



HM THE SULTAN, UAE PRESIDENT REVIEW COOPERATION, PARTNERSHIP

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates (UAE), held a fraternal meeting on Thursday at Al Hosn Palace in Salalah. During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed a number of topics of mutual interest and discussed means of strengthening avenues of cooperation and partnership to contribute to the economic prosperity of both countries, serving the aspirations of the two countries' peoples. **See also >A4**

DOHA: An Omani delegation led by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, paid an official visit to Qatar to strengthen bilateral relations and explore opportunities for economic partnership and integration between the two countries.

The Omani delegation included government officials, representatives from the Oman Investment Authority, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and a number of businessmen.

On the sidelines of the visit, His Excellency and the accompanying delegation met with Mohamed Saif Al Sowaidi, CEO of the Qatar Investment Authority.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance cooperation in promising sectors such as mining, tourism and industry and reviewed Omani investment opportunities in the fields of industry, energy, logistics, food security, and technology.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed the importance of creating effective channels of communication between the public and private sectors and accelerating the pace of exploiting investment opportunities between the two brotherly countries. **>A3**

3 Domestic liquidity in Oman grew by 5.6 percent to reach OMR25.41bn. **>B1**

changes by the end of June 2023 with exports to the UAE reaching OMR593 million, a 29.8 percent growth compared to the end of June 2024.

It also topped the list of countries to which Oman re-exported with a value of OMR348 million and also topped the list of countries exporting to the Sultanate of Oman, with imports from the country reaching OMR1.984 billion.

Saudi Arabia ranked second among Oman's non-oil exports with a value of OMR538 million followed by India with OMR333 million. In re-exports, Iran ranked second with a value of OMR121 million, followed by Saudi Arabia with OMR57 million.



CHANGAN

UNI-K Trend

4WD



Discover the Art of Automotive Luxury

2.0L Turbo Engine, 233 hp, 8-Speed AT, 4WD

SUPER WARRANTY 6 YEARS UNLIMITED MILEAGE*

*Terms and Conditions Apply



EMI starting from

OMR **161***

for 6 years

Arabic Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

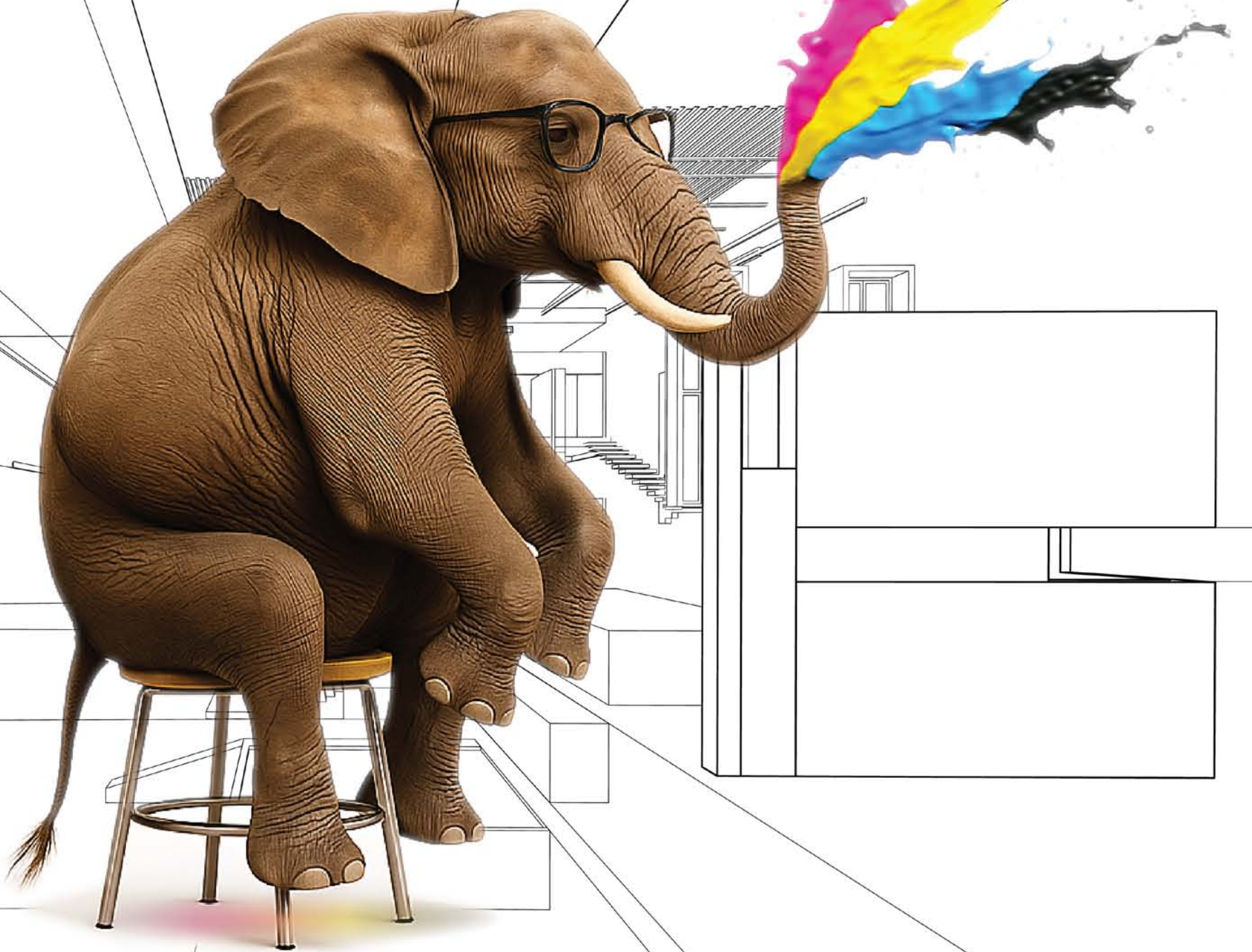
Showrooms : Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940, Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

Offer valid till 30th September, 2025. *Easy Monthly installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. #Wheever is earlier. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN Showroom.

800 50800

9662 8909

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

- Large format digital printing
- Flex banners
- Vinyl stickers
- Back drops with metal frames
- Wooden standalones
- Backlit flex banners

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr 12:08pm
Asr 3:34pm
Maghrib 6:17pm
Isha 7:28pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:38am

iPhone + TRAVEL CREDIT

OR 0% INTEREST OR TRADE-IN SUPPORT ON A NEW HONGQI OUSADO, HS3, OR HS5

*T&Cs apply.

HongqiOman 80080777 Azaiba

Royal Decree to help strengthen Oman and Iran trade relations

The agreement includes reduction and elimination of customs duties on goods of national origin, removal of non-tariff restrictions that limit trade flows and the regulation of trade mechanisms

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A Royal Decree No. (71/2025) was issued ratifying the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran, a step that will enhance



economic and trade relations between the two countries and open new heights for joint investment, in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) for Commerce and Industry, affirmed that the agreement marks an important milestone in the course of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He pointed out that it will help stimulate trade exchange, increase

investment opportunities, and enhance the competitiveness of national products in foreign markets, in support of the economic diversification objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Removing non-tariff barriers

He explained that the agreement includes key objectives, most notably reducing and eliminating customs duties on goods of national origin, removing non-tariff barriers that limit trade flows, organising trade exchange mechanisms within a legal frame-

work that guarantees the rights of companies and investors, ensures equality in trade treatment, expands avenues for industrial cooperation, and secures the sustainability of supply chains with neighbouring countries.

