

Times

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51

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MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

Sayyid Bilarab presides over Municipal Council meeting

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, yesterday presided over a meeting of the Municipal Council for Muscat Governorate. The meeting examined the recommendations put forward by the Governorate Development and Enhancement Committee concerning a range of developmental and service-oriented matters.

Among the key items was a discussion on the proposed Neighbourhood Management Committee, an initiative designed to activate the local community's role in overseeing residential neighbourhood affairs and reinforcing social cohesion. The proposal outlined strategic objectives, organisational structure, terms of reference, and suggested initiatives,



alongside deliberations on challenges tied to the geographical demarcation of neighbourhoods.

Emphasis was placed on the need for clearly defined roles and responsibilities, as well as a well-delineated scope for the committee, taking into account the regulatory considerations that ensure

seamless implementation and the realisation of the public good.

Underscoring the significance of community-centred projects, the Council reviewed the latest developments concerning the Natural Walkway Project in the village of Al Misfah in the Wilayat of Quriyat. **>A4**



COUNCIL OF OMAN

Royal Decree promulgates National Geospatial Data and Information Law

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal decree No. 43/2026 on promulgating the National Geospatial Data and Information Law, after presenting the same before the Council of Oman.

Article (1) states that the provisions of the National Geospatial Data and Information Law, attached to this decree, shall be enforced.

Article (2) stipulates that the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs shall issue the executive bylaw for the law attached to this decree, as well as the decisions necessary for the enforce-

ment of its provisions. Till such time, the existing regulations and decisions shall continue to take effect, without prejudice to the provisions of the attached law.

Article (3) states that those subject to the provisions of the attached law shall adjust their status in accordance with its provisions within six months from the date of its enforcement.

Article (4) cancels all that contradicts the attached law or contravenes its provisions. Article (5) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing. **-OMA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Response to weather system praised

1 The Bureau of the Shura Council, during its meeting on Monday, praised the institutional and community-driven national efforts undertaken by various state entities in addressing the recent climatic conditions that affected Oman. The Bureau noted that these efforts reflected strong national cohesion. **>A2**

OMAN OCA honours Dar Al Atta'a Association

2 In recognition of outstanding humanitarian efforts and community partnership, the Oman Charitable Authority honoured the Dar Al Atta'a Association during a ceremony held under the theme "Together We Create Impact." The event took place in the final days of the Ramadan. **>A5**

WORLD Trump threatens to hit Iran power plants

3 US President Donald Trump has taken to his Truth Social platform to repeat his threats against Iran's power plants as well as Kharg Island while claiming to be in talks with the Iranian leadership. He said US "is in serious discussions with a new, and more reasonable, regime to end our military operations. **>A7**

COORDINATED NATIONAL EFFORTS MITIGATE LOW PRESSURE IMPACT

Essential Services Sector ensured the continuity of electricity, water, telecommunications services

MUSCAT: Various sectors of the National Committee for Emergency Management exerted substantial and coordinated efforts as Oman was affected by the weather system known as "Al-Masarrat Trough." Operating within a unified national framework, these efforts focused on safeguarding lives and property while ensuring the continuity of essential services across affected governorates.

As part of early preparedness measures, the Committee activated the National Response Plan through the National Centre for Emergency Management.

This proactive step enabled continuous monitoring of meteorological reports, analysis of weather-related data, and the elevation of readiness levels across military, security, civil, and service sectors. It also ensured the operational readiness of search and rescue teams, facilitating rapid response, effective handling of incidents, and mitigation of potential risks.

During the weather event, search and rescue teams—represented by the Royal Oman Police



and the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority—responded to 269 incident reports, resulting in the rescue and evacuation of 504 individuals.

The Royal Oman Police Air Wing carried out 58 rescue operations, medical evacuations, and supply transport missions, in addition to

conducting continuous aerial reconnaissance over directly affected areas. Meanwhile, the Royal Air Force of Oman executed six rescue and medical evacuation sorties.

In the health sector, facilities under the Ministry of Health received 18 patients evacuated by air via the Royal Oman Po-

lice and the Royal Air Force of Oman. The Medical Response and Public Health Sector also established alternative hospitals and health centres to replace those impacted by the weather conditions, ensuring uninterrupted delivery of healthcare services. **>A4**

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Shura Council Bureau



The Bureau discussed a request for a briefing on the recurrence of damages caused by heavy rainfall



DISCUSSION: The meeting part of the Bureau’s 11th regular session for the third annual sitting of the tenth term, was chaired by Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Council.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Bureau of the Shura Council, during its meeting on Monday, praised the institutional and community-driven national efforts undertaken by various state entities in addressing the recent climatic conditions that affected the Sultanate of Oman.

The Bureau noted that these efforts reflected strong national cohesion, alongside effective media and public awareness initiatives that contributed to mitigating the impact of the weather situation.

It also expressed prayers for the continued safety and well-being of the nation and its people.

During the meeting, the Bureau discussed a request for a briefing on the recurrence of damages caused by heavy rainfall.

The request underscored the importance of reviewing existing urban planning, particularly developments located within wadi channels, in order to reduce human and material risks associated with recurring weather events in Oman.

The Bureau also reviewed a separate request for a briefing regarding the postponement of bank loan installments for individuals affected by the recent climatic conditions.

The meeting formed part of the Bureau’s 11th regular session for the third annual sitting of the tenth term (2023–2027), chaired by Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Council, in the presence of Their Excellencies members of the Bureau.

On another front, the Bureau reviewed the agenda for the Council’s upcoming regular sessions scheduled for April.

It also examined reports on the activities of the Council’s permanent committees, including key national issues, draft laws under review, and ongoing oversight efforts.

Council of Ministers

The Bureau further reviewed the response of the Council of Ministers regarding challenges facing practitioners in the artisanal fishing sector.

The response included approval of initiatives aimed at establishing specialised companies to enhance citizens’ participation in the fisheries value chain, alongside continued efforts to conduct consultancy studies and engage local communities.

Additionally, the Bureau examined a number of ministerial responses to oversight tools submitted by Council members.

These included a response from the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning concerning the allocation of residential land under usufruct contracts to beneficiaries of bank loans, and a response from the Minister of Education addressing mechanisms for managing infection outbreaks in schools.

The latter highlighted coordination with the Ministry of Health in developing health policies and awareness guidelines, as well as implementing preventive measures and ensuring readiness to activate distance learning when

necessary across governorates.

The Bureau also reviewed several reports from permanent committees, including the Food and Water Security Committee’s report on “Marketing of Agricultural Products,” which proposed recommendations to enhance agricultural marketing systems and strengthen food security in Oman. Additional reports were presented by the Health and Social Committee.

Within the framework of parliamentary oversight, the Bureau reviewed a number of questions submitted by members, including an inquiry to the Minister of Labour regarding sectors covered under Omanisation in service contracts, particularly those not explicitly defined.

It also examined several requests for briefings related to employment standards in government projects, road safety measures, identification of high-risk locations, and proposed short- and long-term solutions to reduce traffic accidents.

Further discussions addressed infrastructure projects and food support initiatives.

Under the agenda item concerning citizens’ correspondence, the Bureau reviewed a letter submitted by graduates specializing in Cycle One education.

The letter included an appeal to open recruitment opportunities, clarify replacement plans and actual workforce needs, and highlighted the social and professional implications of the issue on the stability of the education sector.

Al Maha Petroleum to launch ‘Thinking Aloud’ leadership forum on April 7

MUSCAT: Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company is launching a new thought leadership platform titled “Thinking Aloud – The Al Maha Thought Series,” bringing together leaders, entrepreneurs and decision-makers for a day of dialogue on leadership and long-term growth.

The inaugural edition will take place on April 7, 2026, at the Intercity Hotel in Muscat, under the theme “Beyond Ambition. The Mindset for Growth.” This marks the first initiative of its kind by Al Maha Petroleum, aimed at fostering meaningful conversations on leadership, resilience, and building organizations that endure.

As Oman’s business landscape continues to evolve in line with Vision 2040, the forum will explore the realities of sustaining growth in an increasingly complex and competitive environment. Discussions will move beyond traditional success narratives to focus on authentic leadership experiences, including defining moments, challenges, and key lessons.

Speaking about the initiative, Eng. Hamed Al Maghdri, CEO of Al Maha Petroleum, said the forum reflects the company’s commitment to supporting leadership development and engagement within Oman’s business community.

“Thinking Aloud is built on a simple idea — creating a space where leaders can share real experiences, not only their achievements but also the challenges and lessons that shaped their journey,” he said. “In today’s rapidly evolving business environment, ambition alone is not enough. Sustainable success requires discipline, resilience, and long-term thinking.”

The forum will convene a curated audience of CEOs, senior executives, government representatives, and professionals



from across Oman’s business

landscape.

The Thought Series is envisioned as an ongoing platform to encourage knowledge exchange,

collaboration, and leadership dialogue, with the aim of strengthening leadership across Oman.

For more information on the event, contact: +968 97221630.

Leaning in to Adaptability

You’ve seen business evolve from the pre-digital era to the “always-on” world we live in now. In your experience, what has actually shifted in the way people connect with brands, and what part of that relationship do you think will never change?

The defining shift has been how quickly and openly customers now interact with brands. Today, customers expect brands to be accessible, responsive, and consistent across multiple touchpoints, with digital platforms enabling more immediate and two-way interaction than ever before. What has not changed is the importance of trust. Regardless of how technology evolves, people continue to gravitate towards brands that deliver on quality, reliability, and credibility. As Head of Marketing and Communication of Mercedes-Benz, my role is to ensure that every customer interaction reflects the brand’s engineering excellence and premium standards. While digital channels accelerate connection, long-term relationships are still built through performance, transparency, and a strong customer experience. The platforms may change, but the fundamentals of brand trust remain constant.

Working across Europe and the Gulf means navigating very different ways of leading. Is there a specific instinct you had to let go of, or perhaps one you had to lean into more, as your work became more international?

Leading across different markets requires flexibility and context. Earlier in my career, I relied strongly on structured processes and direct communication. While those remain important, working in the Gulf highlighted the value of relationship-building and alignment before execution.



I learned to adjust my pace and approach, allowing more room for discussion, collaboration, and local insight. At the same time, I leaned more into adaptability, ensuring global brand standards are maintained while respecting regional expectations. This experience reinforced the importance of listening, understanding market dynamics, and balancing strategic direction with cultural awareness. Today, my focus is on creating clarity, supporting teams, and delivering consistent outcomes, regardless of geography.

The automotive landscape in Oman is becoming more crowded, with new players entering the market and redefining value and innovation. How do you keep a heritage brand like Mercedes-Benz feeling relevant and distinctive without losing its core identity?

Mercedes-Benz has always been rooted in engineering excel-

TOP WOMEN LEADERS IN OMAN

lence, innovation, and uncompromising quality and my role is to support the evolution of the brand locally, while remaining anchored in Mercedes-Benz’s global fundamentals.

At a local level, my responsibility is to bring the brand to life in a way that reflects both global values and local customer expectations. This means introducing advanced technologies, enhancing the ownership experience, and communicating clearly what sets Mercedes-Benz apart, while remaining true to its heritage. In a competitive market, distinction is achieved through consistency. By focusing on craftsmanship, performance, and innovation, I ensure the



Donatella Donatelli

Head of Marketing and Communication, Mercedes-Benz in the Sultanate of Oman

Donatella Donatelli exemplifies stellar brand stewardship. Leading marketing and communications for Mercedes-Benz in Oman, she anchors innovation in trust, heritage, and precision. Her international career across Europe and the Gulf reflects a leadership style defined by restraint, cultural intelligence, and long-term thinking—proving that relevance is not created through noise, but through consistency, credibility, and enduring standards.

brand remains aspirational and meaningful, without compromising its identity.

Receiving the Ordine della Stella d’Italia is a huge honour for your contribution to preserving and promoting Italy’s national prestige and strengthening bilateral relationships. Looking past the title and the ceremony, what did that recognition mean to you personally?

Receiving the Ordine della Stella d’Italia from the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, with the rank of Knighthood, was a deeply personal milestone for me. It marked a moment of reflection on my journey—the choices I made, the courage to build a life and career far from home, and the determination to remain true to my values.

As an Italian living and working in Oman, this recognition holds a special meaning. It reflects the relationships I have been privileged to build between Italy and Oman—relation-

ships grounded in trust, mutual respect, and long-term collaboration. Being named a Knight felt like an acknowledgment not only of my professional path, but of the human connections that have shaped it and given it purpose.

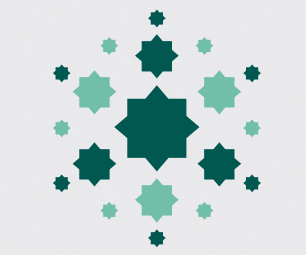
On a personal level, it was a moment of pride and gratitude. It reaffirmed my belief that meaningful bridges between cultures are built through consistency, integrity, and genuine engagement. This honor represents a defining chapter in my life, where personal identity and professional commitment came together to contribute, in a lasting way, to the bond between two countries I proudly call home.

Your career is built on long-term growth. As a woman, how do you define ambition today, and is that different from how you saw it when you were starting out?

Today, I define ambition as the ability to shape direction, not just pursue progress. It is about building long-term impact with

intention—setting a vision, making deliberate choices, and taking responsibility for outcomes. Ambition, for me, has evolved into something quieter but far more powerful: the confidence to lead with clarity, values, and purpose. When I was starting out, ambition was driven by momentum. I wanted to move forward quickly, gain experience, and prove my capabilities. That energy was necessary—it built resilience and opened doors. Over time, however, experience taught me that true leadership is not about speed, but about consistency, judgment, and the ability to think beyond the immediate horizon.

As a woman today, ambition means having the authority to choose what truly matters—impact over visibility, substance over recognition, and long-term growth over short-term success. It is about leading without compromise, growing without losing authenticity, and understanding that the most meaningful leadership is built steadily, with conviction, over time.



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State Council discusses draft laws on combating narcotics

The meeting was held under the auspices of Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council



MUSCAT: The State Council on Monday held the 7th session of its third regular convening during the 8th Term.

During the meeting, the Council discussed a draft Law on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, in addition to draft laws on amending certain provisions of the Personal Data Protection Law and the Penal Law.

The meeting was held under the auspices of Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

The discussion of the “Draft Law on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances” was pursuant

to Article (50) of the Council of Oman Law. The meeting also discussed the “Draft Unified Scheme for International Land Transport Among GCC States, pursuant to Article (49) of the Council of Oman Law.

The amendment to the “Draft Law on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances” aims to implement the objectives of the National Strategy for Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.

The draft amendment to provisions of the Penal Law complements the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to implement the requirements of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

It aims to consolidate efforts to upgrade Oman's ranking in the Index on Corruption Perceptions, through coordination with the country's anti-corruption system. It also lends support to corporate governance in the private sector, fulfills international obligations and protects economic interests.

The draft amendment to provisions of the Personal Data Protection Law adds a definition for ‘automated processing’ and specifies the scope of the law.

The provisions deal with the processing of personal data of natural persons in the Sultanate of Oman, including data processing that takes place in Oman and abroad.

Though the amendment requires data processors to delete personal data after processing has been completed, personal data may be retained after processing is completed in the event of a dispute between the data controller and the owner of personal data, or to fulfill a legal obligation imposed on the processing party under any law, ruling, order or jurisdictive decision. -OMA

Iran war

Oman participates in foreign ministers’ meeting



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the consultative ministerial meeting of foreign ministers convened via video-conference, involving the GCC states, the Russian Federation and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister represented the Sultanate of Oman at the meeting.

