annual design festival. This year, it features over 150 activities, including engaging talks, hands-on workshops, creative performances, and special presentations, highlighting the diversity and innovation of designers and architects from more than 40 countries. With over 500 designers, brands, and architects participating, the festival is a dynamic platform for cultural exchange and collaboration.

The Urban Commissions competition, an integral part of Dubai Design Week, invites designers to propose community-driven projects that embody this year’s theme, ‘Tawila’—Arabic for ‘table.’ Altqadam’s TukTukDum not only embodies this theme but also draws inspiration from the rich musical traditions of the Gulf, emphasizing the communal nature of music. This unique installation transforms the concept of a table into a performance space where interaction is encouraged, inviting audiences to become part of the artistic experience.

Led by renowned architects Marwan al Balushi, Najd al Balushi, and Abdulrahim al kindi, Altqadam is celebrated for notable projects such as the Bab Al Salam Mosque in Muscat. Their innovative approach and commitment to community engagement in design reflect the spirit of Dubai



Design Week, making it a prime venue for showcasing Oman’s vibrant culture and creative potential.

The jury for the Urban Commissions competition included esteemed design experts such as Dr Alamira Reem al Hashimi and Ahmad Bukhash, highlighting the competitive nature and rigorous selection process that underscores the significance of this recognition. As Dubai Design Week celebrates its 10th anniversary, Altqadam’s TukTukDum stands as a testament to the dynamic interplay between culture, community, and design, not only enriching the festival but also offering a glimpse into the future of collaborative artistic expression in the region.

A CULTURAL ODYSSEY

As Dubai prepares to host its annual Dubai Design Wee, the event promises to be a remarkable fusion of creativity, innovation, and cultural celebration. With its diverse offerings, this year’s Design Week calls on both local residents and international visitors to delve into a captivating world of design.

For people in Oman, other than the Omani Musical Troupe Performance

On November 6, one that will be a sure hit is the Interactive Workshop: Mixed Media with Archival Photographs where



one can dive into the realm of creativity with Nada al Mosa’s workshop on mixed media on November 5. Participants will explore innovative techniques that blend press botanicals with photography and embroidery, allowing Omanis to connect with their artistic roots and create unique keepsakes.

Serving as the anchor event, Downtown Design is a must-visit for all guests. This showcase will feature an impressive array of design talents from around the globe, offering a unique chance to discover contemporary design trends and network with leading designers from various fields.

Concurrent with Downtown Design, Editions will present the region’s first fair dedicated to limited-edition artworks. International travellers will find unique pieces from established galleries and innovative studios, making it a prime destination for art collectors seeking distinctive additions to their collections.

Design enthusiasts won’t want to miss the highlight talk by Karim Rashid on November 7. The renowned industrial designer will share insights into his ground-breaking design philosophy, providing invaluable knowledge for those eager to understand the evolving landscape of contemporary design.

In addition to these highlights, Dubai Design Week will feature an array of vibrant performances, engaging workshops, and a bustling marketplace showcasing local artisans and cultural offerings. With ongoing live demonstrations from artists and the delicious array of food from over 15 homegrown outlets, there’s something for everyone.

This year's Muscat Art Fair carries an inspiring artistic diversity, as artists display interactive works and new visual experiences that take the audience on a journey through modern technologies and human themes.



Muscat Art Fair explores interwoven worlds of innovation, artistry and identity



BY AHMED AL KAABI

IN THE halls of Muscat Art Fair last weekend, the paintings greeted guests as if they were windows overlooking intertwined worlds of creativity and culture. Colours and lines came together to tell stories of identity, resilience and challenge, mixed with the artists' feelings and experiences that transcend geographical and linguistic boundaries.

In the exhibition space, artists from all over the world meet to exchange experiences and ideas, making the event a vibrant and innovative platform.

This year's exhibition carries an inspiring artistic diversity, as artists display interactive works and new visual experiences that take the audience on a journey through modern technologies and human themes.

Omani artist Shamsa al Busaidi has unveiled a unique artistic experience through a remarkable collection of four diverse works, each distinguished by its own style and technique. Among her standout pieces is the painting titled "Maysour", which features a horse rendered on a vintage Omani carpet, employing a palette inspired by "Karnak" colours. This work exemplifies Al Busaidi's innovative approach to blending local heritage with contemporary artistic expressions.

In her exploration of artistic complexity, Shamsa also introduced a pixel-style painting that took over a year to complete, owing to its intricate colour tones. She emphasised that this piece is rooted in a distinct sensory experience, inviting viewers to partially close their eyes to fully appreciate the subtleties of the image. Through these works, Al Busaidi seeks to engage audiences with art in an unconventional and immersive manner.

Describing the Muscat Art Exhibition as an invaluable platform for local and international artists to connect and share their creative journeys, Al Busaidi believes that the event fosters strong bonds among artists both within and beyond the borders of Oman. She emphasised that her participation aims to invite the audience into a sensory engagement, requiring them to adopt a specific approach to interact with her artwork meaningfully. Concluding her remarks, she stated, "This exhibition serves as a golden opportunity for artists to present their creativity and to enhance artistic dialogue with colleagues from diverse cultures."

Visual artist Abdulrahman al Hajri showcased his innovative work "Resistant" at the Muscat Art Exhibition, offering an unconventional artistic experience through the fusion of two paintings into a single engaging piece that can be appreciated with 3D glasses. Al Hajri explained that the glasses enable viewers to experience colour integration in a novel way, with each lens — blue and red — revealing a distinct painting. This results in a unique visual experience that shifts based on the viewer's angle and perspective.

The concept behind "Resistant" serves as a powerful symbol of the resilience of the people of Gaza amidst adversity. Al Hajri articulated that the artwork embodies their indomitable spirit, depicting individuals emerging from the rubble while raising a victory sign — a testament to their commitment to life despite overwhelming challenges.

Additionally, Al Hajri emphasised the significance of art exhibitions for Omani youth, noting that these events extend beyond mere showcases of artwork. They play a crucial role in highlighting emerging talents and integrating them into the broader art scene. He further stressed that such gatherings facilitate valuable exchanges of experiences among artists and provide opportunities for marketing and selling artwork, contributing to the growth of artists and bolstering the visual arts movement within Oman.



Sudanese visual artist Moatasem Hussein Omar found it important to showcase artworks that explore themes of identity, culture and history through the use of oil paints as his primary medium.

Moatasem shared that his artistic endeavours aim to illuminate pressing issues related to the roots of Arab identity while fostering a deeper cultural awareness. He emphasised the crucial role of art in delivering visual narratives that help shape societal consciousness.

Moatasem highlighted that while Arab culture often prioritises linguistic and narrative expressions, there exists a notable gap in the realm of visual culture. He remarked, "Artistic events such as this contribute significantly to activating the public's visual memory, providing a rich reservoir of visual materials that enhance artistic perception and cultural understanding."

He further underscored the necessity of hosting ongoing art exhibitions across various governorates in the Sultanate of Oman, asserting that the regularity of such events would positively influence both residents and visitors, thereby strengthening cultural cohesion and offering greater opportunities for the public to engage with global arts.

Moatasem stressed that cultural and artistic activities play a major role in enriching society and enhancing communication between different cultures.