He further noted that the agreement is expected to strengthen joint investments in sectors such as industry, logistics, agriculture, and petrochemicals, in addition to expanding the presence of Omani products in Iranian and regional markets and accelerating trade flows through ports and mar-



itime gateways.

For his part, Khamis bin Abdullah Al Farsi, Legal Affairs Advisor to the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, stated that the agreement establishes a supportive legal framework to simplify customs procedures, provide greater protection for investors, and reinforce the principles of transparency and fairness in trade dealings, thereby creating a more attractive investment environment for capital inflows.

The Advisor pointed out that

data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that Oman's trade balance with Iran recorded a surplus of OMR210.3 million (USD 546.8 million) in 2024, driven by a 69% increase in exports and re-exports which reached OMR361.2 million. Imports also grew by 22.7% to reach OMR150.9 million.

Meanwhile, the volume of trade exchange between the two countries rose from OMR335.8 million in 2023 to OMR512.1 million (USD 1.33 billion) in 2024, representing growth of 52%.

OMAN VISION 2040

OCCI to host two forums to enhance business climate, diversification

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will host, on Sunday 14 September, a forum titled 'Arbitration in Banking, Insurance and Finance Contracts' in cooperation with the Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre, under the patronage of Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saeedi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, at Grand Hormuz Hotel in Muscat.

On Tuesday 16 September, OCCI will host a forum on 'Leadership and Management Development' under the patronage of Sayyid Luay bin Ghalib bin Khalid Al Said at W Muscat Hotel.

Both events form part of OCCI's strategic directions, aligned with Oman Vision 2040, aimed at improving the business environment and broadening the base of economic diversification.

The Arbitration in Banking, Insurance and Finance Contracts forum will highlight the role of



arbitration in resolving disputes related to financial, banking, and insurance contracts.

Arbitration is regarded as a key tool for creating a safe and transparent investment climate, strengthening competitiveness, and enhancing Oman's standing in international ease-of-doing-business indices.

It also supports the private sector by giving entrepreneurs and legal professionals access to global best practices in dispute resolution, helping to reduce costs, protect commercial interests, and foster institutional partnerships that serve the business environment.

The Leadership and Management Development forum will bring together a select group of experts and business leaders from Oman and abroad.

It is designed to enhance leadership and management skills of entrepreneurs, executives, decision-makers, and HR professionals. The forum will focus on training in new strategies and techniques, developing leadership capacity, strengthening managerial efficiency, and exploring the latest global trends.

The forum will feature working papers on inspiring leadership in a rapidly changing world, crisis management, personal empowerment, internal change, and self-leadership.

It will also include a panel discussion with leaders and executives on inspiring leadership, alongside an interactive dialogue on the challenges and opportunities facing leadership and management today.

300 PARTICIPANTS

Three-day conference to discuss digital trends in universities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, in cooperation with the Arab Open University, will host the Digital Universities in the Arab World 2025 Conference on Tuesday under the theme: "Digital Innovation for Sustainable and Flexible Higher Education."

The three-day conference will be held under the theme: "Digital Innovation for Sustainable and Flexible Higher Education."

The conference aims to discuss the latest global trends in digital university education, showcase pioneering experiences in the transition to innovative and sustainable education, and explore prospects for cooperation between Arab universities in the fields of educational technology, artificial intelligence, and blended learning.

The conference will attract more than 300 participants and over 80 specialised speakers from 28 countries, along with the participation of more than 100 organisers and nearly 70 higher education institutions, reflecting the strong momentum and shared commitment to

advancing the digital transformation of the region's higher education sector.

The conference provides a platform that brings together university leaders, experts, industry partners, and innovators in the Arab region to discuss the role of digital innovation in reshaping the higher education system and explore the exceptional opportunities offered by digital transformation and artificial intelligence in developing teaching and learning methods, supporting the goals of sustainability, globalisation, and social responsibility in education.

The conference programme includes panel discussions and specialised workshops, covering a variety of topics, including: the future of hybrid and virtual learning, the impact of artificial intelligence on academic institutions, governance models in light of digital transformations, and mechanisms for evaluating universities' responses to technological developments and their impact on graduates' lives after graduation.

The conference provides an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices that contribute to shaping the future of university education in the Arab world.

VISIT OMAN

Pivotal moment in Oman's digital tourism

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Travel Operator - Visit Oman concluded a successful showcase at the COMEX Global Technology Show, held from 8-11 September 2025 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), marking a pivotal moment in the advancement of Oman's digital tourism ecosystem.

Throughout the event, Visit Oman formalised a series of strategic partnerships with leading

Omani travel tech companies and SMEs, reinforcing its commitment to scaling digital distribution and enhancing the travel experience for both domestic and international visitors.

Visit Oman signed an agreement with Thawani, a pioneer in secure e-payment solutions, to streamline online transactions and improve user experience. This collaboration supports Visit Oman's mission to expand digital access to tourism products, making it easier for users to discover and book travel

experiences across Oman.

Visit Oman deepened its partnership with Oman Sail to develop tailored digital travel solutions for international sporting events. The platform will offer end-to-end services, including flights, transfers, tours, visa support, insurance, and airport services.

Upcoming events such as Musannah Race Week, the IODA Optimist Asia and Oceanian Championship, and the World Sailing Inclusion Championship will benefit from this enhanced travel

infrastructure. The company welcomed Mwasalat Oman as its newest transportation provider, offering users access to public buses, ferries, intercity routes, and private transfers—including green hydrogen-powered vehicles and accessible travel options.

Visit Oman announced new collaborations with My Ticket, YallaPass, Valo, Abundance Travel, and Jawla, My Events, and Global Shaleehat Co (Massarah), unlocking innovative solutions in ticketing, accommodation,



بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

CREDIT CARDS
=
AIRPORT
PRIVILEGES

www.bankdhofar.com

2479 1111

APPLY NOW

TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Oman welcomes ‘New York Declaration’ on Palestinian issue

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the ‘New York Declaration’ on peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that the Sultanate of Oman has urged the Security Council to support the implementation of the declaration through concrete actions to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. The UNGA on Friday adopted a draft resolution endorsing the New York Declaration.

The UNGA passed the resolution by a recorded vote of 142 in favour, 10 against and 12 abstentions. The New York Declaration, circulated at a high-level international conference held at the United Nations in late July, sets out an action-oriented pathway toward a peaceful settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the realisation of the two-state solution.

The draft resolution was introduced by France and Saudi Arabia, the two co-chairs of the conference. **-Agencies**



TRADE EXCHANGE

<FROM A1 Discussion on boosting trade



During its meeting with Khalf bin Jasim Al Thani, Chairman of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the delegation discussed mechanisms for strengthening trade partnerships, including holding trade fairs, activating the role of the Omani-Qatari Joint Business Council, and establishing joint companies that would contribute to increasing trade exchange.

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, and the accompanying delegation also met with Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al Thani, Qatari Minister of Commerce and Industry, during which they discussed enhancing industrial and commercial cooperation between the two sides, including green hydrogen, petrochemical, and food industry projects, in addition to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and exchanging expertise in the field of investment promotion and export development.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to explore opportunities for industrial integration and develop joint promotional programs for Omani and Qatari products in international markets.

Meanwhile, during meeting with Saad bin Ali Al Kharji, Chairman of the Qatar Tourism Authority, the Omani delegation discussed opportunities for co-operation in tourism promotion, including holding exhibitions for Omani products in Qatar, exchanging expertise in developing the tourism sector, and launching joint initiatives such as cruises and tourism festivals in Musandam, Salalah, and Doha.