The ministers exchanged perspectives on regional and international developments related to the Israeli-American war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its severe reper-

cussions on the region—foremost among them the targeting of critical infrastructure across various parts of the region—in addition to the escalating humanitarian consequences of the war and the adverse effects on the global economy resulting from disruptions to energy supplies and international maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

The ministers expressed their profound condemnation and denunciation of all acts of targeting and all other ramifications arising from the ongoing conflict.



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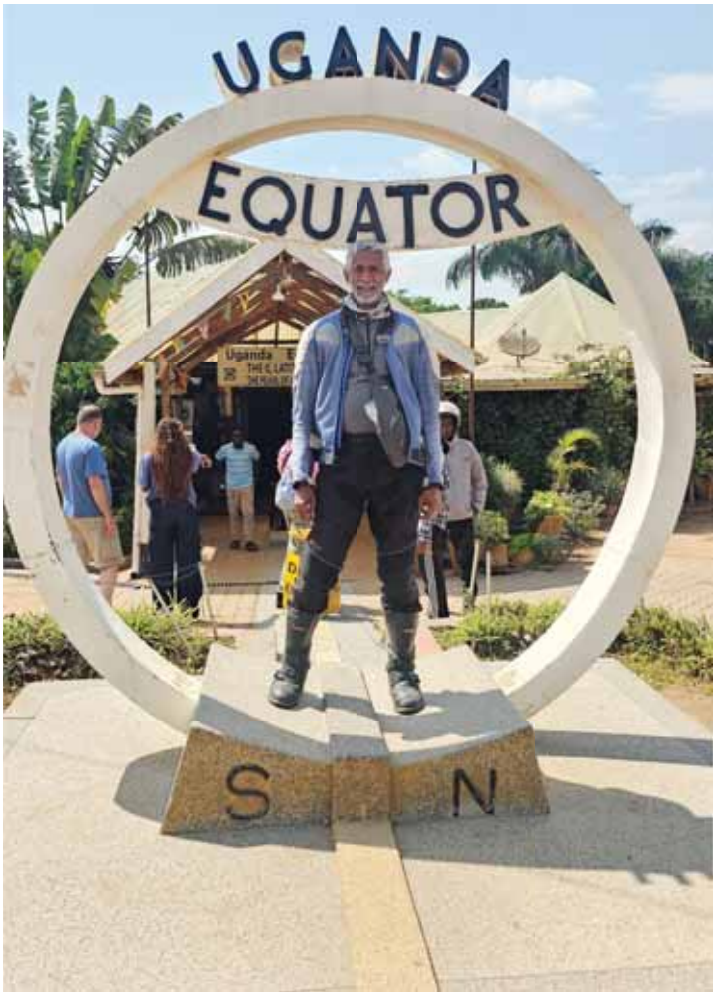
From a tech titan to a two-wheeled trailblazer

Some journeys begin with ambition. Others begin with a calling. For Dr. Singara Vadivel, it was both. After a 35-year career in global technology, he set out on a motorcycle to explore not just the world, but his purpose within it. Now 59 countries into his ride, and briefly anchored in Oman, his story is as much about distance as it is about direction

Ashok Purohit

MUSCAT: On a warm afternoon in Muscat, amid a swirl of uncertainty caused by regional tensions, a lone motorcyclist has found unexpected purpose. For Dr. Singara Vadivel, 58, technologist, global traveller, and self-described “accidental guest” in Oman, pauses are never idle. They are opportunities. “Life doesn’t always move in straight lines,” he said in his exclusive remarks to Times of Oman, reflecting on a journey that has already spanned 59 countries. “Sometimes, when the road stops, that’s when your real work begins.” For a man who once thrived in the high-pressure corridors of Silicon Valley, this detour feels less like an interruption and more like a continuation of a deeper calling - one that has taken him far from boardrooms and into classrooms, communities, and countries often left out of the global tech conversation.

A ride forged in adversity
Dr. Vadivel’s story begins far from the polished campuses of global tech giants. Born into a modest



family in a small village in Tamil Nadu, he was one among six siblings navigating the realities of scarcity. “I didn’t even own a pair of shoes until I reached college,” he recalled. “But what I did have was a belief that education could

change everything.” That belief became his compass. Through determination and relentless effort, he completed his Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from Anna University in Chennai. The journey did not stop there - he went

on to pursue higher studies in the United States, eventually earning a PhD in Computer Science. What followed was a distinguished 35-year career in the IT industry. From Bell Labs to senior roles at Microsoft, Dr. Vadivel carved out a reputation as a seasoned technologist. Yet, even at the height of his professional success, something felt incomplete. “I had achieved what I once thought was impossible,” he said. “But I kept asking myself: What is the purpose of all this knowledge if it doesn’t reach those who need it most?”

The turning point
That question would change everything. Nearly two years ago, guided by what he calls a “strong inner calling,” Dr. Vadivel made a decision that many would consider unthinkable: he walked away from his corporate career to embark on a global journey—on a motorcycle. “It’s never too late to pursue a meaningful life,” he said. Mounted on a BMW R1250 GSA, he set off from Texas, tracing a path through Central America before shipping his bike to Africa. Since then, he has ridden across continents, navigating deserts, mountains, and borders - often covering more than 300 kilometres a day. But this is no ordinary road trip. At the heart of Dr. Vadivel’s journey is a singular vision: Empowering the world through digitalisation. In every country he visits, he

meets with government officials, students, entrepreneurs, and community leaders, advocating for the adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). “Technology should not be a privilege,” said Vadivel. “It must be a bridge—connecting opportunities to people everywhere.” Africa, in particular, has been central to his mission. Over 16 months, he traversed more than 35 African nations, engaging with universities and enterprises while championing digital transformation. “India’s digital journey offers a powerful blueprint,” he explained. “If we can adapt those models thoughtfully, we can unlock enormous potential across the Global South.” His efforts have already reached 29 universities and over 100 enterprises worldwide - a grassroots movement powered not by institutions, but by one individual on two wheels.

Oman: A pause with purpose
His current stop in Oman was unplanned. Regional travel disruptions forced him to halt his journey, but true to form, Dr. Vadivel turned the situation into an opportunity for connection. Instead of waiting for borders to reopen, he immersed himself in the local community - delivering talks, meeting diplomats, and engaging with students and professionals. “I believe every place has something to teach you,” he said. “Oman has shown me the power

of warmth and openness.” From addressing executives and medical professionals at Al Hayat International Hospital in Muscat to interacting with local riding communities, his presence has sparked conversations on resilience, innovation, and purpose. He has also engaged with the Indian diaspora, sharing his philosophy of “Ride to be One,” a belief in unity through shared human experiences. “The greatest journeys are not just across continents,” he says, “but within ourselves.” Despite the pause, Dr. Vadivel’s journey is far from over. His goal is clear: to reach 100 countries, continuing his advocacy for technology-driven empowerment. Each destination adds not just to a tally, but to a growing network of conversations: about inclusion, innovation, and impact. His motorcycle, he insists, is merely a medium. “It’s not about the bike,” he says with a smile. “It’s about the connections you make along the way.” In an age defined by speed and success metrics, Dr. Vadivel’s story offers a different narrative - one where achievement is measured not by titles held, but by lives touched. From a barefoot boy in rural India to a global technologist, and now a traveller with a mission, his life is a testament to reinvention. And as he prepares to restart his engine and continue toward his 100-country goal, one thing remains certain: The road is not just a path forward - it is a purpose.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

< FROM A1 Joint effort helped minimise impact of weather system

The Relief and Shelter Sector demonstrated strong crisis management capabilities by identifying 215 shelter centres across governorates expected to be affected by the weather system, with 64 centers fully equipped to receive displaced individuals. A total of 539 people benefited from shelter services during the event. The Essential Services Sector worked to maintain the continuity of electricity, water, telecommunications, and municipal services. Efforts included addressing outages, repairing faults, managing minor structural collapses, clearing debris from roads, and closing roads affected by overflowing wadis. Alternative routes were opened, and traffic was regulated in areas experiencing water accumulation, with police patrols deployed to ensure the safety of road users. The Media and Public Awareness Sector, operating through the Joint Media Center, contributed significantly to public safety by disseminating alerts and warnings via various media outlets and social media platforms. It also highlighted national response efforts, helping to raise public awareness and reduce potential risks. These achievements were the result of close coordination among military, security, and civilian entities operating in a unified team spirit. This integrated approach helped minimise the impact of the weather system and ensured



a swift and effective emergency response. The National Committee for Emergency Management reaffirmed that preparedness, proactive readiness, and community cooperation are essential in man-

aging weather-related events. It also praised the cooperation of citizens and residents and their adherence to safety guidelines, noting that this played a significant role in reducing risks and enhancing public safety.



Plan to boost community presence

< FROM A1 This initiative encompasses health, tourism and environmental dimensions, contributing to the creation of an appealing natural destination that promotes a healthy lifestyle. The Council highlighted the essential role of community-led initiatives in supporting the project, affirming that implementation will proceed in line with the envisioned framework to ensure its success and the fulfillment of its intended goals. The Council also addressed several correspondences received from government entities, with the requisite procedures completed in accordance with prevailing regulatory frameworks. In addition, members were briefed on the response from the Ministry of Social Development regarding the promotion of the “Ayadi” platform through media channels, with a view to strengthening its community presence and advancing its volunteer-driven objectives. These matters are part of an integrated effort aimed at enhancing local services, fostering awareness and deepening community engagement, in alignment with the governorate’s commitment to improving quality of life and supporting sustainable development initiatives. -ONA

Oman Charitable Authority honours Dar Al Atta’a for humanitarian efforts

The event took place in the final days of the holy month of Ramadan under the patronage of Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In recognition of outstanding humanitarian efforts and community partnership, the Oman Charitable Authority honoured the Dar Al Atta'a Association during a ceremony held under the theme "Together We Create Impact."

The event took place in the final days of the holy month of Ramadan under the patronage of Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi,



Minister of Interior.

The association was appreciated for sustained international humanitarian campaigns, which have extended support to communities in Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Lebanon, as well as the Rohingya since 2014.

Over the past decade, Dar Al Atta'a has organised 14 campaigns,

successfully raising more than OMR1.8 million. These funds were contributed by citizens and residents of Oman, reflecting a strong culture of generosity and solidarity within the Sultanate.

Significantly, Dar Al Atta'a Association was the only entity honoured from among private sector institutions at the ceremony.

This distinction highlights its leadership in strengthening cooperation between government entities, civil society organisations, and private sector partners, particularly in advancing sustainable community initiatives and specialised humanitarian programmes.

Since launching its international campaigns in 2014 under

the umbrella of the Oman Charitable Authority, the association has played a key role in mobilising support for people affected by crises.

Its efforts have particularly focused on Gaza and the wider Palestinian territories, while also extending assistance to other regions experiencing emergencies. Among its notable responses were campaigns supporting victims of the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, where urgent humanitarian aid was delivered.

The association's campaigns have primarily focused on fundraising to provide essential relief, including food supplies, shelter, and medical assistance.

The amount raised demonstrates the commitment of Omani society to humanitarian causes and its readiness to respond swiftly to international crises.

Speaking on the occasion, Mariam bint Issa Al Zadjali, Founder and Chairperson of Dar Al Atta'a Association, said that the recognition reflects the shared responsibility of society in addressing humanitarian challenges.

She emphasised that the continued contributions of citizens and residents underscore their compassion and willingness to support those in need, in coordination with relevant authorities.

Al Zadjali also highlighted the critical role of the Oman Charitable Authority in overseeing and coordinating external humanitarian efforts, ensuring that aid reaches beneficiaries efficiently and transparently. She noted that such institutional support has been essential to the success of the association's international initiatives.

In her remarks, she further welcomed the establishment of the Oman Red Crescent, which will operate under the Authority. She expressed confidence that the new entity will play a significant role in enhancing Oman's humanitarian outreach in the future, aligning with the work of similar organisations around the world.

The ceremony reaffirmed the importance of partnership and collective action in humanitarian work, celebrating organisations that contribute to improving lives and promoting social responsibility both within Oman and beyond.

MEETINGS

AL DHAHIRAH

South Al Sharqiyah, South Al Batinah municipal councils review projects



SUR: The Municipal Council of South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, during its session convened yesterday, deliberated on a range of developmental topics and projects within the agricultural wealth, fisheries and water sectors across the governorate's wilayats.

The session reviewed a number of operational service investments being implemented in the governorate, with the attendance of specialists from the Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in the governorate. Prominent among these were the smart agriculture project, the expansion of fig cultivation, and the integrated agriculture project in the Wilayat of Al Kamil wa Al Wafi, in addition to the vegetable

and field crop cultivation project, as well as agricultural tourism in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan.

The session, chaired by Juma Abdullah Al Araiimi, Deputy Chairman of the Council, further examined investment opportunities across the governorate's wilayats. These included the rock oyster farming project in the Wilayat of Masirah and the shrimp farming project in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali.

The discussions also encompassed projects assigned to small and medium enterprises and partnerships with the private sector, such as the development project of Ras Al Had Marina and the community partnership project for local



poultry farming targeting the rural women's sector in Wad village in the Wilayat of Sur, in addition to a number of initiatives being undertaken in this domain.

The Council additionally hosted officials of Nama Water and Wastewater Services Company in the governorate, during which the efforts exerted, strategic plans, and projects currently underway to enhance developmental services in the governorate's wilayats were presented.

Boosting infrastructure A'RUSTAQ: The Municipal Council of South Al Batinah Governorate deliberated during its session yesterday on a range of service and developmental projects

Municipal Council discusses service, development projects

IBRI: The Municipal Council of Al Dhahirah Governorate held its third regular session of the 3rd term for 2026 on Monday.

The meeting was chaired by Tahir Mabkhout Al Junaibi, Governor of Al Dhahirah and Chairman of the Council.

During the meeting, the Council reviewed the minutes of the previous session and examined the implementation level of the recommendations that were issued.

It also discussed the repercussions of the "Al Masarrat" weather condition that recently affected the governorate, emphasizing the readiness of the relevant authorities and the importance of integration and joint coordination to ensure rapid response and the continuity of services.

This approach aims to enhance the safety of citizens and residents and mitigate the impacts resulting from such conditions.

The Council further discussed several topics related to investment and service aspects, including investment opportunities in some areas.

It also addressed the development requirements for the Dhank dual carriageway project, including service roads, lighting, and beautification works.

Additionally, the Municipal Council examined a proposal to regulate heavy truck traffic and a proposal for paving parking areas at public facilities in the Wilayat of Dhank.

It also followed up on the implementation of recommendations from the governorate's development committees and the health and social affairs committees for 2026, in a manner that supports comprehensive and sustainable development efforts in the governorate. -OMA



PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

National Debating Championship prelims to commence on 4 April

MUSCAT: Preliminary rounds of the National Debating Championship will begin on 4 April 2026. The championship is organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, represented by the Directorate General of Youth.

The championship will be contested by students from schools, universities, colleges and youth from sports clubs.

Contestants of the preliminary rounds include 12 teams from schools and 88 teams from universities, colleges and sports clubs. The winners will qualify for the final rounds.

The championship is an annual event that focuses on training Omani youth in the fields of logical



analysis, debate and dialogue skills. It aims to groom a leading generation that contributes to the progress of society and develops logical thinking and critical analysis.

Interest in the art of debate in the Sultanate of Oman began more than 10 years ago, spearheaded by students of school and university students, but it took shape in 2016 upon the launch of the first national debate championship organised by the National Youth Committee (at that time). Since then, the mission was undertaken by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, acting in partnership with the Oman Debate Centre. -OMA



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Ministry of Defense (MOD) invites registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

NO	SUBJECT	TENDER NUMBER	LAST DATE FOR INQUIRIES	LAST DATE TO SUBMIT BIDS	TENDER DOCUMENT FEES+ VAT
1	Supply of air conditioners for modes for three years	10/2026	20/04/2026	27/04/2026	578 RO
2	Requirement for the provision of catering and associated services for the al shafaq club for three years	11/2026	12/04/2026	20/04/2026	656 RO

2. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

3. Omanisation compliance certificate (Issued by Ministry of Labor) with a validity period not exceeding one month from the date of issuance must be submitted when purchasing tender's document.

4. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman



REF: OFM/TD-06/2026

Tender for Hiring 14 Omani Heavy Duty Drivers

Oman Flour Mills SAOG (OFM) invites specialized vendors to participate in our tender for the "Hiring of 14 Omani Heavy Duty Drivers" as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Documents:

Interested bidders are requested to send an email to tender3@omanflourmills.com to obtain the tender documents. Tender documents will be shared upon receipt of the tender fee deposit slip via email.

Tender Fee Details:

Tender fee shall be deposited directly to the following bank account:

Account Name: Oman Flour Mills Company SAOG
Bank: Sohar International
Account Number: 001020032407
Swift Code: BSHROMRUXXX

Tender Ref No	OFM/TD-06/2026
Tender Subject	Hiring of 14 Omani Heavy Duty Drivers
Tender Fee	RO. 100/- (non-refundable)
Bid Bond	Not Required
Start date for tender collection	29/03/2026
Last date for tender collection	06/04/2026
Last date for receiving technical queries	08/04/2026
Closing date of the tender	09/04/2026
Mode of payment of tender fee	By Bank Transfer
Email address for clarifications and communication	tender3@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals through email: bid-ofm@omanflourmills.com

Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable.

Bids submittal shall consist of 2 separate PDF files (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number OFM/TD-06/2026.

Oman condemns attacks on Kuwait, affirms solidarity

Oman reiterates its call upon all parties to put an end to hostilities, urging them to engage in immediate and full-scale cessation of the ongoing war

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the attack that targeted a camp and a plant for power production and water desalination in the State of Kuwait.

Foreign Ministry
A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Monday affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's full solidarity and backing for the State of Kuwait in measures that it undertakes to



safeguard its security and protect its territorial sovereignty and national assets.

The Sultanate of Oman reiterates its call upon all parties to put an end to hostilities, urging them to engage in immediate and full-

scale cessation of the war and to terminate the escalation that targets civilian and vital facilities.

In its statement, Sultanate of Oman pointed out that the targeting of civilians and vital facilities constitutes a flagrant violation of

international law and international humanitarian law.

Oman also stressed the importance of giving priority to dialogue aimed at ensuring the region's security and stability.

— ONA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR36.5 million

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR36.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills include OMR21.5 million for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.025 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.020 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.91258% and 3.95113%, respectively.

Additionally, treasury bills worth OMR15 million for a maturity period of 182 days was also allotted. The average accepted price reached OMR98.090 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.070 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.83049% and 3.90510%, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus



funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.25% while the discount rate on the treasury bills Discounting Facility with CBO

is 4.75%.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates.

Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. — ONA

ROYAL OMAN POLICE



Man arrested in Seeb for robbery and impersonating police officer

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested a person for robbery and impersonating a police officer after forcibly entering the residence of a female expatriate in the Wilayat of Seeb, Muscat Governorate.

"The General of Inquiries and Criminal Investigations arrested a man for committing robbery and impersonating a police officer after forcibly entering the residence of a female expatriate in the Wilayat of Seeb and stealing her mobile phone and cash. Legal procedures are being completed against him," ROP said in a statement.

MIN AUNG HLAING

Myanmar clears path for junta leader to become president

NAYPYIDAW: Myanmar's junta strongman Min Aung Hlaing took a step closer to becoming the country's civilian president on Monday after lawmakers nominated him for a three-way runoff largely seen as a formality.

The 69-year-old general has ruled Myanmar since a 2021 coup that toppled the democratically elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Amid a period of armed internal conflict, Min Aung Hlaing has overseen severe repression against dissent, including criminalizing protest.

This paved the way for landslide victories among pro-military parties in January's parliamentary election.

Parliament-wide vote

Lower house MP Kyaw Kyaw Htay nominated Min Aung Hlaing as the country's vice-president on Monday morning. A parliament-wide vote will now be held between him and two other candidates for the office of president.

Former spymaster Ye Win Oo, a close ally of Min Aung Hlaing, will replace him as military commander.

In 2011, Myanmar's military leaders bowed to international pressure to release Aung San



Suu Kyi from house arrest and allowed her to take on a civilian leadership role following decades of military dictatorship.

However, after her party defeated pro-military groups in 2020 elections, analysts believe Min Aung Hlaing grew unhappy about the army's waning influence and began to plot the coup.

"This political maneuvering signals that Min Aung Hlaing intends to continue ruling the country with an iron fist," analyst Naing Min Khant of the Institute for Strategy and Policy Myanmar told French news agency AFP.

"He fundamentally lacks legitimacy but desperately craves the facade of it." — DW

MEETING

Pakistan PM says efforts underway for further public relief to needy masses

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the government was making every effort to provide further relief to the poor and middle-income class, and vowed not to abandon them in this challenging time.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the impact of the Middle East situation on petroleum products, availability of current stocks, and public relief measures, said that by using digital systems, public relief would be delivered directly to the common man. He said that government expenditures and the development budget had been slashed, and 60 percent of official vehicles had been grounded to initiate austerity from within.

The prime minister said that the proposals to hike fuel prices had been repeatedly rejected, and the funds saved through austerity measures were being utilised for public relief.

He said that owing to the timely decisions, the disruption in the supply of fuel had been averted despite the global crisis.

He told the participants of the meeting that Pakistan was making vigorous diplomatic efforts to restore regional peace.

A detailed briefing was given to the participants on the implementation of government measures for



fuel conservation, future course of action, and the current stock position. It was told that the coordination was underway with the provincial governments to expedite the ownership registration of motorcycles and rickshaws to provide them with swift relief.

An Intelligence Bureau audit report was also presented to the meeting regarding the implementation of the prime minister's fuel-saving and austerity campaign.

It was informed that the strict implementation of the prime minister's austerity and simplicity drive was being ensured.

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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
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WEST ASIA CONFLICT

India assures welfare of seafarers, students

NEW DELHI: India on Monday said that particular attention is being given to the welfare of Indian seafarers as the conflict in the Gulf region entered its second month.

A senior Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officer assured that the safety, security and welfare of the Indian community in the region remains the utmost priority and added that MEA continues to closely monitor the evolving situation in the region.

Addressing an inter-ministerial briefing, Aseem Mahajan, Joint Secretary (Gulf) from the Ministry of External Affairs said that the Indian missions continue to provide support and assistance to Indian crew members on vessels across the region.

"Our missions are in continuous contact with the Indian crew members on vessels across the region to provide support including extending consular assistance, facilitating communication with their families in India and facilitating requests to return to India."

With exam cycles hindered due to the conflict, Mahajan underlined how the welfare of Indian students in the Gulf countries is being accorded high priority and that the government is making every effort to see that students' academic year is not impacted.

"Our missions are in regular touch and are actively coordinating with the local authorities, Indian schools in the region, concerned boards national testing agency. CBSE has already notified the assessment scheme for the declaration of results of class 10 and 12 in the region. Academic concerns, particularly those related to CBSE, ICSE, Kerala boards and JEE and NEET exams, are being addressed through regular outreach to parents and students," he said.

On the safety, security and welfare of the large Indian community in the region, he said that the dedicated special control room to assist Indian nationals and their families remains operational and



that Indian missions and posts are working round the clock to provide assistance.

Arabian Gulf

Also at the briefing, a senior official from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said on Monday that all Indian seafarers and ships operating in the Arabian Gulf region are remain safe and there has been no report of any incident in the past 24 hours.

Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Rajesh Kumar Sinha stated that all Indian vessels and crew are currently being closely monitored, and 8 sailors returned safely to India in the last 24 hours."18 Indian ships in the Arabian Gulf with 485 seafarers are all safe. No maritime incidents reported in the last 24 hours," Sinha said.

He added that ports across states are operating smoothly without congestion. "Two LPG carriers with 94,000 metric tonnes are expected to dock at Mumbai and New Mangalore ports on March 31 and April 1," he informed.

He later added that India continues to ensure an uninterrupted maritime operation and energy supply."

"We are maintaining continuous coordination with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian missions abroad, and other stakeholders in the maritime sector," he said. — ANI

Trump again threatens to ‘obliterate’ Iran’s power plants and Kharg Island

Despite Iran having repeatedly said it is not holding direct discussions with the US about a ceasefire, Trump said: “Great progress has been made”

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump has taken to his Truth Social platform to repeat his threats against Iran’s power plants as well as Kharg Island while also claiming to be in talks with the Iranian leadership.

He said Washington “is in serious discussions with A NEW, AND MORE REASONABLE, REGIME to end our Military Operations in Iran.”

Despite Iran having repeatedly said it is not holding direct discussions with the US about a ceasefire, Trump said: “Great progress has been made.”

However, he warned that if a deal isn’t reached soon and the Strait of Hormuz reopened, “we will conclude our lovely ‘stay’ in Iran by blowing up and completely obliterating all of their Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells and Kharg Island (and possibly all desalinisation plants!)”



The US president has previously threatened to attack Iranian power plants if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, but the deadline he gave was pushed back to April 6.

He also told reporters on Sunday that he was considering a military operation to take control of Kharg Island.

Iranian Foreign Ministry again denies talks with US
Esmaeil Baghaei, the spokesperson for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, has once again refuted claims by US President Donald Trump that there are ongoing talks between Washington and Tehran to end the war.
“First of all, we haven’t had any

direct negotiations yet,” Baghaei said in a press conference, reported on by the semi-official news agency Tasnim.

He said that Iran had received a request for talks from the US via third parties but responded by saying: “I wonder how many people in America take the claims of American diplomacy seriously!”

“Our task, unlike that of the other side that keeps changing, is clear.”

“Iran’s position has been clear from the beginning and we know exactly what our framework for negotiations is,” he said. “The content that has been passed to us consists of excessive and irrational demands.”

He also said it was good for neighbouring countries to seek an end to the war, but that “they must be aware of which side started the war.” “Our position is clear. We are under military aggression. Therefore, all our efforts and strength are focused on defending ourselves,” he added.

Indirect negotiations
US President Donald Trump has claimed that indirect negotiations between the United States and Iran, facilitated by Pakistani intermediaries, are making “positive progress”, according to media report.

Speaking about the ongoing backchannel diplomacy, Trump

said talks are underway through Pakistani “emissaries”, though he declined to provide specific details when asked whether a ceasefire deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz could be reached in the coming days, as reported by the Financial Times on Sunday.

“We’ve got about 3,000 targets left -- we’ve bombed 13,000 targets -- and another couple of thousand targets to go,” Trump said, underscoring continued military pressure. He added, “A deal could be made fairly quickly.”

The US President also referenced his earlier comments made last week, suggesting that Iran had allowed 10 Pakistani-flagged oil tankers to pass through the Strait of Hormuz as a “present” to the White House. According to the Financial Times, he said that Iran had doubled the number, attributing the move to Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf (Iranian Parliament Speaker). He said, “He’s the one who authorised the ships to me.”

“Remember, I said they’re giving me a present? And everyone said, ‘What’s the present? Bullshit.’ When they heard about that, they kept their mouth shut, and the negotiations are going very well,” Trump added.

Meanwhile, Trump on Sunday said he’s optimistic about a deal with Iran, citing “very good negotiations” and Iran allowing 20 oil tankers to pass through the Strait of Hormuz as a “sign of respect”.

Addressing reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Joint Base Andrews, Trump said, “I do see a deal in Iran, yeah. Could be soon.”

“So we’ve had very good negotiations today with Iran, getting a lot

of the things that they should have given us a long time ago. See how it works out, but they’re very good, moving along very nicely. And they’ve destroyed a lot of additional targets today. The Navy’s gone, the Air Force’s gone, we know that. We’ve destroyed many, many targets today. It was a big day. And we are negotiating with them directly and indirectly,” he said further.

From the Iranian side, Iran’s Acting Defence Minister Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Ibn Reza held a key telephone conversation with Turkish Defence Minister Yasar Guler amid the ongoing West Asia conflict involving the United States and Israel, according to Iranian state media Press TV.

During the call on Sunday evening, General Reza strongly condemned the “brutal military aggression” against Iran, calling it a clear violation of international law and fundamental principles of the global system, according to Press TV.

Meanwhile, Spain has closed its airspace to all aircraft linked to the US-Israel war with Iran, Deputy Prime Minister Carlos Cuerdo said in an interview published on Monday. The move “is part of the Spanish government’s decision not to participate in or support this war, which was begun unilaterally and violates international law,” Cuerdo told national radio station Cadena SER. The newspaper El Pais previously reported that the airspace closure includes departures from Spanish soil, as well as overflights by military aircrafts operating from other bases, for instance the United Kingdom or France. – Agencies

SCENIC BEAUTY



Washington DC’s cherry blossoms reach peak bloom, delight visitors

WASHINGTON DC: Washington’s iconic cherry blossoms were seen in full bloom on Sunday (local time), attracting locals and tourists alike to witness the city’s scenic beauty.

Locals present in the area told ANI that the scenic beauty the blossoms rendered was beautiful.

A local told ANI, “I love cherry blossom season...Everyone can enjoy the beauty of the cherry blossoms. Whenever I am walking on the street, and cherry blossom petals are falling, it seems like I am in an anime... It feels so cute and wholesome.”

Gift of cherry trees

The National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC, and celebrates the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

Today’s Festival now spans four weeks and welcomes more than 1.6 million people to enjoy diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Events are primarily free and open to the public, according to the National Cherry Blossom Festival website.

Trees arrived in Washington
More than 3,000 trees arrived in Washington in 1912 after co-ordination between the governments of the two countries. Jokichi Takamine, a world-famous chemist and the founder of

Sankyo Co, Ltd (today known as Daiichi Sankyo); David Fairchild of the US Department of Agriculture; Eliza Scidmore, first female board member of the National Geographic Society; and First Lady Helen Herron Taft led the group to coordinate the gift.

Simple ceremony

In a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Iwa Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees from Japan on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park, the website says further.

Since First Lady Taft’s involvement, the nation’s First Ladies have been proponents of the Festival. Historically, many were involved in events through the National Conference of State Societies’ Princess Program. First Lady Mamie Eisenhower crowned Queen Janet Bailey in 1953, and in 1976, Betty Ford invited the princesses to the White House. In 1965, Lady Bird Johnson accepted 3,800 Yoshino trees from the government of Japan and held a tree planting reenactment. All first ladies in recent years have served as Honorary Chair, with many participating as well. In 1999, First Lady Hillary Clinton took part in a tree planting ceremony. In 2001, First Lady Laura Bush greeted guests with remarks at the Opening Ceremony. First Lady Michelle Obama was involved in 2012, planting a cherry tree in West Potomac Park among dignitaries and guests.

— ANI

ONE-YEAR CONTRACT

Russian university students duped into signing contracts with military

MOSCOW: Students are being recruited at universities and other educational institutions around Russia for the Russian Defence Ministry’s drone units. Often they are promised a one-year contract, around 5 million rubles (about €50,000, \$58,000) and free tuition after their stint in the military, as well as being told that they will be deployed at a safe distance from the front in Ukraine.

But observers say the students are being misled and duped into signing permanent contracts. At worst, they are being sent to the front, where the risk of death or injury is high.

According to information on university websites and posts by students on Telegram channels, universities have been organizing meetings with representatives from recruitment offices and military training centers to inform students about the purported benefits of signing contracts with the Defense Ministry. The Russian-language information portal Echo reported that at least 70 educational establishments in 23 regions, including the annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea, are involved in recruitment. Nearly half are located in the Russian capital Moscow and St. Petersburg.

No standard format for recruitment

Yuri, who works at a Moscow university and who spoke to DW using a pseudonym for security reasons, said that the heads of various universities had been summoned to a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko, who is also the minister responsible for education and science. They were instructed to organize the recruitment of students at their universities for service in Russian drone units.

“There is no standard format for the recruitment, every university has its own,” said Yuri, explaining that representatives from the draft boards, veterans of the “special military operation” — as the war against Ukraine is officially referred to in Russia — and university staff held group discussions with students.

In some regions, the local education ministries have issued guidelines on how universities should organize recruitment efforts. According to a February report in the independent Russian news outlet The Insider, university administrations have also sent emails of-



fering students contracts with the Defense Ministry.

According to another independent media platform, T-invariant, many universities are now involved in recruitment, including ones that have nothing to do with the development or use of drones.

“First it was students from technical universities, then those facing expulsion, and now it has reached all students,” T-invariant wrote. “Universities have been given recruitment quotas, students are being lured with additional university payments and threatened with denial of retakes for failed courses.”

“From what I’ve observed, a quota has been set for each university — between 0.5 and 2% of the total student body,” Yuri continued, adding that if a university administration failed to meet those targets, it might be suspected of being disloyal.

“In such a case, the rector or vice rector risks losing their position,” he said. For example, the failure rate at his university has risen sharply recently, he recounted, and students at risk of expulsion faced the choice of either signing a contract with the army to serve in a drone unit or

doing military service.

Students not protected by Russian law

Promotional materials distributed at universities claim that students can sign a one-year contract and then return to civilian life. But Artem Klyga, a lawyer with the Movement of Conscientious Objectors, an NGO that has been classified as a “foreign agent” in Russia, pointed out that short-term contracts were not in line with current laws.

He said that the contracts students were signing were effectively open-ended, at least until Russian President Vladimir Putin puts an end to partial mobilization. Klyga said that court rulings had confirmed that the contracts were open-ended.

Russian law did not guarantee that a person would only serve in the drone units, either, he explained. “If you sign a contract and fail to meet the requirements, this does not mean termination of the contract or discharge. You are simply transferred to another unit and assigned to a different military position by order of the commander,” Klyga said.

The Get Lost (Idite Lesom) movement, which is based in

Georgia and provides support to deserters from Russia, has received reports of broken promises. In one example, students from a St. Petersburg college signed contracts with the Russian Defense Ministry that promised they would be posted at a local military facility to work on military equipment. But they were later informed they would be working on the frontline as drone pilots.

A similar fate befell a contract soldier who spoke with DW in early January and asked not to be named. He said that he had been promised a position with the command staff when he signed his contract, and this had been the case initially.

But after a few months, he had suddenly been transferred to an engineering unit for mine clearance. DW lost contact with him at the end of January and has since heard that he was killed in the Kharkiv region.

Yuri told DW that he was not aware that students at his university had signed any contracts with the Defense Ministry. He said he always tried to warn them against it, but that it was not easy to talk openly, as he could be reported to the university administration. In any case, some students were already well aware that no money in the world could compensate for a disability or death, he added.

Yuri said that for a time, he had tried to focus on his academic work. “Up to a point, I was able to keep myself out of this war. But now the universities are turning into barracks. My humanist worldview won’t allow me to send my own students there [to war],” he stated.

— DW

SPORTS



Four years, one goal: Head coach Sektioui’s winning Oman vision

The newly-appointed Moroccan addressed media in Muscat for the first time since replacing Portuguese Carlos Queiroz as the national team head coach

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman football team’s new head coach Tarik Sektioui has set an ambitious course for the national players, declaring that the next four years are about building a winning legacy — not just turning up for tournaments.

Speaking at his inaugural press conference on Monday, in the presence of Sayyid Sulaiman Al Busaidi, Oman Football Association

(OFA) president and members of the OFA board, Sektioui unveiled a long-term vision aimed at qualifying for the 2030 FIFA World Cup and competing strongly in the Asian Cup.

“We are not here just to participate; we are here to win,” Sektioui said.

“Over the next four years, our mission is clear: build a balanced, competitive team across defence, midfield, and attack, and instill a



winning mentality in every player who wears the national jersey.”

The Moroccan coach, who previously led Morocco to an Arab Cup title, stressed that achieving

be patient. We are building something strong and sustainable.”

A central pillar of Sektioui’s plan is youth development. He pledged to work closely with age-group coaches and ensure that Oman’s younger squads are integrated into the senior team’s long-term strategy.

“Youth teams are the foundation,” he said. “We will give them the attention they deserve because they are the future of Omani football.”

Sektioui also made it clear that selection will be based purely on performance, opening the door to any player who can contribute, regardless of age. “Players must value the national jersey and give 100 percent,” he said.

“We will bring in the best performers. Commitment and performance will always count above all else.”

The new coach emphasised that a distinctive Omani football identity is key to long-term success.

“We want Oman football to have

its own identity - one that is disciplined, competitive, and proud,” he said. “Every player and staff member must understand what it means to represent the nation.”

In addition to the senior team, Sektioui confirmed that he will soon unveil his support staff and roll out a structured training roadmap, signaling the start of a methodical rebuild.

“I have already spoken to the board. Now we begin the work in earnest — training, strategy, and building a culture that will last.”

He said that he would be attending most of the top-flight domestic league to get a good idea of the players and their skillset.

Sektioui’s message was clear: ambition, unity, and hard work will define the next four years. For Oman football, the countdown to 2030 has officially begun - and this time, the goal is not just to compete, but to win.

BALL-TAMPERING CHARGES



PSL: Fakhar Zaman could be banned for at least a game

LAHORE: Fakhar Zaman is staring at a ban for at least one match after he was charged with changing the condition of the ball in Lahore Qalandars’ four-wicket defeat to Karachi Kings in their PSL 2026 game on Sunday.

The Qalandars’ player, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) statement said, has been charged with a level-III offence, which carries a minimum ban of one match and a maximum of two for a first violation in a PSL season. Match referee Roshan Mahanama will conduct a hearing in the next two days and Fakhar will contest the charge.

The incident took place at the start of the last over of the Kings chase when on-field umpire Faisal Afridi took the ball from Haris Rauf for inspection after it had exchanged hands between Shaheen Shah Afridi and Fakhar. Faisal indulged in a lengthy discussion with Sharfuddoula, the other on-field umpire, and the two decided to bring in a replacement ball, deeming it to have been tampered with.

Kings were awarded five penalty runs and their batters - Khushdil Shah and Azam Khan - were allowed to select the replacement ball.

This was done in accordance with clause 41.3 of the PSL playing conditions, which allows the umpires to “make frequent and irregular inspections of the ball”. The playing conditions say that “in

addition, they shall immediately inspect the ball if they suspect any one of attempting to change the condition of the ball”.

Clause 41.3.5.1 allows the “batter at the wicket” to opt for the replacement ball from the “selection of six other balls of various degrees of usage,” and clause 41.3.5.3 stipulates five penalty runs to be awarded to the batting side if they seek a replacement ball after it has become possible for umpires to identify the player or players responsible for changing its condition.

At the post-match presentation ceremony, Afridi appeared to say he was unclear on why the penalty runs were awarded: “We’ll see [what the umpires say].”

The five penalty runs proved pivotal in Kings’ chase as they brought down the equation from 14 off the last six to nine off six. The match was sealed within two legal balls as Abbas Afridi struck Rauf for a four and a six.

Separately, Kings’ Hasan Ali was fined 10% of his match fee for the celebration of Haseebullah’s wicket in the 19th over. His actions were deemed a level-I offence that breached article 2.5 of the PSL code of conduct, which pertains to “using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon dismissal”. - Agencies

IPL: MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma 2.0: Muscle memory meets mayhem

MUMBAI: Ten months away from T20 cricket, a stripped-back role, and a mind finally unburdened - the result is a Rohit Sharma who looks both familiar and frighteningly new.

In Mumbai Indians’ chase against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Sunday, the veteran didn’t just return; he reasserted, unleashing his fastest-ever IPL fifty in a knock that blended instinct, freedom, and vintage authority.

Before Sunday, Mumbai Indians (MI) had never chased down a 220-plus target in their previous seven attempts. And they had never won their opening game of the IPL since 2012.

On day two of IPL 2026, MI broke both jinxes as they chased down 221 in 19.1 overs to begin their season with a comfortable six-wicket win over KKR. Rohit wound back the clock, smashing 78 off 38 balls, while Ryan Rickelton thumped 81 off 43, the duo added 148 runs for the opening wicket off just 71 balls.

Muscle memory is a cricketer’s quiet superpower - the ability to react without thinking, to trust years of repetition when the moment demands instinct over calculation.

For Rohit, it surfaces most vividly against the short ball. The swivel, the pull - a movement honed over decades. On this night against KKR, one such effort didn’t even meet the middle of the bat. It didn’t matter. The ball still sailed over deep midwicket.

This was Rohit’s first proper T20 outing in nearly ten months. Yet, in his 19th IPL season, there was no rust, no hesitation — only rhythm. He didn’t ease himself in; he simply slipped into a higher gear.

From the outset, he stamped authority. Vaibhav Arora was dispatched with a premeditated swing that flew 87 metres over deep midwicket.

Blessing Muzarabani was treated with equal disdain — Rohit charged down, made room, and carved him over extra cover with surgical precision.

But it was the fifth over, against Varun Chakravarthy, that underlined his command. A lofted inside-out drive first ball. Another



elegant lift over covers next. Then a subtle shuffle across to flick over backward square.

Fifteen runs came off the over, a stunning reversal of a match-up that had previously favoured the spinner, against whom Rohit had managed just 48 runs off 49 balls before this contest.

The assault continued. Kartik Tyagi’s overpitched off-cutter was punished with a clean inside-out six. By the end of the powerplay, Rohit had raced to a 23-ball fifty - his fastest in the IPL - drawing a roar from a Wankhede crowd that reveres him. It was also the first time he had crossed 50 within the powerplay in IPL history.

The strokes were familiar, but the intent felt different.

In seasons gone by — particularly until IPL 2024 — Rohit’s batting often carried a layer of restraint. Captaincy burdens, tactical conservatism, and the evolving demands of T20 cricket seemed to temper his natural aggression.

The numbers tell that story: a strike rate of 120.17 in 2022, rising to 132.8 in 2023, before leaping to 150 in 2024 and holding at 149.28 in 2025. This current version isn’t manufactured; it’s evolved.

“Just him — he’s freed himself up,” Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene said. “He’s calmer, there’s less pressure without the leadership role. This happens. It happened to me as well late in my career in franchise cricket.”

“You practice less, but your muscle memory takes over. You read the bowlers, go with the flow. That freedom is something we’ve seen in Rohit over the last couple of years, and we encourage it.”

Despite playing only one international format over the past year — most recently ODIs against New Zealand — Rohit’s preparation has been anything but casual.

He reported early to the Mumbai Indians camp, logged long hours in the nets against a mix of pace and variation, including captain Hardik Pandya, and embraced match simulations designed to sharpen his instincts.

“I’ve had him from day one this time,” Jayawardene added.

“He played good practice games, we ran a lot of simulations, and I was very happy with how he was striking the ball. He batted brilliantly.”

The confidence showed. Rohit

accessed all areas of the ground with ease, but one moment captured the mood — a no-look, inside-out six off Arora, a full toss outside off dismissed almost nonchalantly over covers.

By the time he walked off, he had compiled a 38-ball 78, peppering both sides of the wicket with authority. The setting made it sweeter: the Wankhede Stadium, where he has now amassed over 2,500 IPL runs.

There’s a broader pattern at play. Rohit, now a one-format international player, appears rejuvenated — much like his long-time team-mate Virat Kohli, who has also begun the 2026 season with renewed clarity and intent.

Both speak, often, about the same idea: knowing your game so well that execution becomes instinctive. On nights like this, that instinct turns into spectacle.

Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 220/4 (Ajinkya Rahane 67, Angkrish Raghuvanshi 51, Finn Allen 37, Rinku 33*; Shar-dul Thakur 3-39) lost to Mumbai Indians 224/4 in 19.1 overs (Ryan Rickelton 81, Rohit Sharma 78; Sunil Narine 1-30).

(With inputs from ESPNcricinfo.com)

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by May 2026 reaching \$104.84. The price of Oman oil fell by \$14.68 from the price of Friday, which was \$119.52.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 8,132.54 points, up by 1.29% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.35% at 646.45 points. Muscat Gases, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 6.98%, was the top loser.

Forum to spur investments and strengthen partnerships

South Al Batinah is preparing for the launch of the Investment Opportunities Forum 2026 with the aim of strengthening partnerships, attracting qualitative investments, and stimulating economic growth

MUSCAT: The South Al Batinah branch of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), in cooperation with the Office of the Governor of South Al Batinah, will organise the Investment Opportunities Forum 2026 on 6 April in the Wilayat of Barka.

Eng. Masoud Said Al Hashmi, Governor of South Al Batinah, stated that the governorate is preparing for the launch of the Investment Opportunities Forum 2026 with the aim of strengthening partnerships, attracting qualitative investments, and stimulating economic growth.

This will be achieved by presenting investment opportunities in vital sectors, organising discussion sessions, and holding an accompanying exhibition.



Furthermore, several agreements will be signed to help transform these opportunities into tangible projects, thereby supporting the business environment and enhancing the governorate's competitiveness in alignment with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

For his part, Eng. Hamoud Salim Al Saadi, Second Deputy Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Chamber's branch in South Al Batinah, said that the Investment Opportunities Forum embodies the Chamber's orientation toward supporting the private sector and

enhancing its role in development.

He noted that this is achieved by creating a stimulating investment environment, empowering investors, and connecting them directly with relevant authorities to attract qualitative investments, stimulate partnerships, raise the efficiency of the business environment, and reinforce South Al Batinah's position as a promising economic hub.

The forum is held under the slogan "Sustainable Development and Comprehensive Economic Partnership," aiming to review promising investment opportunities in various economic sectors

within the governorate and expand the base of local and international investors. It serves as a strategic meeting point for decision-makers, government agencies, and investors to broaden the scope of cooperation and economic partnerships in service of sustainable development goals and the national vision to achieve Oman Vision 2040.

In the context of enhancing the investment environment and attracting economic partnerships, participating entities will showcase more than 100 investment opportunities and over 40 investment sites covering an area ex-

ceeding 6 million square meters.

These opportunities are distributed across several vital sectors, including the industrial and food processing sector (30 opportunities), the commercial sector (27 opportunities), the services sector (17 opportunities), eco, cultural, and adventure tourism (15 opportunities), the real estate sector (7 opportunities), and the agricultural and food security sector (4 opportunities).

These opportunities include several plots of land from the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, as well as investment

offers presented by the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. Additional opportunities are provided by Khazaen Economic City and the Governor's Office, along with those presented by zakat committees and voluntary teams in the governorate.

The forum will also witness the signing of more than 10 investment agreements between government entities and local and international investors, which will enhance strategic partnerships in sustainable development projects and stimulate the governorate's economy. Additionally, the event will include a mini-exhibition for participating entities to showcase the most significant projects currently underway in the governorate across various sectors.

The Investment Opportunities Guide will also be launched, featuring a comprehensive inventory of available opportunities and details regarding the lands offered for investment.

The forum's proceedings will include panel discussions with the participation of officials from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Khazaen Economic City, and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, alongside representatives from real estate companies and vital projects, providing an opportunity for direct interaction.

The sessions will discuss investment opportunities and their role in attracting projects, as well as how small and medium enterprises can benefit from major investment opportunities, while presenting successful experiences in the tourism and real estate sectors from projects that have achieved notable success in the governorate. -OMA

BANKING PRODUCTS



BankDhofar's SME growth strategy is designed to empower entrepreneurs

MUSCAT: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have become one of the main pillars of Oman's national economy, given their rapid growth, expanding role in job creation, and ability to empower ambitious Omani youth to set up their own businesses, alongside a steadily rising contribution to GDP.