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion discussed with Abdullah Hamad Al Attiya, Qatari Minister of Municipality, ways to boost Omani exports of agricultural and fishery products and building materials, in addition to discussing the challenges facing some Omani companies in the building materials sector.

During a visit to the Free Zones Authority, he discussed with Qatari officials opportunities for integration between Omani ports and Qatar free zones to facilitate trade and exchange expertise in managing and operating these zones.

The Omani delegation’s visit included field visits to Qatar Science and Technology Park to learn about business incubators and Qatar’s experience in supporting technology startups. The delegation also visited the Investment and Trade Court to learn about the mechanism in place for resolving commercial and investment disputes.

On the sidelines of the visit, the delegation held a series of meetings with the Qatari Businessmen Association and a group of other businessmen, including Alfardan Group, UCC Group, Investment Holding, Almana Company, and Bin Sheikh Group.

During the meetings, cooperation opportunities were discussed in the tourism, financial services, real estate, and technology sectors.

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, affirmed that these meetings reflect the commitment of the leaderships of the two brotherly countries to strengthening economic and investment relations.

He added that the positive outcomes of the visit will contribute to opening new horizons for joint cooperation to serve the mutual interests of the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar.



Honouring
Social Impact Champions
Empowering Communities.

الموج
al mouj
مسقط
MUSCAT
PRESENTS

جوائز بسمة
Jawā'iz Basma

17th September 2025
St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort

The Jawa'iz Basma 2025 is a prestigious awards night dedicated to recognizing and celebrating individuals, organizations and initiatives that have significantly contributed to improving the social, environmental and economic well-being of communities across Oman.

This event will highlight impactful contributions that drive positive social change and sustainable development. It serves as a platform to encourage innovation and inspires both the corporate and social sectors to engage in meaningful community transformation.

Follow us for the latest updates

For more inquiries, contact
Hanaa | hanaa@mmg.om | +968 9115 5585

AWARD CATEGORIES:

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

STRATEGIC PARTNER
BAHAR

GRATITUDE PARTNER
FLOWARD

ORGANIZED BY
JAWA'IZ BASMA

MEDIA PARTNERS
Gulf Leaders Circle, Times of Oman

BACKUP PARTNERS
TSM, JAWA'IZ BASMA

EVENT PARTNER
Khanzaana

OMAN



HM the Sultan, UAE President review current issues, partnership



They also explored ways to achieve peace and stability in the region

SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates (UAE), held a fraternal meeting on Thursday at Al Hosn Palace in Salalah.

During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed a number of topics of mutual interest and discussed means of strengthening avenues of cooperation and partnership to contribute to the economic prosperity of both countries, serving the aspirations of the two countries' peoples. They also explored ways to achieve peace and stability in the region, fulfilling the peoples' hopes for a safe and dignified life.

From the Omani side, the meeting was attended by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defense Affairs, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports, and Youth, HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al

HM the Sultan bids farewell to UAE President

SALALAH: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), left on Thursday following a private visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the farewell party for the President and his accompanying delegation at the Private Airport in Salalah. Alongside His Majesty, the UAE President was seen off by several senior officers. — **ONA**

Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to the UAE. — **ONA**



COMMENTARY

Oman establishes new legal framework for remote work

Oman's Ministry of Labour has recently promulgated Ministerial Decision No. 523/2025, establishing a structured legal framework for the governance of remote work in the Sultanate of Oman. This new regulation aims to standardise remote work arrangements, ensuring both employers and employees operate under clear obligations and protections. Speaking exclusively to the Times of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Founding Partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, said that "the decision explicitly defines remote work as tasks performed using information technology and communications means from outside the premises of the establishment



but within the Sultanate of Oman, while firmly prohibiting the employment of remote workers based outside Oman's territory."

"Employers are obligated to provide and maintain the necessary technology, software, and communications tools for the job. They must also estab-



lish an electronic system for supervision and performance evaluation. "A critical safeguard within the rules prohibits companies from implementing intrusive surveillance that violates worker privacy or misusing personal data. Employees, in turn, have a duty to perform their work during agreed-upon hours, maintain strict confidentiality of all data, and immediately report any technical obstacles. They are granted the right to disconnect from work systems if their privacy is violated," Dr. Mohammed explained. He further stated that "the framework distinguishes between part-time and full-time remote work. Employees may request part-time arrange-

ments, which employers can approve or deny based on work requirements; in these cases, the employer is not responsible for providing equipment. Full-time remote work, however, requires a detailed written contract including the contractual terms and also specifying terms like technology use, performance evaluation mechanisms, and data security obligations. Furthermore, the decision outlines specific conditions under which an employer can recall a partial remote worker to the office, including security threats, serious policy breaches, or failure to adhere to working hours. He concluded by stating that the decision affirms that all

remote workers retain the full spectrum of rights and obligations guaranteed under Oman's Labour law. (Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established 18 years ago and is serving clients through its offices in Muscat and Sohar, as well as operating on a request basis in other areas. It offers legal representation across a wide range of practice areas that include Labour Law, Corporate, Commercial, Contracts, Banking and Finance, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Insurance, Maritime Law, Construction and Engineering Contracts, International Arbitration, Intellectual Property and more).

OIA launches Energy Transition Fund along with Templewater

This initiative, first announced in Muscat last July, marks a significant step towards accelerating the global shift to clean energy and strengthening strategic cooperation between Oman, the GCC, and China



Fund Oman and Templewater, a leading alternative asset management firm in Asia. This initiative, first announced in Muscat last July, marks a significant step towards accelerating the global shift to clean energy and strengthening strategic cooperation between Oman, the GCC, and China. The official launch was announced on the sidelines of OIA's participation in the 10th Belt and Road Summit, which was held in Hong Kong, in the presence of government and business leaders convened to explore investment

opportunities and reinforce economic partnerships among Belt and Road Initiative members. The Initiative, launched by China in 2013, is one of the world's largest global infrastructure and connectivity programs, linking more than 70 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe through a network of land and maritime economic corridors. Representing OIA, Ibrahim Said Al Aisri, Chief of Private Equities, joined as an official speaker in the panel session on new destinations in emerging markets. The joint fund, established with

an initial capital commitment of approximately OMR77 million, will accelerate Oman's energy transition while advancing economic diversification. It will target high-potential sectors including clean electricity, clean fuels, energy storage, e-fuels for industry, smart mobility, renewable energy, and low-emission data centres. The fund is expected to invest in five to ten projects over its initial five-year investment period, followed by a further five years of project holding. Several projects are already under advanced technical and financial evaluation.