As the Sultanate advances its Vision 2040 diversification agenda, SMEs are no longer viewed as peripheral actors but as central drivers of innovation, localisation, and economic resilience.

Yet their growing importance has also exposed structural constraints that continue to limit their potential.

Many Omani SMEs still face hurdles in accessing affordable finance, navigating regulatory requirements, and adopting digital tools at scale — challenges that can impede expansion, competitiveness, and integration into regional and global markets. In this context, a fundamental rethink of banking support has become a strategic imperative rather than a policy option.

BankDhofar has responded by

repositioning itself from a conventional lender to a strategic partner for entrepreneurs. Rather than focusing solely on credit and transactional services, the bank has embraced a more integrated model that blends financing, digital solutions, advisory support, and ecosystem engagement.

At the core of this transformation, BankDhofar has launched a suite of banking products tailored to meet the daily operational needs of SMEs. These include a SME Current account offering a smoother banking experience through simplified account-opening procedures, integration of traditional and digital point-of-sale systems (SoftPOS), payroll management under the Wage Protection System (WPS), remote cheque collection services, payment gateway solutions, dedicated debit and credit cards, and POS-based financing under simplified conditions.

The bank has also expanded its role in the entrepreneurship ecosystem through strategic partnerships. Its collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Pro-

motion has facilitated access for Sanad office owners to banking services without the need to visit branches, simplifying procedures for account opening and service utilisation. Additionally, its partnership with Smartech has enhanced POS capabilities by integrating payment solutions with accounting systems.

A defining milestone in this evolution was the launch of Numo, BankDhofar's dedicated SME banking brand — a new model of business banking that combines SME Centers, digital tools tailored to SME needs, flexible financing solutions, and closer coordination with government entities such as the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. Designed to support firms from start-up through scale-up, Numo reflects the bank's conviction that SME success depends as much on guidance, connectivity, and institutional alignment as on access to capital. Entrepreneurs are invited to visit Numo Centers across Oman to benefit from the full range of banking solutions offered by BankDhofar.

REPORT

Strong domestic demand supports India's economy, but Middle East crisis raises stagflation risks



NEW DELHI: India's economic outlook remains supported by strong domestic demand and improving high-frequency indicators, but rising geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East, pose significant risks, including the possibility of stagflation, according to a report by Morgan Stanley.

The report noted that "domestic demand remains resilient; however, headwinds are emerging as ongoing geopolitical tensions create a stagflationary risk," adding that while macroeconomic stability indicators are currently favourable, "prolonged disruption poses downside risks to growth and could worsen macro stability."

High-frequency indicators highlighted in the report suggest broad-based strength in the economy. There has been a broad-based improvement in auto sales, while credit growth is improving, indicating sustained consumption

and lending activity.

Additionally, the report mentioned that the GST collections remain resilient, reflecting stable economic activity, and manufacturing PMI has improved, although services PMI has edged down, suggesting some moderation in the services sector.

The labour market outlook is also showing signs of improvement in CY2025 and CYTD26, alongside a gradual rise in employee expenses among BSE-500 companies, pointing towards strengthening employment conditions.

Corporate performance remains steady, with corporate revenue holding up in the December 2025 quarter, while nominal growth is expected to improve in FY2027E.

Financial flows within the economy also remain supportive. The report highlighted that monthly SIP flows remain upbeat, indicating continued retail investor participation, and the flow of funds

to the commercial sector remains healthy, suggesting adequate credit availability for businesses.

On the policy front, the Reserve Bank of India has taken proactive steps to maintain liquidity. The report noted that the RBI has conducted proactive liquidity management, with the policy rate currently at 5.25 per cent, while interbank liquidity remains in surplus, ensuring sufficient liquidity in the system.

However, the report cautioned that India remains exposed to external risks, particularly from the Middle East. It stated that India remains vulnerable to volatility in global commodity prices, especially energy.

The region is also critical for India's external sector, with exports to the Middle East accounting for around 15 per cent of total exports, while the Middle East accounts for 38 per cent of India's remittances. -OMA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Muscat Gases, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 6.98%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 8,132.54 points, up by 1.29% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.35% at 646.45 points. Muscat Gases, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 6.98%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 7218 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 102.28 million, with more than 349.11 million shares changing hands.

Out of 79 traded securities, 39 advanced, 23 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 2047K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 1040K, followed by domestic investors for RO 1007K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 12,747.61 points, up 0.74%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Omani-

ya Financial Services, OMINVEST were up by 7.69%, 3.34%, 2.80%, 2.78%, 2.70% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Ahli Bank, Muscat Insurance, Muscat Finance, Oman United Insurance were down by 5.97%, 4.50%, 3.33%, 1.43%, 0.83% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,884.56 points, up 0.10%. Prices of Salalah Mills, Galfar Engineering were up by 5.41%, 0.67% respectively. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Oman Cement, Ray-sut Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 2.50%, 1.77%, 0.77%, 0.56%, 0.52% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.04% before closing at 3,147.13 points. Prices of Muscat Gases, Oman Education & Training, SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, National Gas were up by 10.00%, 10.00%, 6.04%, 4.17%, 3.88% respectively. Prices of Renaissance Services, Majan College, Al Jazeera Services, Shell Oman Marketing, Salalah Port Services were down by 6.12%, 5.43%, 3.78%, 0.93%, 0.86% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	8,179.43	8,019.11	8,132.54	8,028.88	103.65	1.29
FINANCIAL INDEX	12,767.37	12,603.09	12,747.61	12,654.17	93.43	0.74
Industry Index	9,966.54	9,854.51	9,884.56	9,874.84	9.72	0.10
Services Index	3,160.32	3,102.57	3,147.13	3,114.84	32.29	1.04
MSX Shariah Index	647.25	644.29	646.45	648.69	-2.24	-0.35
MSX TR INDEX	12,544.11	12,298.24	12,472.19	12,238.16	234.03	1.91
FINANCIAL TR IDX	15,336.95	15,139.60	15,313.21	15,104.84	208.37	1.38
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,476.72	12,414.78	12,409.03	12,409.03	0.00	0.85
SERVICES TR IDX	4,215.97	4,138.94	4,198.38	4,120.16	78.22	1.90
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
349,118,641	102,284,912	7,218	37,828,034,750	39	23	17	79

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 30

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	1,151,042	350,384	64	0.299	0.315	0.292	0.309	0.299	0.010	3.344	0.309	0.303	0.309	0.100	61,800,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,323,410	595,958	42	0.444	0.457	0.444	0.457	0.445	0.012	2.697	0.457	0.457	0.459	0.100	427,620,199
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	141,502,073	32,358,818	948	0.226	0.233	0.225	0.230	0.226	0.004	1.770	0.230	0.229	0.230	0.100	1,521,966,642
OM0000000420	SMN POWER HOLDING	3,990,018	538,045	169	0.265	0.281	0.268	0.281	0.265	0.016	6.038	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.100	357,927,604
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	889,426	80,406	43	0.091	0.091	0.089	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	32,407,584
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	795,304	358,519	210	0.451	0.454	0.447	0.454	0.450	0.004	0.889	0.454	0.454	0.454	0.100	349,670,800
OM0000000440	AL SHARQYA INVESTMENT HO	557,163	63,093	36	0.118	0.118	0.110	0.115	0.114	0.001	0.877	0.114	0.115	0.114	0.100	10,350,000
OM0000000972	QIG GAS NETWORKS	30,671,133	8,173,121	865	0.265	0.269	0.263	0.266	0.264	0.002	0.788	0.266	0.265	0.266	0.100	1,151,945,963
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	273,474	49,171	28	0.180	0.181	0.178	0.181	0.180	0.001	0.556	0.181	0.180	0.180	0.100	122,154,825
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	758,147	136,346	44	0.181	0.182	0.177	0.181	0.180	0.001	0.556	0.181	0.181	0.182	0.100	128,307,548
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	23,017,962	10,846,301	418	0.473	0.475	0.466	0.474	0.473	0.001	0.211	0.474	0.474	0.474	0.100	3,558,032,207
OM0000000276	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	968	828	3	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.000	0.000	0.830	0.760	0.830	0.100	103,665,307
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	20,128	16,847	3	0.837	0.837	0.836	0.837	0.837	0.000	0.000	0.837	0.835	0.837	0.100	100,440,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	255,433	517,522	68	2.000	2.100	1.990	2.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	1.991	2.000	0.100	187,226,324
OM0000003968	COREDOL	98,433	35,372	24	0.380	0.380	0.358	0.380	0.361	-0.001	-0.277	0.380	0.360	0.380	0.100	234,339,923
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	84,045	15,023	20	0.180	0.180	0.178	0.179	0.180	-0.001	-0.556	0.179	0.173	0.185	0.100	38,380,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	600	206	4	0.342	0.359	0.340	0.359	0.362	-0.003	-0.829	0.359	0.340	0.359	0.100	37,695,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,000,350	6,184,099	393	1.549	1.564	1.512	1.550	1.563	-0.013	-0.832	1.550	1.542	1.550	0.100	1,162,500,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	50,083	11,577	23	0.235	0.235	0.225	0.229	0.228	-0.009	-3.782	0.229	0.228	0.229	0.100	981,045
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	893,245	112,061	88	0.126	0.126	0.125	0.126	0.124	-0.008	-5.970	0.126	0.126	0.127	0.100	22,050,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	1,648,344	658,120	70	0.401	0.402	0.398	0.399	0.425	-0.026	-6.118	0.399	0.398	0.420	0.100	94,327,550
	21	211,291,692	61,093,820	3,553												

Parallel Market

OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	166,187	23,409	14	0.138	0.143	0.138	0.143	0.130	0.013	10.000	0.143	0.143	0.000	0.100	4,290,000
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUC & TRAINING INVTMTS	241	398	1	1.650	1.650	1.650	1.650	1.500	0.150	10.000	1.650	1.501	1.650	0.100	115,500,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,688,683	69,138	103	0.039	0.042	0.037	0.042	0.039	0.003	7.692	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.100	3,570,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	3,990,018	1,104,847	164	0.265	0.281	0.265	0.281	0.265	0.016	6.038	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.100	357,927,604
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	146,479	109,359	17	0.740	0.780	0.739	0.780	0.740	0.040	5.405	0.780	0.748	0.770	0.100	4,772,190
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	11,079,684	3,450,825	491	0.297	0.319	0.296	0.309	0.295	0.014	4.746	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.000	1,609,501,983
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	1,508,863	338,211	59	0.220	0.226	0.220	0.225	0.216	0.009	4.167	0.225	0.225	0.220	0.100	244,778,689
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	2,233,540	249,293	206	0.107	0.110	0.105	0.107	0.103	0.004	3.883	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	9,095,000
OM0000007047	DHOFAH GENERATING	532,571	46,166	31	0.087	0.089	0.085	0.088	0.085	0.003	3.529	0.088	0.085	0.088	0.100	19,557,120
OM0000009758	QJ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	19,697,395	9,341,356	891	0.484	0.480	0.484	0.479	0.465	0.014	3.011	0.479	0.474	0.479	0.010	3,832,000,000
OM0000009608	QJ BASE INDUSTRIES (SZ)	82,003,129	23,978,832	838	0.285	0.286	0.285	0.292	0.284	0.008	2.817	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.040	1,010,171,328
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,420,461	156,734	79	0.108	0.113	0.108	0.110	0.107	0.003	2.804	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.100	13,406,250
OM0000002077	AL OMANIA FINANCIAL SERVICES	187,257	34,673	15	0.186	0.186	0.185	0.185	0.180	0.005	2.778	0.185	0.182	0.185	0.100	58,352,146
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	4,739,654	929,963	303	0.194	0.202	0.194	0.200	0.196	0.004	2.041	0.200	0.200	0.202	0.100	607,959,706
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	6,550	1,070	2	0.161	0.164	0.161	0.164	0.161	0.003	1.963	0.164	0.153	0.174	0.100	12,385,068
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	1,105	187	2	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.169	0.166	0.003	1.807	0.169	0.166	0.169	0.100	27,040,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	86,689	6,292	18	0.073	0.073	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	17,750,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	34,363	3,179	8	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	1.087	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	14,466,187
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	16,160	3,151	3	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.183	0.002	1.036	0.185	0.194	0.188	0.100	390,534,950
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	3,483,600	357,926	9	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.101	0.103	0.100	17,922,000
OM0000001823	FINANCIAL FREEWAY FUND	5,616	1,126	1	0.985	0.985	0.985	0.985	0.985	0.000	0.000	0.985	0.100	0.985	0.100	29,245,244
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	96,300	13,500	19	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.001	0.714	0.141	0.141	0.142	0.100	42,095,963
OM0000001152	OMAN NATL ENUG & INVESTMENT	828,039	132,597	15	0.160	0.164	0.160	0.162	0.161	0.001	0.621	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.100	24,300,000
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FUND	809,769	194,352	4	0.240	0.245	0.240	0.241	0.240	0.001	0.417	0.241	0.241	0.240	0.100	146,558,496
OM0000001095	DHOFAH FINANCE	1,000	285	1	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.000	0.000	0.285	0.000	0.285	0.100	34,323,542
OM0000001301	DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT	1,700	258	1	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.152	0.158	0.100	30,046,892
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	12,431	7,021	8	0.265	0.265	0.262	0.264	0.264	0.000	0.000	0.264	0.262	0.264	0.100	93,271,500
OM0000001426	OMAN PETROLEUM	15,300	6,500	6	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.000	0.000	0.980	0.980	0.980	0.100	65,000,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTL DEVPT & INVESTMENT	67,373	20,085	8	0.296	0.299	0.296	0.299	0.299	0.000	0.000	0.299	0.296	0.299	0.100	148,320,788
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	500	83	2	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.151	0.165	0.100	5,351,917
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	946,610	27,766	21	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	1,680,000,000
OM0000002580	GULF AL MARKETING	19,830	11,930	1	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	1,000,000,000
OM0000005005	ALUMHA CERAMICS	14,551	3,783	5	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.260	0.285	0.100	14,300,000
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	500,000	182,500	2	0.365	0.365	0.365	0.365	0.365	0.000	0.000	0.365	0.365	0.000	0.100	145,406,638
OM0000001426	OMAN PETROLEUM	14,129	4,526	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.102	0.104	0.100	1,000,000,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	5,400	1,765	5	0.311	0.345	0.311	0.344	0.345	-0.001	-0.290	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.100	24,214,160
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	2,478	1074	24	0.385	0.385	0.379	0.380	0.382	-0.002	-0.324	0.380	0.380	0.385	0.100	19,130,104
OM0000001884	FINANCIAL SERVICES	20,000	378	1	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.001	0.326	0.189	0.171	0.188	0.100	3,780,000
OM0000002267	THE GREAT BAY	1,202,960	219,924	34	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.180	0.005	0.180	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.100	1,202,960
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	287,016	50,552	51	0.175	0.177	0.175	0.176	0.177	0.001	-0.565	0.177	0.177	0.176	0.100	287,417,875
OM0000002233	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	1,776	10,000	2	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.585	-0.005	-0.885	0.580	0.580	0.600	0.100	104,305,695
OM0000002276	OMAN AL MARKETING	783	1,050	1	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.000	0.000	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.100	7,250,000,000
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	30,000	2,070	2	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	21,193,099
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	7,657	4,283	12	0.570	0.570	0.564	0.555	0.565	-0.010	-1.770	0.555	0.555	0.565	0.100	18,834,354.35
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	22,540	4,403	4	0.195	0.200	0.195	0.195	0.200	-0.005	-3.500	0.195	0.195	0.200	0.100	3,608,448
OM0000001801	OMAN PETROLEUM	3,480	6,000	1	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.000	0.000	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.100	1,000,000,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	16,008	3,058	5	0.191	0.191	0.191	0.191	0.200	-0.009	-4.500	0.191	0.191	0.200	0.100	516,988,985
OM0000001897	MALAM COLLEGE	12,119	1,494	6	0.122	0.127	0.122	0.122	0.122	-0.007	-5.426	0.122	0.122	0.127	0.100	12,078,000
OM0000003900	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MKRTNG	7,250	8,820	4	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.290	-0.090	-9.977	1.200	1.200	1.300	0.100	82,800,000
Total		137,494.259	41,136.376	3,619												



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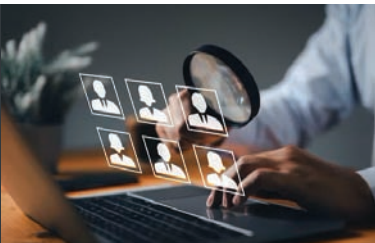


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Contact: 77336141
Email: confession.mercy@gmail.com

FINANCE

Expat, M.com Icw (Inter) 25 yrs experience in finance, accounts, budget, tax , payroll, banking and MIS reports looking for senior position in finance and accounts. Available to join on short notice.