Underscoring the significance of regional partnerships, and reflecting OIA's outward-oriented strategy, Templewater has opened a new office in Muscat. This expansion highlights the firm's commitment to the Omani market and its ambition to serve as a platform for channelling capital into energy transition projects in Oman and across the region. The presence of Templewater in Muscat will also support knowledge transfer, training opportunities, and capacity building for Omani talent in priority sectors. "The new investment fund with Templewater embodies OIA's efforts to attract high-quality investments that support Oman's transition to clean energy," Said Sheikh Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthy, Deputy Chairman of Operations at Oman Investment Authority. "Through this initiative, we aim to establish sustainable projects based on transformative technologies with long-term impact, reinforcing Oman as a trusted regional hub for renewable energy. "It also supports economic diversification in line with the pillars of economy, development and environmental sustainability under Oman Vision 2040. "Our objective is to generate both economic and environmental value that combines innova-

tion with responsible investment, serving national priorities while enhancing the global competitiveness of our portfolio." Cliff Zhang, Chairman and CEO of Templewater, said: "Our partnership with Future Fund Oman to launch this initiative reflects our shared vision for a cleaner, more resilient energy future. By opening our Muscat office, we are reinforcing our commitment to the region and working with the fund to deliver transformative projects. We believe in Oman's progressive investment environment and are dedicated to scaling technologies that drive both climate impact and economic returns. This launch also represents deeper financial strategic ties between Hong Kong and the GCC." The fund is expected to attract global strategic partners and institutions in clean energy and green technologies, thereby fostering innovation, supporting start-ups, and reinforcing Oman's efforts to address climate change challenges. It also aligns with Oman's national commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The collaboration between Future Fund Oman and Templewater builds on high-level discussions between Oman, represented by OIA, and the Government of Hong Kong. -OMA

APEX WORLD CLASS™



Oman Air receives prestigious award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, has been awarded the 2026 APEX WORLD CLASS™ award, marking the second consecutive year it has earned the prestigious accolade. Accredited and issued by the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX), the largest international airline association dedicated to passengers, the award is widely regarded as the highest benchmark in aviation. Airlines are judged across multiple dimensions and attributes of the guest experience including space, comfort, personal attention, fine cuisine, and presentation. Renata Rached, Oman Air's Vice President of Guest Experience, Loyalty & Brand, who received the award during the APEX Global Expo in California, US, said, "We are deeply honoured to receive the 2026 APEX WORLD CLASS™ award for the second year in a row. This recognition reaffirms our mission to deliver a journey that blends the highest standards of service excellence with heartfelt Omani hospitality. It's a tribute to every member of our team, whose dedication ensures that Oman Air continues to stand among the world's most respected airlines. The award not only celebrates our past achievements but also inspires us to keep raising the bar for our guest experience."

To be awarded APEX WORLD CLASS™, airlines must qualify through an audit spanning across twenty dimensions that matter most to travellers today, such as brand integrity, engagement, intensity of hospitality, personalisation, comfort, connectivity and, under F&B execution, the eye appeal and taste profile of onboard cuisine. Audits are conducted by industry professionals from YATES+, a leading guest experience transformation consultancy, and then peer-reviewed and validated by an expert and the governing board.

NEW AIR ROUTE

China Eastern Airlines to launch direct flights to Oman from November 30

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Airports has announced the launch of a new direct air route connecting the Sultanate of Oman with the People's Republic of China, starting November 30. The route, operated in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the Chinese Embassy in Muscat, will be served by China Eastern Airlines. Two weekly flights will connect Muscat International Airport and Beijing Capital International Airport on Sundays and Wednesdays, using Airbus A330-300 aircraft with 299 seats. Ahmed bin Saeed Al Amri, CEO



of Oman Airports, said the new service marks a strategic addition to the Sultanate's growing network of international destinations.

He said that the direct route will boost tourism, strengthen investment opportunities, and enhance Oman's position as a regional hub

for aviation and logistics. Li Bin, head of the China Eastern Airlines team, emphasized that the cooperation reflects the strong bilateral relations between Oman and China. He added that the new flights will provide more convenient travel options for tourists and business travelers while opening new opportunities for trade and economic exchange. The launch is part of Oman Airports' broader efforts to expand international connectivity, support the Sultanate's tourism development goals, attract foreign investment, and enhance cargo and logistics services.

COMEX GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY EXPO 2025

Muscat Municipality showcases its achievements in digital transformation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality participated in the 34th edition of the COMEX Global Technology Expo 2025, held from 8 to 11 September at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. The participation showcased the municipality's achievements in digital transformation and the readiness of its electronic systems, highlighting digital services for citizens and residents, as well as current and future service projects aimed at improving the quality of life in Muscat. These efforts are in line with the

municipality's vision of building a Smart and Sustainable City. As part of its presence, the municipality organised a series of specialised workshops that highlighted its key digital initiatives. Improving efficiency Among them was the Unified Municipal System, an important step towards standardising procedures and improving municipal efficiency, serving as a roadmap for developing smart cities in line with Oman Vision 2040. The workshops also introduced Muscat Governorate's digital services, designed to simplify access to services for citizens and residents. Commenting on the participation, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, said, "We are committed to participating annually in the COMEX Global Technology Expo to highlight our digital achievements and progress in digital transformation. The event allows us to showcase the latest technologies in municipal work, exchange expertise with participating institutions, and engage with the community to learn from their experiences." "This reflects our dedication to

employing innovation and modern technologies to provide an integrated, high-quality and efficient experience for beneficiaries, while contributing to the goals of Oman Vision 2040 to build a knowledge- and innovation-based digital economy that meets the needs of the modern era," he further added. During the event, the municipality also launched its new website, featuring a modern and user-friendly design. The site offers integrated digital services for individuals, government entities and the private sector, with accessible and flexible features for people with special needs.

MYANMAR

Alleged junta airstrike kills students in Rakhine

RAKHINE: Several people, most of them students, have been killed in an airstrike allegedly by Myanmar's military on two private schools in a village in the western state of Rakhine, the Arakan Army (AA) and local media have said.

The conflict in Rakhine is one of several armed struggles taking place in the Asian country since the military ousted a civilian gov-

ernment led by democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

The AA, an ethnic minority armed group leading one uprising against the junta, began its offensive in Rakhine in November 2023. It has so far gained control of a strategically important regional army headquarters and 14 of Rakhine's 17 townships.

In a statement on the messaging

app Telegram on Saturday, the AA said the military attacked two private high schools in the village of Thayet Thapin in the township of Kyauktaw, which it controls, killing 19 students aged between 15 and 21 and wounding 22 more.

Kyauktaw is situated 250 kilometres (150 miles) southwest of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, — **bw**





Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

RUSSIAN DRONE INCURSION

NATO launches new mission to protect its eastern flank

BRUSSELS: NATO chief Mark Rutte announced on Friday that the alliance is launching a new operation, "Eastern Sentry," to protect its eastern flank in response to Russian drones entering Polish airspace.



"Our assessment of the incidents on Wednesday is ongoing and whether or not Russia's actions were deliberate, Russia violated NATO airspace," Rutte said about the incident.

"Whether intentional or not, it is dangerous and unacceptable," he added.

Rutte said that the Russian drone incursion in Poland on Wednesday was the most significant violation of NATO airspace, though not the first. Similar violations have occurred in Estonia, Romania, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The new mission is set to involve a range of assets integrating air and ground bases. It will involve "allies, including Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Germany, and others," Rutte said.

Speaking alongside Rutte, NATO's top commander, Alexus Grynkeiwich, said the alliance would defend every inch of its territory.

"Poland and citizens from across the Alliance should be as-

sured by our rapid response earlier this week and our significant announcement here today," he said.

Grynkeiwich said Eastern Sentry was designed to be a flexible operation that would strengthen defenses along NATO's entire eastern flank. This area extends from Finland and the Baltic states in the north to Romania and Bulgaria in the south.

Britain confirms its involvement

The United Kingdom confirmed its involvement in bolstering the initiative.

"The UK is fully committed to playing our part in NATO's Eastern Sentry following the reckless and dangerous airspace violations by Russia," a spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense said.

NATO already has a significant presence of troops in Eastern Europe. However, the alliance did not specify how many additional troops would be involved in the new operation. — **bw**

Nepal appoints its first woman Prime Minister

Karki's selection marks a rare moment of consensus in Nepali politics. She was chosen through a public vote by Gen Z leaders on the online platform Discord



KATHMANDU: Sushila Karki on Friday made history again, becoming Nepal's first female executive head, leading the country's transitional government. This remarkable achievement follows her earlier milestone in July 2016 when she became Nepal's first woman Chief Justice, reported The Kathmandu Post.

Karki was chosen by Nepal's Gen Z protesters who toppled PM KP Sharma Oli's government, receiving the highest votes on

Discord. Karki's selection marks a rare moment of consensus in Nepali politics. Chosen through a public vote held by Gen Z leaders on the online platform Discord, she emerged as the most popular and acceptable figure, not only among the youth movement but also among traditional political forces seeking stability and credibility in a time of upheaval, as per The Kathmandu Post.

Karki aims to restore order, hold elections, and ensure Nepal's development. She's acceptable to both youngsters and traditional political forces, praised for judicial independence.

Born on June 7, 1952, in Shankarpur, Biratnagar, Karki's journey to national leadership

has been built on decades of legal experience and an unwavering reputation for integrity. After completing her early education in Biratnagar, she went on to earn a master's degree from Banaras Hindu University in India, followed by a Bachelor of Laws from Tribhuvan University in 1978.

She began practising law in 1979, and over the years built a respected legal career serving as president of both the Koshi Zonal Bar Association and the Biratnagar Appellate Bar, before being appointed a Supreme Court justice in 2009. In July 2016, she became Nepal's first woman Chief Justice, known for issuing strong verdicts in high-profile corruption cases.

Though she was nominated to

the top court under the Nepali Congress quota, those who have worked closely with her stress that she always maintained judicial independence and never bowed to political pressure. In fact, her tenure ended in June 2017 after a controversial impeachment motion widely viewed as a political attempt to stop her verdict on the police chief appointment was filed against her by the then Sher Bahadur Deuba-led coalition.

Those who have worked with her describe Karki as courageous and possessing the highest level of integrity. She is also known for her spartan way of life, they say. Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, former Supreme Court justice, says Karki and her husband have made significant contributions to the country's democratic movement, according to The Kathmandu Post.

They are true Gandhians, not just in ideology but also in lifestyle. "She has agreed to shoulder such a huge challenge, demonstrating her courage. We all need to support her," said Bhattarai, a former Supreme Court justice who worked with her. "I am fully hopeful that she will lead through the transition period, embracing democratic principles at the highest level." — **ANI**

CUBAN MIGRANT

Indian man brutally murdered, beheaded by motel staff in Dallas

WASHINGTON, DC: A Cuban migrant with an extensive criminal record has been charged with the brutal murder of an Indian businessman in Texas, reigniting debates over US immigration enforcement

An Indian national working at a motel in Dallas, Texas, was brutally killed by a Cuban migrant who had been previously released from US immigration custody after Cuba refused to accept his deportation.

Chandra Nagamallaiiah, 50, was attacked with a machete outside the Downtown Suites motel in East Dallas in the early hours of 10 September, according to local police. The attack occurred in front of the victim's wife and child following what witnesses described as an argument.

Yordanis Cobos-Martinez, 37, has been charged with capital murder and remains in Dallas County Jail. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has placed a federal detainer on the Cuban national, who was in the country illegally.

Court records show Cobos-Martinez had an extensive criminal background, including convictions for child sexual abuse, carjacking, false imprisonment and vehicle theft. Despite a final removal order, he was released from ICE custody in January 2025 after Cuba declined to accept his repatriation.

Local residents expressed



"This gruesome, savage slaying was completely preventable if this criminal illegal alien had not been released because Cuba would not take him back," said Tricia McLaughlin, Assistant Secretary for Homeland Security.

The case highlights ongoing challenges in US immigration policy, particularly regarding deportations when countries refuse to accept their nationals.

Dallas Police Executive Assistant Chief Terrence Rhodes confirmed that the victim suffered multiple wounds from "an edged weapon" but declined to provide further details about the ongoing investigation.

Witnesses at the scene described the attack as particularly brutal, with one telling local media that the suspect "chopped his head off" with a machete.

Local residents expressed

shock at the violence. "It's sick and disturbing," one neighbour told local media, reflecting the community's horror at the incident.

The Consulate General of India in Houston has confirmed it is closely monitoring the case and providing support to Nagamallaiiah's family.

"Consulate General of India, Houston, condoles the tragic death of Mr. Chandra Nagamallaiiah, an Indian National, killed brutally at his workplace in Dallas," the mission said in a statement. "We are in touch with the family and offering all possible assistance."

According to police reports, Cobos-Martinez had been living and working at the motel where the attack occurred. He was arrested at the scene, reportedly still armed with the weapon and covered in blood. — **ANI**

DR CONGO

Boat accidents leave over 190 dead

KINSHASA: Two separate boat accidents in the Democratic Republic of Congo this week have killed at least 193 people, authorities said on Friday.

The accidents occurred on Wednesday and Thursday at locations in the northwestern Equateur province, around 150 kilometres from each other.

One boat carrying nearly 500 passengers capsized after catching fire while travelling on the

Congo River near Malange village, Lukolela territory, on Thursday evening, the Ministry of Social Affairs said.

146 people were missing

In a report, the ministry said 209 survivors had been rescued, while 146 people were missing.

The boat drifted downstream as it burned, the report said, adding that the fire had destroyed the vessel's cargo and ignited 15

homes on the riverbank.

Naval personnel and volunteers from the local community were assisting in search and rescue operations, which were still ongoing on Friday.

On Wednesday, at least 86 people — most of them students — died after a motorized boat capsized at the confluence of the Nsola and Great Maringa rivers in Basankusu territory, according to state media. — **bw**





The Grand Prize!
الجائزة الكبرى

Shop and Win تسوّق واربح

How to participate

12.5 OMR = chance to win!
25 OMR = higher chances + 20% OFF instantly

Monthly draws
Terms and conditions applied

طريقة المشاركة

12.5 ر.ع = فرصة ربح
25 ر.ع = فرص أكبر + خصم 20% فوري

سحوبات شهرية
تطبق الشروط والأحكام

من 20 يونيو حتى 30 سبتمبر From 20 Jun to 30 Sep

casabellaom.com Oasis Mall, First Floor | Avenues Mall, First Floor

22-YEAR-OLD UTAH NATIVE

Suspect in Charlie Kirk shooting in custody

Utah: According to authorities in Utah, someone close to the suspect in the killing of Charlie Kirk turned him in, and he is currently in police custody. President Trump said he hopes the suspect receives the death penalty.

Tyler R., the suspect of killing right-wing activist Charlie Kirk, is a 22-year-old Utah native who lived in his family's home at the time of the arrest, Utah Governor Spencer Cox told reporters.

He is suspected of aggravated murder, felony discharge of a fire-arm causing serious bodily harm, and obstruction of justice. Formal charges are expected early next week.

According to Cox, a family member had told the authorities that R. had mentioned Kirk's visit to Utah Valley University at a recent dinner, with the conversation being about disliking the prominent activist's views.

It was during that visit that Kirk was shot.

R. does not appear to have a criminal record and does not have an affiliation with a political party, state voter records suggest.

According to the records, he was an "inactive" voter, meaning he had not cast a ballot in recent elections nor replied to a mailing from the county clerk's office.

He attended Utah State University in Logan for one semester,



Reuters reports, but dropped out for unknown reasons.

The authorities have so far not named any motive for the shooting.

In her first public statement since the death of her husband, Erika Kirk thanked first responders who tried to save Charlie Kirk after he was shot on Wednesday.

She also thanked President Trump, Vice President Vance and the team of Turning Point USA, the political organization Charlie Kirk founded.