What's app: 0096895392251
Gmail: regi.lukose@gmail.com

FINANCE

Dedicated Indian woman having 15+ years of experience in Finance and accounting,Tally ERP, SAP, MS Excel & Office proficiency seeking employment in Muscat. Hardworking and reliable. Ready to join immediately.

Contact:+968 95494566

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATOR / BUSINESS COORDINATOR
Graduate / P.G with 10+ yrs experience. In administration, operations, business coordination, documentation & office management.
Job Location : Sohar, Oman.. Looking for suitable opportunity.

Contact :- 90634379

SALES & MARKETING

Seeking a suitable position in **SALES, MARKETING** having 16 yrs of experience in Oman & 25 yrs of total experience in the field of Infrastructure, Industrial products: BE Mechanical, DIM, Valid Omani D/L.

Contact: 94976056

OFFICER

Banking - Credit & Risk

Indian lady-BTech Holder, Currently working at Nationalized Bank in India as Credit & Risk Officer Since 2011 looking suitable role in Oman

Mobile : 92652137 - Mails:ibytbol@gmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER

Dynamic professional with 16+ yrs of progressive experience in financial strategy, business consulting/management, operational excellence, and growth leadership across Trading, Construction, RMC production, and MNCs company. Open to strategic senior management opportunities.

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4) **Planning Engineer**
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Degree /Diploma in Civil or Quantity survey

6) **Material Engineer**
Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering

7) **Land surveyor**
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8) **Site Inspector**
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Omani MEP Co. need HVAC Chiller Technicians 4 Nos. WhatsApp : 0096899760596

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Urgently required house driver with 10 yrs of GCC experience. Interested please send CV to: iblitaunited@gmail.com or 77450707

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male MBA Finance, with +9 yrs of Accounting & Finance experience seeks for as Finance Treasurer Position. NOC available & DL. Contact: 72420067

Experienced accounts professional with B.Com, MBA seeks Immediate Placement.Contact: 78581435

Finance Manager, Indian, 26 yrs of experience, looking job change. Contact: 98006226

Indian male 41 years Bcom MBA having 14 years experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE driving license. Seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: +971529546753

Indian (M) - 30 Accountant with overall exp 4yrs valid DL. Contact: 78624277

Cost accountant, B.Com with 15 yrs exp in Oman. Can join urgently, Contact: 7733 6141

Indian (M), 28, accountant with overall exp. 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male accountant. 10 yrs in muscat. D/L and NOC available. Contact: 79774800

Sri Lankan accountant, reading CA. 3+ yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Indian male, M.com (finance) 10 yrs accounting experience in Oman. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141

Indian male accountant,10 yrs experience in Muscat. valid Oman D/L .locally available. Contact: 79774800

Indian male B.com accountant looking for suitable job. 12 yrs experience in Oman. D/L and NOC available. Contact: 90302933

Indian male 21 years of exp. in Oman as Accounts Manager/ Sr. Accountant with D/L seeking immediate opportunity cont. 91391103

Chartered Accountant, CIA (29/M) 6+ years Internal Audit experience. Valid Oman visa & DL. Contact: +968 78649558

Accountant - Seeking suitable post. Contact: 90231803

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Mob: 97436925.

Looking for an accounts job with hands-on knowledge of tally and excel. dedicated and detail-oriented. Contact: +96896246456

Indian male Sr. accountant (M.com with finance) 17+ yrs exp. in Oman with valid D/L. Contact: 91314540

Seeking a job opportunity with solid background of finance and accounts for more than 20 yrs of experience in Oman. Contact: 92824146 / 94953826

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

Indian male, 10 yrs experience in Oman, have D/L and NOC. Contact: 72848242

Indian male, 15 yrs experience in Oman seeks job for admin, secretary or proj-coordinator. Holding Oman D/L M: 94019955

Document controller 8 yrs experience urgently seeking job opportunity in a reputed company, currently in Muscat on visit visa. Contact: 95226332, Email: mdhasnuddin1990@gmail.com

Indian male, 4 yrs Oman experience in oil & gas (sales & logistics). valid Oman D/L. Contact: 78992297

ADMINISTRATION

Indian female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79166904/ 97498882

IT

MCA graduate seeking a suitable job opportunity in Oman. Available in Muscat. Contact: 91488059

ENGINEER

Experienced biomedical engineer seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvl@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225

Electronics and Instrumentation Engineer (female) with experience in Quality Control(Manufacturing industry),Oil and Gas Instruments Coordination. Holding Valid Oman Car Driving License ,seeking suitable job in Muscat .Available immediately. Contact 00968-95448714

Female software engineer full stack developer also expert in digital marketing with 7 yrs experience. Contact: 74102443

Civil quantity surveyor - Civil male. 10 yrs of exp in construction and Telecom. 93801057

DRIVER

Looking for a driver job. Contact: 92101382.

Looking for a driver job. Contact: 72852929.

WAREHOUSE/LOGISTICS

Experienced Store/ Warehouse In-Charge seeking suitable position with 14 yrs of experience in warehouse and store management within the furniture industry, along with hands-on involvement in site installation work in Oman having valid D/L. Contact: 79994705

TOURS / TRAVELS

Indian female travel consultant with 13 yrs of experience seeking suitable job opportunity. expertise in corporate travel, ticketing, visa, tours & sales. Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 98105919

MANAGER

Project manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience, valid D/L and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786

Project manager Civil seasoned professional with strong consultancy and construction expertise. Open for suitable opportunities. Contact: 93455363 | WA +966 56 373 2589 (WhatsApp)

MEP construction manager, Gulf experience 28 years, own visa, Oman DL. Mob. No: 79809590

Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43 yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203

Indian male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact: 98132055

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male procurement executive with 11 yrs of experience in Oman, holding Oman D/L available in Muscat for immediate joining. Contact: 92345877

Procurement engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading. Whatsapp: +96895839964

SALES/MARKETING

Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales (FMCG / retail) with D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact : 95548480

Indian male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 94566786

Sales & Service Engineer (Indian), 3+ yrs Technical sales & operations Oil & Gas. Valid D/L. Mob: 98211984

Indian male with a BCA degree and one year of experience in sales and marketing. GSM: 95387638

Sales & logistics coordinator (Oil & Gas, 4 yrs Oman exp.); total 11 yrs GCC exp. Indian male, holding Oman D/L. Contact: 78992297

Indian male 10 yrs experience having Oman D/L. Looking for suitable placement in sales & marketing- Contact: 91693829.

ITALY



Thieves steal many paintings worth millions of euros in Italy

PARMA: Thieves have made off with several paintings worth millions of euros from the Magnani Rocca Foundation museum in Mamiano di Traversetolo, near the city of Parma in northern Italy, police confirmed on Sunday.

The heist took place in under three minutes on the night of March 22-23.

They stole “Fish”, by Auguste Renoir, “Still Life with Cherries” by Paul Cezanne, and “Odalisque on the Terrace” by Henri Matisse.

Local media reported that the thieves were able to force a door open, before nabbing the paintings and escaping across the museum gardens. The suspects wore hoods to disguise themselves, the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit of the Carabinieri police said, adding that they were reviewing museum CCTV footage as well as that of local businesses.

They believed a “structured and organised” gang was responsible for the theft.

The crime in Parma comes on the heels of a series of high-profile heists at major European museums, including an incident in October where thieves made off with €88 million (\$102 million) in jewels and other items from the Louvre in Paris. — **DW**

Cuba is finished, will fail in short time: Donald Trump

‘We’ll be there to help our great Cuban-Americans out who were thrown out of Cuba. In many cases, their family members were mutilated and killed by Castro. Cuba’s going to be next, yeah,’ Trump said

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump on Sunday said Cuba will collapse soon as he termed the Caribbean Island nation a “mess”.

Trump, in his gangle with the Press on Air Force One en route to Joint Base Andrews, said that it doesn’t bother him if countries are sending aid to Cuba while pointing out that his administration will be extending a helping hand to those Cuban-Americans who were thrown out of Cuba under the regime of Fidel Castro who headed the Caribbean nation from 1959 to 2008.

“Yeah, Cuba’s going to be next. Cuba’s going to be. Cuba’s a mess. It’s a failing country, and they’re



going to be next. Within a short period of time, it’s going to fail, and we will be there to help it out. We’ll be there to help our great Cuban-Americans out who were thrown out of Cuba. In many cases, their family members were mutilated and killed by Castro. Yeah, Cuba’s going to be next, yeah,” Trump said. When asked about a report that the US is going to let a Russian oil tanker go to Cuba, Trump said, “Well, we have a tanker out there. We don’t mind having somebody get a boatload because they need... they have to survive. Who would... it doesn’t bother me. Well, I would say I told them if a country wants to send some oil to Cuba right now, I have no problem with it.”

When asked if he is worried that Moscow sending oil tankers to Cuba might help Putin, the US President said, “It doesn’t help him (Putin). He loses one boatload of oil, that’s all it is, it’s fine. If he wants to do that and if other countries want to do it, it doesn’t bother me much. It’s not going to have an impact. Cuba’s finished, they have a bad regime, they have very bad and corrupt leadership, and whether or not they get a boat of oil, it’s not going to matter. I’d prefer letting it in, whether it’s Russia or anybody else, because the people need heat and cooling and all of the other things that you need. Go ahead,” he said.

Meanwhile, Former Cuban

President Raul Castro is involved in talks between the island and the United States, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel has said, amid soaring tensions between the two states. Diaz-Canel on Wednesday said the talks were in the early stages, as nationwide blackouts continued from an oil blockade implemented by Trump, as per Al Jazeera.

The United States Coast Guard is allowing a Russian tanker carrying crude oil to proceed toward Cuba, potentially easing the island’s worsening fuel crisis, The New York Times reported, citing a US official familiar with the matter.

According to the NYT, the tanker, reportedly owned by the Russian government, is carrying an estimated 730,000 barrels of crude oil and was located just miles from Cuban territorial waters on Sunday evening, as per ship-tracking data.

At its current speed, the vessel is expected to arrive at the port of Matanzas by Monday night.

The NYT suggested the shipment could provide temporary relief to Cuba, which has been grappling with depleting fuel reserves amid an ongoing supply crunch.

The development comes against the backdrop of measures imposed by the administration of US President Donald Trump, which had effectively curtailed oil shipments to Cuba since January. The policy included warnings to countries supplying fuel to the island and, in at least one instance, intervention to divert a tanker away from Cuban waters.

Despite having vessels deployed

in the region, the US Coast Guard did not move to intercept the Russian tanker.

According to the NYT, the US official said no directive was issued to block the shipment, and in the absence of such orders, the tanker was allowed to proceed.

The reason behind the decision remains unclear, and there has been no official word on whether similar shipments would be permitted in the future, as reported by the NYT.

Earlier, on March 19, the US issued a new 30-day general licence allowing the sale of Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products, as global energy markets remain under pressure due to escalating tensions in West Asia.

According to a Reuters report, the US Treasury Department released a fresh waiver to replace an earlier licence granted on March 12. The new licence, which will remain valid until April 11, permits transactions involving Russian oil loaded on tankers as of March 12.

The report noted that while the main terms of the waiver remain unchanged, the updated licence explicitly excludes transactions involving North Korea, Cuba and Crimea.

It stated, “While the main terms remain identical to those in the licence issued earlier, Thursday’s waiver specifically excludes transactions involving North Korea, Cuba and Crimea.”

The arrival of the tanker is expected to provide short-term economic relief to Cuba, which has been facing mounting pressure due to fuel shortages and broader economic challenges. — **ANI**

NEPAL



Supporters continue to hit streets against arrest of former PM

KATHMANDU: Cadres and supporters of former Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Monday continued to hit the streets, demanding his release.

Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) cadres and supporters have continued to march in the capital Kathmandu, but the turnout has been minimal, with numbers diminishing day by day.

With most senior leaders absent from the streets while the cadres have been facing off with the police for the first three days, the protest of Monday saw a march to near the vandalised former parliament and then dispersed.

The agitation, announced from Saturday, was expected to mobilise party ranks nationwide. However, only a small number of supporters turned up, particularly in restricted areas, leading to several injuries among participating cadres.

Despite the protest being formally declared by the party’s central leadership, top leaders and office bearers were largely missing.

Following Oli’s arrest on Saturday morning, a secretariat meeting had assigned responsibilities, with General Secretary Shankar Pokharel publicly announcing protest programs and outlining parallel efforts for political dialogue and legal response.

However, none of the 17 office bearers, apart from Oli himself, were seen participating in the demonstrations. Similarly, leaders of sister and mass organisations, who were expected to lead street mobilisation, were also

not visible.

On Saturday, protests were held from Baneshwor to Maitighar and in the Chabahil area of Kathmandu. By Sunday, participation had shrunk to around 200 people, mainly confined to the Babarmahal and Maitighar areas.

With senior leaders staying away and participation declining, concerns are growing that the UML’s protest movement could weaken further in the coming days.

The cadres and supporters of Oli have been demanding an impartial investigation into the incidents that occurred on September 8 and 9, 2025. They called for the report prepared under the leadership of Gauri Bahadur Karki to be scrapped, terming it biased.

The party further demanded a fair investigation into acts of vandalism, arson, and looting during the protests, and called for legal action against all those involved. It also stressed the need for a serious probe into the alleged involvement of various non-governmental organisations.

UML has demanded the immediate release of Chair Oli, warning of further protests if their demands are not addressed.

The government has accused them in connection with deaths that occurred during the Gen Z protests on September 8 and 9, 2025. Authorities have filed charges related to homicide, leading to their detention for investigation.

Oli is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital, where doctors say he is dealing with several health conditions. — **ANI**

NO LONGER OPERATIONAL AFTER ISRAELI STRIKES

Iran’s Khondab Heavy Water Plant sustained severe damage, IAEA says

VIENNA: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Sunday confirmed that Iran’s Khondab Heavy Water Plant has sustained severe damage and is no longer operational following Israeli strikes on the plant amid the West Asia conflict.

In a post on X, the IAEA said that its assessment was based on independent analysis of satellite imagery and technical knowledge of the facility.

The facility, located near Arak in central Iran, has long been a focal point of international concern due to its potential role in nuclear development, the agency added.

“Based on independent analysis of satellite imagery and knowledge of the installation, the IAEA has confirmed the heavy water production plant at Khondab, which Iran reported had been attacked on 27 March, has sustained severe damaged and is no longer operational. The installation contains no declared nuclear material,” the UN nuclear watchdog stated in the post.

The Khondab Heavy Water Plant is situated in Iran’s Arak city and is also referred to as the Arak Nuclear Complex.