"Mr. President, my husband loved you. And he knew that you loved him too. He did. Your friendship was amazing. You supported him so well, as did he for you," she said.

Erika Kirk emphasised her husband's belief in his Christian faith and love for his family.

She also pledged to carry on his work and called on young people to join the conservative organisation he started and for a resurgence in the Christian faith. —dw

UN General Assembly adopts two-state solution

The UNGA passed the resolution by a recorded vote of 142 in favour, 10 against and 12 abstentions

UNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday adopted a draft resolution endorsing the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

The UNGA passed the resolution by a recorded vote of 142 in favour, 10 against and 12 abstentions.

The New York Declaration, circulated at a high-level international conference held at the United Nations in late July, sets out an action-oriented pathway toward a peaceful settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the realisation of the two-state solution.

The draft resolution was introduced by France and Saudi Arabia, the two co-chairs of the conference, along with the co-chairs of its working groups.



The permanent observer of the State of Palestine, while thanking those nations that voted for the endorsement of that document, invited "the party that is still pushing the option of war and destruction" to listen to the sound of reason.

The peace option is for everyone who wants to have a two-state solution, and opens the doors for integration in the entire Middle East and allows the region to reach its potential in terms of development and cooperation, he said.

The representative of France said the declaration lays out a single roadmap to deliver the two-state solution, which he said involves an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all the hostages.

It involves the establishment of a Palestinian State that is viable and sovereign, the disarmament of Hamas and its exclusion from governance in Gaza, as well as normalisation between Israel and Arab countries, he said.

Before the vote, the representative of the United States said her country opposes the New York Declaration, and that the UNGA's action on the draft resolution is yet another "misguided and ill-timed publicity stunt" that undermines serious diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. —Xinhua

JOINT STATEMENT

US, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Egypt call for Sudan truce

DARFUR: The United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt issued a joint statement on Friday calling for a three-month humanitarian truce in Sudan, followed by a permanent ceasefire.

Foreign ministers of the four countries put forth a plan to end the deadly conflict in the northeast

African nationand that called for a nine-month transitional process to establish civilian rule.

What did the countries say about the war in Sudan?

The transition should "meet the aspirations of the Sudanese people towards smoothly establishing an independent, civilian-led govern-

ment with broad-based legitimacy and accountability," the statement from the four nations said.

The so-called "Quad" countries are known to have the most sway with the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which began fighting each other in 2023.

The conflict has resulted in the

deaths of tens of thousands of people, displaced millions and triggered what the United Nations describes as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

A meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries was first slated for July in Washington but was postponed due to disagreements between Egypt and the

UAE.

"Sudan's future governance is for the Sudanese people to decide through an inclusive and transparent transition process, not controlled by any warring party," the countries said on Friday..

There was no immediate response to the statement from the Sudanese army and the RSF.

Egypt is an important ally of Sudan's regular army and has maintained a call for the protection of state institutions.

The UAE has been accused by the army of supporting the RSF, a charge which the Gulf state denies but has been deemed credible by US lawmakers and experts.

—dw



202510th NOVEMBER

STRATEGIC PARTNER



المظلة الخضراء للتوظيف
Green Umbrella Recruitment



Transform Teams at Oman Employee Experience 2025

OEX 2025 is a premier forum and awards event transforming employee experience in Oman and beyond, ideal for CHROs, CPOs, HR Heads and more. Engage with actionable insights, real-world case studies, networking opportunities, practical tools, and strategies to redefine employee experience. Celebrate excellence at the Oman Employee Experience Awards, honoring innovative leaders and organizations driving impactful change.

Individual Awards (Senior HR Leaders)

- HR Leader of the Year – Banking
- HR Leader of the Year – Finance
- HR Leader of the Year – Insurance
- HR Leader of the Year – Oil & Gas
- HR Leader of the Year – Real Estate
- HR Leader of the Year – Telecom
- HR Leader of the Year – Logistics
- HR Leader of the Year – Retail
- HR Leader of the Year – Education
- HR Leader of the Year – Healthcare
- HR Leader of the Year – Tourism
- HR Transformation Leader of the Year
- HR Leader of the Year – Overall
- Lifetime Achievement
- HR Consultant of the Year

Company / HR Team Awards

- HR Team of the Year
- Excellence in Talent Acquisition
- Learning & Development Initiative of the Year
- Employee Engagement Excellence
- Diversity & Inclusion Excellence
- Best Workplace Culture
- HR Innovation Award
- Excellence in Employee Well-being & Mental Health
- Employer of the Year
- HR Consultancy of the Year
- HRTech Company of the Year
- Company of the Year in Building National Talent

For more information on partnership or speaking opportunities, contact:

Syed Amir | syed.amir@mmg.om | +968 7847 1944

Sanjeev | sanjeev@mmg.om | +968 9722 1630

Nesma | nesma@mmg.om | +968 9129 1902

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION PARTNER



ORGANIZED BY



MEDIA PARTNERS



EVENT PARTNER



SPORTS



Fast and secure international shipping with (IPPEX) Service

بريد عُمان
OMAN POST

For more information:



1001

Oman captain Jatinder ‘proud’ of bowling effort despite defeat

Skipper urges side to play positive cricket ahead of UAE and India challenges after their heavy loss at the hands of Pakistan on Friday

MUSCAT: Oman’s Asia Cup dream began with a harsh reality check on Friday night, but captain Jatinder Singh chose pride over disappointment as he hailed his bowlers for standing tall against Pakistan’s celebrated batting line-up in Dubai despite their 93-run heavy defeat.

On their maiden outing at the continental showpiece, Oman restricted the former champions to 160 for 7 in 20 overs at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

For much of the innings, they even had Pakistan searching for answers until wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Harris cut loose with a lively half-century.

Experienced spinner Aamir Kaleem and medium pacer Shah Faisal shared six wickets between them, while *Mohammad Nadeem added another.

Just as crucial was the contribution of left-arm orthodox spinner Shakeel Ahmed, whose miserly spell of 4-0-17-0 starved Pakistan of momentum in the middle overs and kept the pressure firmly on the batting side.

If the ball brought encouragement, the bat brought heartache. Oman’s reply never got going as they folded for just 67 in 16.4 overs, suffering a 93-run defeat that underlined the gulf in experience



on their Asia Cup debut.

Yet Jatinder’s tone after the match was anything but deflated. “Restricting them under 160

was really good. I’m really proud of the boys — the way they bowled and fielded,” the skipper said. “The boys were bang on target,

they executed the plans they discussed, they were 10 out of 10.” The batting collapse, he admitted, hurt. But Jatinder was quick to

remind his side — and Omani fans — that this was just the start of a long journey. “Our team is a lot better than

what we showed today, and I’m confident we can do a lot better,” he said. The key is to back ourselves and play positive cricket. Just be in the present and not think about who is bowling to you.”

For Oman, the real test of resilience now begins. They face tournament hosts UAE next (15 September) — a clash that promises to stir Gulf pride — before taking on the might of India, the most fancied team of the competition on 19 September.

Both games offer a chance for Oman to measure their progress against familiar regional rivals and one of the sport’s global giants.

Debut defeats are often unforgiving, but Jatinder’s faith in his players’ ability to regroup suggests Oman’s Asia Cup journey is far from defined by this first setback. With two more group games to come, the Men in Red have opportunities not just to compete, but to make a statement on Asia’s biggest stage.

DUEL IN THE DESERT

India and Pakistan set for Dubai Asia Cup showdown

DUBAI: It is all set for a super Sunday as Dubai play host to one of cricket’s most awaited fixtures as India and Pakistan meet in the Asia Cup 2025. Both teams arrive with confidence after comfortable victories in their opening matches, setting the stage for what is expected to be the highlight of the Group A stage. The match begins at 6.30pm, Oman time.

India eased into the tournament with a commanding win over UAE. Suryakumar Yadav, leading the side in his first Asia Cup as captain, marshalled his resources well. The top order looked in form, while the bowlers were clinical in wrapping up the game without fuss. It was the kind of performance that allows a team to settle quickly into tournament rhythm.

Pakistan, too, began smoothly, brushing aside Oman in their opening fixture on Friday. Salman Agha, captaining for the first time at this level, oversaw a dominant performance. The bowling attack



was sharp and decisive, though the batting unit still left a few questions unanswered.

Like India, they head into Sunday’s contest with both momentum and confidence.

Traditionally, India vs Pakistan matches at Asia Cups and ICC tournaments are among the most anticipated in world cricket. Tickets may not have flown off the shelves in quite the same way this year, but organisers remain confident that Dubai will witness a size-

able and lively crowd when the two sides take the field.

For both sets of players, Sunday offers a chance to focus purely on cricket. India’s blend of experienced performers and fresh leadership under Suryakumar Yadav will be tested against Pakistan’s depth in both pace and spin under Salman Agha’s stewardship. Beyond the history and the noise, the result could also play a key role in shaping the path to the knockout stage. - Agencies

PAKISTAN VS OMAN

Haris repays Hesson’s faith

DUBAI: Mohammad Haris is synonymous with intent, which brings with it the inherent risk of being hit-or-miss. But when he comes good, he can deliver the thrill. And he did come good against Oman in their Asia Cup opener on Friday. It was a welcome return to form for Haris, who hasn’t been able to come good lately.

Since his century against Bangladesh in Lahore in June, Haris had a highest score of 15 in 11 T20I innings until Friday. He had crossed double figures only twice. All through this run, the pitches he largely played on - from Mirpur to Lauderhill to Sharjah - weren’t exactly conducive to strokeplay.

Then there was also the issue of Pakistan struggling to use him effectively. During this string of low scores, he batted everywhere from Nos. 3-8, a yo-yo existence that further added to the scrutiny. Yet, through this uncertain phase, one man had complete faith in Haris.

Coach Mike Hesson has only been in charge since June, but the shades of dominance he had seen sporadically, both at training and



during the occasional big knock like that century in Mirpur, gave him the belief here was a talent worth persisting with.

And against the ticking clock, on Friday, Haris delivered - a 32-

ball half-century that promised much more, but ended on 66. It was, nonetheless, a knock on a slower-than-usual Dubai surface, which would have given him oodles of confidence.

After the game, Haris spoke of how much the innings meant to him. “The confidence and backing is needed for any player,” he said of the 11-match slump since his previous century. “The way the captain and coach, and senior players, backed me, I’m thankful to them. It’s tough when performances don’t come - there’s a lot of criticism to deal with, but I took it positively.”

Haris underlined the need to be flexible, but even by those standards, he cheekily took it to an extreme when he said he was ready to bat even at No. 10 if the team asked him to, impressing upon the need to be versatile. “I’ve been working hard with the batting coach, working on my calmness, and how to tackle spin,” he said. “The seniors have been helping, giving advice. I wanted to use all that and deliver for the team.” - Agencies

ALIZZ SIGNS AGREEMENT
Alizz Islamic Bank recently signed a strategic agreement with Credit Oman, the Sultanate's national export credit agency, with the aim of empowering local businesses, supporting exporters and enhancing the competitiveness of Oman's economy on the global stage.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



MSX RECORDS 1ST DECLINE
The Muscat Stock Exchange's main index recorded its first weekly decline since mid-June in the week, ending an 11-week streak of gains during which it climbed above 5,100 points, its best level in more than seven years, rising more than 600 points from its closing level on June 19.

Sohar Port and Freezone handles 34MT of cargo in first half of 2025

Sohar Port is boosting operational capacity, accelerating cargo turnaround, and elevating Sohar Port's competitiveness on the global stage

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone, a destination connecting businesses to the world, has continued to advance on its strategic path during the first half of 2025, underpinning its critical role in Oman's economic diversification journey under Oman Vision 2040. Demonstrating continued outstanding Freezone performance and record award of contracts to local companies, Sohar is cementing its position as a vibrant investment ecosystem transforming



trade in Oman through sustainable practices. During this period, Sohar Port handled 34 million metric tons of cargo. The evolving political situation in the region has influenced cargo volume and throughput, leading to some adjustments compared to previous periods. With significant investments continuing to modernise port facilities and deploying advanced digital solutions, Sohar is boosting op-

erational capacity, accelerating cargo turnaround, and elevating Sohar's competitiveness on the global stage. Sohar is securing its continued growth and success for the future. Dredging works were completed at the MARSA LNG jetty, that will be strengthening Sohar's bunkering and Oman's strategic energy export capabilities. Commenting on the results, Emile Hoogsteden, CEO of Sohar

Port, said: "Our performance is a reflection of Sohar's strategic clarity and long-term commitment to growth. By scaling infrastructure, embedding digital innovation, developing sustainable solutions and cultivating local ecosystems, we are driving Sohar's evolution as a future-ready trade hub, vital for Oman and the entire region." He continued, "With the record investments last year and the strong continuation this year, we are securing a prosperous and successful future. Moving forward, we will intensify efforts to optimise efficiency, bolster the Omani industry, generate sustainable value for all our stakeholders and attracting quality investments". Sohar Freezone secured six new agreements covering more than 92 hectares of land and attracting more than \$1.3 billion on investments in the first half of this year. These projects span across green manufacturing, energy, and logistics sectors, reflecting Sohar's role in creating synergies within an integrated framework. This reinforces Sohar's activeness as a dynamic hub for sustainable, cutting-edge industrial development and enhancing Oman's regional trade linkage.

Complementing these developments, Sohar has launched one of its largest infrastructure expansions to date, developing phase 2 of the Freezone, spanning an additional 670 hectares of land. This expansion will boost cargo capacity, unlock new industrial opportunities, and reinforce Sohar's pivotal role as a regional trade and investment hub. Mohammed Al Shizawi, Acting CEO of Sohar Freezone, noted: "The Freezone's sustained expansion reflects the robustness of our investment proposition and the confidence global and regional investors place in Sohar. With 670 hectares under phased development, we provide a compelling ecosystem where advanced industries flourish—powered by world-class infrastructure, streamlined operational processes, and a supportive regulatory framework. Our strategic focus is aligned with Oman's industrial diversification and global sustainability trends, including green energy and circular economy principles. This momentum consolidates Sohar's leadership as a destination of choice for future-oriented manufacturing and logistics." Sohar's dedication to local

economic impact is evident with a strong rise in local content indicators. The portion of Local Purchase Orders (LPOs) awarded to Omani companies climbed to 62%, while the value of total LPOs direct to local suppliers surged to 96%, up from 91% in H1 of 2024. This notable advancement underscores Sohar's determination to foster local enterprises, empower SMEs, and deepen workforce integration to create lasting socio-economic benefits. Alongside its economic and industrial progress, Sohar reinforced its commitment to building resilient communities in the first half through impactful CSR projects. Focused on education, healthcare, and social development, the initiatives benefited more than 3,471 people, reflecting Sohar's dedication to social responsibility in line with Oman Vision 2040. Sohar's performance in the first half of 2025 reaffirms its seminal role as a catalyst for Oman's trade, industrial growth, and sustainable development agenda. With steadfast alignment to Oman Vision 2040, SOHAR Port and Freezone continues to build a resilient ecosystem that delivers enduring value to investors and the national economy.