This comes after the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Friday



confirmed that it carried out the strike, describing the plant as a key component in Iran’s nuclear infrastructure.

In a statement shared on Telegram, the IDF said the Israeli Air Force targeted the site based on intelligence inputs.

According to the IDF, the plant produces heavy water, a substance used in certain types of nuclear reactors, including the Arak reactor, which it claimed was originally de-

signed with the capability to produce weapons-grade plutonium.

The Israeli military further alleged that, despite international commitments, including provisions under nuclear agreements, Iran had not fully converted the reactor to prevent plutonium production. It also claimed that repeated reconstruction efforts at the site had been identified following earlier strikes.

“The IDF will not allow the Ira-

nian regime to continue advancing its nuclear weapons programme, which poses an existential threat,” the statement said, adding that the strike was part of an operation referred to as “Rising Lion”.

The developments come amid heightened tensions in the region, with increasing scrutiny over Iran’s nuclear activities and Israel’s stated policy of preventing Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons capabilities. — **ANI**

MINISTRY’S STATEMENT

One Indian killed as Iranian strikes hit Kuwait’s power, water desalination plant

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait’s Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy on Monday stated that an Indian worker was killed and a service building at a major power and water desalination plant sustained significant damage following what authorities described as Iranian strikes on Sunday evening.

According to a statement issued by the ministry’s official spokesperson, the strike targeted a service building at one of Kuwait’s power and water desalination plants, resulting in the death of the Indian national and “significant material damage” to the facility.

“A service building at one of the power and water desalination plants was attacked as part of the Iranian aggression against the



State of Kuwait. This resulted in the death of one worker (of Indian nationality) and significant material damage to the building,” the statement read.

Technical and emergency teams were deployed immediately under approved emergency plans to manage the aftermath of the inci-

dent and help sustain the plant’s operational capacity.

The ministry said this response was undertaken in full coordination with Kuwait’s security and relevant authorities to secure the affected site.

“Technical and emergency teams immediately began their

work, in accordance with the approved emergency plans, to address the aftermath of the incident and maintain operational efficiency. This was done in full coordination with security and relevant authorities to secure the affected sites,” the statement added.

The spokesperson further urged calm among the public and warned against spreading rumours, stressing that official updates would be released transparently as the situation develops. The ministry reaffirmed that ensuring the stability and safety of electricity and water systems remained a top priority and that technical teams were working around the clock to anticipate any further contingencies and ensure continuity of essential services. — **ANI**



LIFESTYLE

UNPRECEDENTED ICE LOSS DEVASTATES ICELAND AND PACIFIC COASTS IN 2025, WMO REPORTS

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has documented a record-breaking decline in ice mass across Iceland and along North America's Pacific coastline during 2025, sounding fresh alarms over the accelerating pace of cryospheric disintegration.

According to the WMO's 2025 State of the Climate report, the annual ice mass balance ranked among the five lowest since comprehensive monitoring began in 1950—though the losses recorded this year did not quite eclipse the historic collapse observed between 2022 and 2023.

The organisation further revealed that glacial melt contributed approxi-

mately 21 percent of global sea level rise between 1993 and 2018. Ocean warming remained the dominant driver, accounting for roughly 42 percent, while melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica contributed 15 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

Drawing on imagery from NASA's Terra satellite, scientists have determined that the world's glaciers lost an average of 267 billion metric tons of ice annually from 2000 to 2019. More troubling still, the rate of loss accelerated sharply—from 227 billion metric tonnes per year between 2000 and 2004 to 298 billion metric tonnes annually between 2015 and 2019, underscoring the relentless and quickening pace of climate-driven ice loss. - **ONA**

Ocean warming remained the dominant driver, accounting for roughly 42 percent, while melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica contributed 15 percent and 8 percent, respectively

SPORTS

8,000 FANS RESPONDED

75% of fans oppose VAR in Premier League, says FSA

LONDON: Three-quarters of fans of Premier League clubs are against the use of the video assistant referee (VAR), according to a survey by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), according to a BBC Sport report on Monday.

Just under 8,000 fans responded to the survey, which asked supporters of the 20 sides in this season's top flight for their views on VAR.

Of those asked, 90% disagreed that the introduction of the technology in the Premier League has

improved the matchday experience, and 91% believe VAR has harmed the spontaneity of goal celebrations. A total of 94% disagreed that VAR makes watching football on television more enjoyable.

"The results show that most fans want VAR removed," Thomas Cannon, the FSA's Premier League network manager, said.

"We've all lived with VAR for so long now that we've seen the negative impact it's had on the game.

"People are annoyed about the time that it takes, annoyed about

the accuracy, and annoyed about the reduced] spontaneity.

"It does take away from what football is meant to be and what those special moments are about."

In a statement responding to the results, the Premier League said: "We recognise the importance of minimising the impact of VAR on the supporter experience. "As part of ongoing dialogue with supporters, Premier League research indicates fans are largely in favour of keeping VAR, but improving the way it is used." - Agencies



France showcase firepower in 3-1 drubbing of Colombia



Doue scored a brace in Les Bleus' easy win in Landover on Sunday

LANDOVER: Desire Doue scored twice as France showcased their attacking firepower and strength in depth with a 3-1 friendly win over Colombia on Sunday in its final outing before coach Didier Deschamps names his World Cup squad.

Fielding an entirely different lineup from the first-choice side, which beat Brazil 2-1 on Thursday, Les Bleus still proved too strong for Colombia, with Doue's double and another goal from Marcus Thuram sealing a comfortable victory.

Jaminton Campaz pulled one back for Colombia, who were quickly overwhelmed despite a decent start. Sometimes criticised for favouring cold calculation over flair, France — over the course of two warm-up matches — com-



bined style with efficiency and head towards the June 11-July 19 World Cup with growing certainty ahead of Deschamps' final tournament in charge.

"What we've produced over these two games is really interesting. We can't wait to be in June," said Rayan Cherki, who looked comfortable in France's 4-2-3-1 formation.

Deschamps was equally positive in his assessment. "A very positive sporting assessment against two very strong South American teams," he said. "We gave a lot of

players opportunities... the quality is there."

After a lively opening spell, France took the lead through Doue, who fired a low strike into the bottom corner in the 29th minute to score his first international goal.

Five minutes before the break, Thuram doubled the advantage, powering a header in off the underside of the bar after meeting a superbly curled cross from Maghnes Akliouche.

Any doubt was effectively removed before the hour mark.



Breaking quickly from the mid-field, Akliouche began the move before Cherki released Thuram on the right, and the forward squared unselfishly for Doue to apply a clinical finish.

Just as Kylian Mbappe was about to come on as a late substitute, Campaz reduced the arrears with a precise angled shot.

Mbappe, as well as fellow substitute Hugo Ekitike, went close to adding a fourth in a frantic finish. France will fine-tune its World Cup preparations against the Ivory Coast in Nantes on June 4 and

against another, as-yet-undetermined, opponent on June 8.

Deschamps will name his squad for the World Cup on May 14.

Friendly ends goalless with Ronaldo absent

Without their all-time leading goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal had to settle for a 0-0 draw with World Cup co-hosts Mexico at Estadio Azteca.

Portugal failed to find a way through the Mexico defence in the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo as the international friendly at the

Estadio Azteca ended goalless.

With Ronaldo sidelined due to a muscle injury, Roberto Martinez selected Goncalo Ramos to lead the line and he came closest for Portugal, flicking against Raul Rangel's right-hand post following a lovely pass from Bruno Fernandes in the 26th minute.

Ramos also totally miscued from another good Fernandes centre as the teams were limited to one shot on target apiece in the first half.

The interval brought seven Portugal changes, and the Selecao struggled for intensity in the second period, too.

Their best openings saw Fernandes shoot off-target from distance and Joao Cancelo nod Diogo Dalot's searching cross wide, while Pedro Neto worked Rangel from a tight angle.

Perhaps the best chance of the half went Mexico's way, but Armando Gonzalez sent a stooping header wide of the near post while totally unmarked, and many of those in attendance booed the teams off at full-time. Even without Ronaldo, Portugal have plenty of firepower available to them, so Martinez will be bitterly disappointed that they were held to just two shots on target. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

De Zerbi in talks with Spurs after Tudor axed as manager



Spurs to fly across globe for NZ friendly in July

LONDON: Tottenham said on Monday that the team will travel 24 hours across the globe for a pre-season friendly in New Zealand in July. The London side sits one point above the bottom three relegation places with seven matches remaining.

To begin their pre-season tour, they will face Auckland FC on July 26 at Eden Park, the club said.

It would be Tottenham's second trip to New Zealand,

having been there in 1976.

"Whatever happens to Tottenham this season, they remain an incredibly high-profile team with a world-wide fan base, and we're delighted to have them here in Auckland with us," said Auckland FC chief executive Nick Becker.

Tottenham previously announced that they will play Sydney FC and London rival Chelsea in Australia on July 29 and August 1, respectively.

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur are in talks with Roberto de Zerbi in a bid to make him their new permanent head coach, sources told BBC Sport on Monday.

Igor Tudor left the club by mutual consent on Sunday after just 44 days in charge, with chief executive Vinai Venkatesham and sporting director Johan Lange tasked with appointing his replacement.

It is understood Tottenham decided to part ways with interim boss Tudor following last Sunday's 3-0 defeat by Nottingham Forest, a result that left them just one point clear of the relegation zone, but wanted to give the Croat a period of time to mourn the death of his father last weekend.

De Zerbi, who is available following his exit from Marseille earlier this season, is the primary target and Spurs, prior to the official announcement of Tudor's departure, tried to ascertain whether the Italian wanted the job.

Multiple sources had told BBC Sport that initial indications were

that De Zerbi was open to becoming the club's next permanent head coach, but would prefer to wait until the end of the season when he knows whether the club are still in the Premier League.

But it is understood that talks are underway in a bid to see if a deal can be struck for the remaining seven games of the Premier League season. It is thought that Spurs would want to offer the former Brighton manager a long-term contract at the club.

A number of Tottenham supporters' groups have voiced their opposition to the prospect of appointing De Zerbi because of his support for former Manchester United striker Mason Greenwood. Greenwood, 24, left Manchester United to join De Zerbi at Marseille in 2023 after charges against him, including attempted rape and assault, were dropped.

During his time in the south of France, De Zerbi described Greenwood as a "good guy" who had paid a "heavy price" for his past.

Former Nottingham Forest boss Sean Dyche has been considered on a short-term basis.

Dyche, who is available after his sacking by Forest in February, has a record of keeping clubs in the Premier League - a relevant trait given Tottenham's relegation fears.

Mauricio Pochettino would be the choice of many supporters given his relatively successful previous reign at the club, but his commitments to the USA national team before this summer's World Cup would make such an immediate move extremely difficult.

Candidates with Tottenham connections such as Ryan Mason, Harry Redknapp and Tim Sherwood would be open to taking the job on an interim basis until the end of the season, while current player Ben Davies has also been considered as a possible short-term fix. Former Spurs players Glenn Hoddle and Chris Hughton have also been touted as interim appointments. - Agencies

BARCELONA GOALKEEPER

Ter Stegen's World Cup chances very slim: Germany coach Nagelsmann

MUNICH: Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said on Sunday that goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen was unlikely to go to the World Cup this summer as he continues his return from injury. The 33-year-old Barcelona goalkeeper, who is on loan at Girona, underwent surgery on a torn hamstring in February, the latest in a series of injury setbacks.

Talking to reporters ahead of Monday's friendly against Ghana in Stuttgart, Nagelsmann revealed he had spoken with ter Stegen this week. The coach said the goalkeeper was unlikely to make the World Cup squad. "The chance is very, very, very slim, because you have to consider the overall situation," said Nagelsmann.

"He didn't play for a year and then got injured. He's been out for a year, so to speak, and played very



little. He should give it his all in his rehab... But he's not 21 anymore. He's got a few games under his belt. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for him, but we all have to be patient."

The long-time back-up to Manuel Neuer took over as Germany's No. 1 when the 2014 World Cup

winner retired after Euro 2024.

Nagelsmann said in February that ter Stegen was Germany's leading goalkeeping candidate for the World Cup. But, in his absence, Hoffenheim's Oliver Baumann started the 4-3 friendly win away to Switzerland on Friday. - Agencies

SENEGAL STRIPPED OF TITLE

CAF general secretary Mosengo-Omba resigns amid AFCON final fallout

LONDON: The general secretary of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) resigned on Sunday amid a chaotic time for football on the continent.

Veron Mosengo-Omba said in a statement he was retiring, but his departure comes during the fallout over decisions to strip Senegal of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) title and postpone the women's tournament at the last minute.

These incidents have left CAF, the governing body for African football, battling a crisis of confidence.

Mosengo-Omba alluded to controversies faced during his tenure in his statement on Sunday.

"Now that I have been able to dispel the suspicions that some people have gone to great lengths



to cast on me, I can retire with peace of mind and without constraint, leaving the CAF more prosperous than ever," Mosengo-Omba, deputy to CAF president Patrice Motsepe, wrote.

The 66-year-old has been criticised for staying on as general secretary past the organisation's mandatory retirement age of 63.

He has also been accused by

some employees of creating a toxic atmosphere in the workplace, although an investigation after staff complaints cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Mosengo-Omba, who hails from the Democratic Republic of Congo but also holds Swiss nationality, was appointed general secretary in March 2021.

According to a news agency, CAF's competitions director, Samson Adamu, will take over as acting general secretary.

The governing body is awaiting a decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Senegal's appeal against being stripped of the AFCON title.

Senegal are challenging CAF's appeals body for overturning their 1-0 win over hosts Morocco in January's AFCON final. - Agencies



Sinner claims historic ‘Sunshine Double’

The Italian is the eighth man to win Indian Wells and the Miami Open

MIAMI: Jannik Sinner created a moment of history on Sunday by adding the Miami Open title to his Indian Wells victory.

Sinner, 24, became the first man to complete the ‘Sunshine Double’ - scooping both trophies on the hard courts in California and Florida - without dropping a set.

The Italian’s imperious 6-4, 6-4 win over Czech 21st seed Jiri Lehecka in a rain-interrupted Miami final illustrated how far Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz remain ahead of the chasing pack.

It was also a reminder for Alcaraz - not that he needed one - that he must continue to find ways to improve to maintain his status as the leading player on the men’s tour.

World No.2 Sinner has now won his past 34 sets at Masters events, enabling him to join Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal as the only men to claim three consecutive titles in the tier of tournaments below the Grand Slams.

Securing another triumph in



Miami helped Sinner close the gap on Alcaraz, who was beaten in the third round, at the top of the rankings.

The gap is down to 1,190 points as the season moves on to the European clay-court swing, where the pair will unquestionably spar again for the biggest prizes given the stratospheric level on which they operate.

“It has been an incredible swing for me and I’m extremely happy with the work we did to be in this position,” said Sinner, who

bounced back from losing in the Qatar Open quarter-finals before going to the US.

“We had some good practice days before Indian Wells and seeing this kind of result makes me happy, as does the level we are trying to produce and the player we’re trying to achieve.”

Both Sinner and Alcaraz continue to elevate their games in an attempt to outstrip the other, while the rest of the ATP Tour lags way behind.

When Sinner lost to his Spanish

rival in September’s US Open final, he candidly talked about needing to bring more variety and unpredictability to the court.

But since falling to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open semi-finals, and then Jakub Mensik in Doha, Sinner’s success has come down to the improved reliability of his service game.

Metronomic precision with his opening shot laid the platform for his Miami victory.

Hitting 70 aces over six matches was the highest tally of his career in a three-set tournament. Only once did he drop a service game.

It was reminiscent of Roger Federer at his best, able to relieve pressure and deflate opponents by serving his way out of trouble.

No wonder some have claimed Sinner has entered his ‘servebot’ era. That is not the only area where he is looking to make improvements, though.

While Sinner celebrates in Miami, Alcaraz is back home in Murcia and already practising on the clay.

No doubt the 22-year-old will be working on the marginal gains he has identified to help keep his nose in front of his rival.

The ultimate clay-court goal for Alcaraz is defending the French Open title which he memorably claimed by beating Sinner in an all-time classic last year.

Emerging with the No.1 ranking would be an added bonus. - Agencies

Italian Bezzechi wins fifth MotoGP race in a row

AUSTIN: Aprilia Racing’s Italian rider Marco Bezzechi won his fifth MotoGP race in a row at the US Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, on Sunday.

The 27-year-old also set a MotoGP record for consecutive laps led with 121 in taking the 20-lap showdown at Circuit of the Americas. The win reclaimed the season points lead in the process for Bezzechi.

Bezzechi started second behind Italian pole-sitter Fabio Di Giannantonio, who rides for Valentino Rossi’s VR46 team, but the Ducati rider faded quickly to fifth as Bezzechi seized the lead and kept it to the finish.

In leading the first three laps he broke the previous record for most led in a row of 103 set by Spaniard Jorge Lorenzo of Yamaha in 2015.

His winning time of 40mins 50.653secs was 2.036 seconds ahead of runner up Aprilia teammate Jorge Martin of Spain, who won Saturday’s sprint race to take the riders lead by a point. Spain’s Pedro Acosta of KTM was third.

Bezzechi is the first rider since Spain’s Marc Marquez in 2014 to win the first three races of a season, Marquez had taken 10 in a row in his run.

“I’m happy. I’m very happy,” said Bezzechi. “Yesterday I made a mistake so it was very important to make a good race today.”

He praised the crowd, saying of his supporters, “I was very sad and they gave me a push to bounce back today.”

Bezzechi seized an 81-77 lead over 2024 world champion Martin in the season points standings.

Bezzechi’s victory run also includes last year’s closing races at Portugal and Valencia and this year’s openers in Thailand and Brazil.

Only reigning world champion Marquez, who was fifth on Sunday just behind Di Giannantonio, and Rossi have had longer modern-era win streaks.

After a dramatic weekend in Texas, the grid now has time to recharge and reload for Jerez. The Spanish GP is in a few weeks as MotoGP heads over to Europe for another classic race weekend - with Aprilia very much in control in the title fight. - Agencies



TEAM BOSSES



Wolff plays down Horner F1 comeback chances

LONDON: A return to Formula 1 will be difficult for former Red Bull team principal Christian Horner because he has “broken quite a lot of glass”, says ex-Mercedes rival Toto Wolff.

Horner was sacked in July after 20 years in his role following declining form and internal disputes.

The 52-year-old had been accused of sexual harassment and coercive, controlling behaviour by a female employee.

Horner was twice cleared of the claims, first after an internal investigation conducted by a lawyer,

then by another lawyer who dismissed the complainant’s appeal.

“He has broken quite a lot of glass, and these things have repercussions in our microcosm,” Mercedes team principal Wolff told the Press Association.

Horner, who led Red Bull to eight drivers’ titles and six constructors’ championships, and Wolff endured a rivalry for much of the past decade.

In January Alpine said Horner was among “multiple interested parties” to have discussed investment with the team.

Wolff and Mercedes are also

looking at buying private investment firm Otro Capital’s 24% shares in Alpine.

Wolff said there is “no connection” with Horner regarding that investment and it would be “quite sad” if that was a consideration.

“I am in two minds about it [Horner returning to F1]. The sport is missing personalities. And his personality was clearly very controversial and that is good for the sport,” Wolff said.

Horner, who has said he has “unfinished business” in F1, was last year overlooked to take over at Aston Martin. - Agencies

GOLF

Emotional Woodland seals first triumph since brain surgery

HOUSTON: Gary Woodland broke down in tears after sealing his first victory in seven years by winning the Houston Open on Sunday.

Woodland had an operation to remove a brain tumour in September 2023 and revealed earlier this month he has been struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), having been diagnosed about a year ago.

The American, who had not won a tournament since the 2019 US Open, beat Denmark’s Nicolai Hojgaard by five shots to clinch the PGA Tour event in Texas.

On holing his final putt, Woodland, 41, spread his arms wide and looked to the skies, before tears flowed as he embraced his wife Gabby. “We play an individual sport but I wasn’t alone today,” said Woodland.

“I’ve got a lot of people behind me - my team, my family. Anybody that’s struggling with something, I hope they see me and don’t give up - just keep fighting.”

Woodland ended on 21 under after an impressive final round of 67 on the par 70 Memorial Park Golf Course.

“It’s just another day, I’ve got to keep healing, I’m going to keep fighting, but I’m proud of myself right now,” he added.

“Thank you to my family. I wouldn’t be anywhere before this without them but there’s no chance I could do this without Gabby.”



“It’s been hard on me, it’s been harder for her. I love her to death.”

It was Woodland’s fifth PGA Tour triumph and perhaps sets him up to challenge for the first major of the season at next month’s Masters.

When asked about his chances at Augusta, he emphasised he still had personal and mental issues to work on, but added: “My game is better than it’s ever been.”

American Johnny Keefer and Australia’s Min Woo Lee tied for third, one stroke behind Hojgaard, on 15 under. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Unlock signature rewards with all-new Lexus LX 700h SUV

Known for its blend of unparalleled luxury and hybrid innovation, the LX 700h is designed to elevate every journey and family travel alike

MUSCAT: Experience a season of signature luxury and discover the perfect opportunity to become the owner of the ultimate flagship SUV – the Lexus 700h.

Known for its blend of unparalleled luxury and hybrid innovation, the LX 700h is designed to elevate every journey and family travel alike. Customers can head to the nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom to unlock exclusive deals and experience a celebration of generosity.

Prospective owners can benefit from this campaign before it ends on April 8 to own the stunning Lexus LX 700h with a host of additional privileges. The Lexus LX 700h is not just a vehicle; it is a sanctuary of comfort and a symbol of prestige, designed to shape unforgettable journeys and foster deeper connections through its refined performance.

To make the ownership experience even more rewarding, the Lexus festive campaign offers a range of high-value benefits. Customers can enjoy free first-year registration to provide a smooth start to their journey, along with stress-free maintenance through a service package valid for 10 years or 100,000 km, covering 10 services at 10,000 km intervals. Additionally, new owners receive Al Nukhbah Loyalty Points worth OMR 50, which can be conveniently redeemed against future service and repairs. (Terms and



Conditions Apply)

The LX 700h stands at the forefront of the 2025 range, featuring a sophisticated 3.5L Twin-Turbo V6 hybrid engine. This advanced system produces 457 hp and 650 Nm of torque, achieving an impressive efficiency of 10.8 km/l. Marking a significant milestone as the first hybrid in the LX lineup, it is engineered for both on-road elegance and off-road dominance. A 10-speed automatic transmission and Multi-Terrain Se-

Prospective owners can benefit from this campaign before it ends on April 8 to own the stunning Lexus LX 700h with a host of additional privileges.

lect ensure effortless control across any landscape.

Inside, the LX 700h reflects the pinnacle of Lexus artistry. The cabin features premium leather, ambient lighting, and ventilated seats across all rows, creating an atmosphere of indulgence. Modern conveniences such as wireless charging, a premium sound system, and seamless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration elevate connectivity for all pas-

sengers. A driver-focused cockpit, complete with a head-up display, ensures every drive is intuitive and commanding.

Peace of mind comes standard with the Lexus Safety System+ 3.0. This suite of advanced technologies includes a Pre-Collision System, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Lane Tracing Assist, and Auto High Beam. These features blend cutting-edge safety with an uncompromising philosophy of protection,

safeguarding every journey.

Centered on a brand philosophy of delivering exceptional experiences, Lexus continues to be a symbol of global prestige. The LX 700h now stands as a leader in this legacy, blending hybrid innovation with timeless grandeur. To discover more and enhance a luxury lifestyle, visit the nearest Lexus Oman showroom where professional staff are available to guide the buying journey.

PROMOTION

CS35 Plus Trend available on special offer with EMIs starting from OMR 96



MUSCAT: The Changan CS35 Plus Trend is currently available with enhanced ownership benefits from Changan Oman, represented by Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), under the brand's Ramadan promotional offer, which remains valid until April 8 for retail customers purchasing the Trend variant.

Powered by a 1.4-litre turbo-charged engine producing 156 hp and 260 Nm of torque, paired with a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission, the CS35 Plus Trend delivers responsive performance and smooth driving dynamics.

Together with advanced safety systems and refined interior comfort, the model provides a confident and practical driving experience suited to both urban mobility and longer journeys.

Changan's compact SUV lineup, the CS35 Plus Trend blends contemporary styling with everyday practicality and modern technology. The Ramadan cam-

paign has been structured to make the model more accessible while delivering meaningful ownership advantages for customers looking for a stylish and versatile SUV.

Make it more attractive, the CS35 Plus Trend is available with EMIs starting from OMR 96.

The EMI is calculated based on a 20 per cent down payment over a six-year loan tenure.

Customers purchasing the CS35 Plus Trend variant during the campaign period will receive:

Free first-year vehicle registration for private (yellow plate) registration. Customers opting for commercial (red plate) registration will pay the applicable difference.

Free first-year comprehensive insurance valid in Oman and the UAE for private registration.

Assured free service package of 4 years or 75,000 km, covering periodic maintenance services only and excluding wear and tear components.

Assured gift of complimentary window tinting, applied at authorised Changan service centres.

5 per cent VAT included within the vehicle price during the offer period. No cash alternative or discount is applicable.

Manufacturer's warranty of 6 years or 250,000 km on 2025 and 2026 models, subject to standard manufacturer terms and conditions.

Fleet, government, taxi, driving school and key account purchases are not eligible under this retail promotion.

CS35 Plus Trend

The CS35 Plus Trend offers a balanced combination of design, performance and technology within the compact SUV segment.

The model features a bold exterior design, a comfortable and spacious cabin, and modern connectivity and infotainment features that enhance everyday driving convenience.

RELIEF CONTRIBUTION

Sohar International pledges OMR100,000 relief support for communities affected by severe weather conditions

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its persistent commitment to social responsibility and national solidarity, Sohar International has announced a dedicated relief contribution of OMR 100,000 to support communities impacted by the recent severe weather conditions brought on by the Al-Masarrat low-pressure system.

The contribution will be channelled through the Oman Charitable Organisation, reinforcing national relief efforts aimed at assisting those impacted by the adverse weather conditions and helping affected communities recover from the resulting challenges.

Commenting on the initiative, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International said, "At Sohar International, our purpose extends beyond financial services to encompass a deeper responsibility towards the communities we serve. The recent impact of the Al-Masarrat weather system has highlighted the critical importance of collective action and timely intervention. Through this contribution, we aim to support national relief efforts in a way that is both immediate and sustainable, helping affected families regain stability and rebuild their lives. We firmly believe that institutions have a vital role to play in strengthening societal resilience, particularly during challenging times. As such, we remain committed to standing alongside the nation, working collaboratively with trusted partners to contribute to recovery efforts, while continu-



ously advancing initiatives that create long-term social value and community well-being."

The recent weather conditions have disrupted livelihoods across several regions, highlighting the importance of coordinated national efforts to safeguard communities and accelerate recovery. In response, Sohar International's initiative underscores its proactive approach to corporate social responsibility, rooted in a broader vision of fostering resilience, inclusivity, and sustainable community development.

This contribution reflects Sohar International's long-standing commitment to addressing urgent

societal needs and emphasizes its dedication to standing alongside communities in times of need. By partnering with trusted national entities, the Bank ensures that its interventions deliver tangible impact, emphasizing its role as a responsible corporate institution that goes beyond banking. Through this initiative, Sohar International continues to drive meaningful change, strengthen social cohesion, and support the Sultanate's sustainable development objectives, demonstrating a commitment that extends beyond immediate relief to fostering long-term resilience and prosperity.

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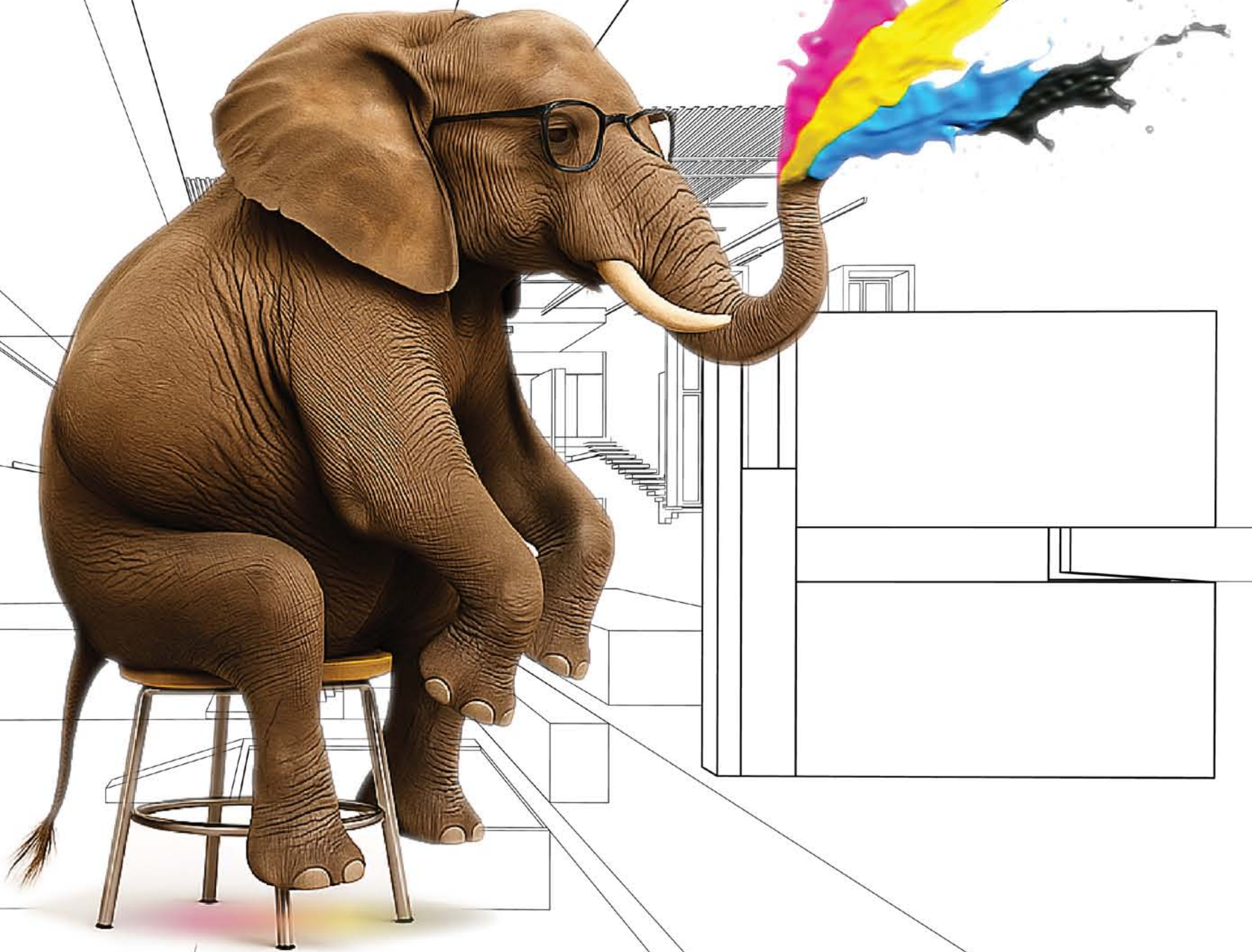
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