NCSI DATA

Domestic liquidity in Oman grows by 5.6%

MUSCAT: Preliminary data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that domestic liquidity in the Sultanate of Oman grew by 5.6 percent to reach OMR25.41 billion by the end of June 2025, compared to OMR24.06 billion in the same period in 2024. The data indicated a 9 percent decline in issued cash, recording OMR1,555,200,000 by the end of June 2025, compared to OMR1,708,200,000 in the same period last year. Statistics showed that narrow money supply rose by 7.7 percent to reach OMR7.25 billion compared to OMR6.73 billion at the



end of June 2024. On the credit front, total loans and financing granted by commercial banks and Islamic windows amounted to OMR34.69 billion, registering a growth of 8.4 percent compared to the same period last year, which amounted to OMR3.431 billion. Private sector deposits also increased by 6 percent to OMR21.91 billion compared to OMR20.66 billion by the end of June 2024. — ONA

TO ENHANCE SKILLS, RESEARCH

FSA signs pact with Muscat University

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) and Muscat University signed a three-year cooperation programme, aimed at developing human capital, advancing research, and strengthening collaboration in capital markets, insurance, and innovation. The programme was signed by Ahmed bin Ali Al Mamari, Executive Vice President of the FSA, and Professor Dr. Khamis bin Hamad Al Yahyaei, President of Muscat University. On this occasion, Al Mamari said, "The signing of this cooperation programme embodies FSA's commitment to strengthening its collaboration with higher education institutions, thereby contributing to a shared understanding of market requirements and its needs from educational outputs. It also supports initiatives for cooperation in joint research and innovation projects among government entities, the private sector, and higher education institutions in the Sultanate of Oman. Moreover, this partnership aligns with FSA's vision to develop human capital in the capital market sector and to support entrepreneurship in line with the goalsof Oman Vision 2040." Professor Dr. Al Yahyaei affirmed that the FSA is one of Muscat University's most important strategic partners, noting that previous cooperation between the two sides has covered student training, studies on insurance programmes, and initiatives to support the development



of the capital market. "The new agreement represents a qualitative step towards enhancing the development of human capacities and national resources in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040, by enabling university students to acquire future skills and the competencies needed to meet the requirements of the labour market in the financial services sector," he said. He further stressed that this partnership will broaden opportunities for students to engage in innovation and entrepreneurship within the capital market and insurance sectors, strengthening their competitiveness at both local and international levels. "This will positively reflect on the quality of the educational and training process and contribute to supporting the university's ongoing development efforts," he explained. Both sides stressed that this cooperation will foster innovation and entrepreneurship pathways for students in the financial services sector, enhance the quality of education and training, and support Oman's drive to build a sustainable, knowledge-based economy that is regionally and globally competitive.

NATIONAL GAS NETWORK

Oman's Integrated Gas Company manages 120mn cubic metres of gas

MUSCAT: The total quantity of gas managed by the Integrated Gas Company on a daily basis amounted to 120 million cubic metres, of which 7 million cubic metres were imported through the Dolphin Project, according to a senior executive of the company. "These quantity of gas are supplied daily by the company to the industrial, electricity, oil extraction, and export sectors," said Abdulrahman bin Humaid Al Yahyaei, CEO of Integrated Gas Company. Integrated Gas Company (IGC) is the national entity responsible for managing all allocations, assets, rights and obligations related to the purchase, sale, import, export and transportation of natural gas and related products on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman. He further elaborated that the national gas network in the Sultanate of Oman is the longest pipeline network in the Middle East, extending over 4,200 kilometres.



He said that the company currently has 130 gas sales contracts ranging in duration from 10 to 15 years to deliver gas to companies and factories. He further added that approximately 48 million cubic metres of gas per day, representing approximately 40 percent of the total gas quantities available to the company, are allocated to Oman LNG for export as liquefied natural gas (LNG). Approximately 25 million

cubic metres per day are allocated to power generation companies, and approximately 11 million cubic metres per day are allocated to crude oil production operations within the concession areas, while the remainder is directed to meet the needs of the industrial sector. Al Yahyaei added that the National Gas Allocation Strategy, approved by the Finance and Economic Committee of the Cabinet, sets criteria for gas allocation, the percentage

of contribution to the gross domestic product, Omanisation rates, the transition to clean energy, and the development of industries aligned with gas-based projects. He pointed out that the size of the gas sector in the Sultanate of Oman exceeds \$8 billion, including the purchase, transportation, distribution, and sale of gas to all companies and industrial projects. He explained that the overall contribution of gas to Oman's GDP amounts to 19 percent. Al Yahyaei, confirmed that all contracts concluded with companies are bound by Omanisation rates, with the average Omanisation rate at these companies reaching 40 percent. He further noted that, starting in 2024, the system for gas contracts concluded with companies and factories will be changed, with Integrated Gas Company selling gas quantities according to a specific mechanism set by the government. — ONA

ENHANCING REGIONAL ENERGY SECURITY

Sohar International extends \$500mn in financing for Oman-GCC electrical interconnection project

MUSCAT: Sohar International has announced the signing of a landmark USD 500 million financing agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA). The funding will support the Oman-GCC Electrical Interconnection Project, a major infrastructure undertaking aimed at enhancing regional energy security and sustainability. The agreement was signed in the presence of Eng. Mohsin bin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry and Chairman of the Board of Directors at GCCIA, along with distinguished board members and executive leadership from GCCIA. The ceremony took place at Kempinski Hotel Muscat on 11 September 2025. Signing on behalf of the Authority was His Excellency Eng. Ahmed Ali Al-Ebrahim, CEO of GCCIA, while Sohar International was represented by its CEO, Abdulwahid bin Mohammed Al Murshidi. The financing marks a new phase in the implementation of this strategic project, which seeks to boost energy reliability, enhance grid efficiency, and advance the integration of regional power systems. The event commenced with official remarks delivered by representatives from both the Gulf



Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) and Sohar International, followed by a short documentary highlighting the strategic importance of the direct interconnection project between the GCC grid and Oman. This transformative project entails the construction of two 400kV transmission lines linking Oman's new Ibri station to GCCIA's Al-Sila station in the UAE, covering a total distance of 530 kilometers. It also includes state-of-the-art substations in Ibri and Al-Bainouna, equipped with modern control, protection, and communication systems, in addition to a dynamic compensator station to en-

hance grid stability and efficiency. Once operational, the project will provide a transfer capacity of up to 1,600 MW, strengthening supply reliability, supporting industrial growth, and expanding cross-border electricity trade in the region. Commenting on the occasion, Eng. Mohsin Al Hadhrami stated, "This project represents a strategic milestone in the pursuit of deeper regional energy integration. It reflects the shared vision of GCC leadership to build a more resilient and interconnected power infrastructure that aligns with sustainable development goals. The Oman-GCC interconnection is not merely a technical achieve-

ment—it is a manifestation of collective ambition to shape a more sustainable, secure, and collaborative energy future." Al-Ebrahim further emphasized the significance of the initiative: "The direct interconnection between Oman and the GCC grid lies at the heart of our strategic roadmap to create a dynamic and unified regional energy market. This project will optimize resource utilization, support growing electricity demand, and improve energy efficiency and reliability. It also establishes a foundation for future integration of renewable energy sources, making it a key enabler of regional energy transition." Al Murshidi reaffirmed the bank's role as a catalyst for national and regional development: "Sohar International's financing of this transformative infrastructure project underscores our ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that advance Oman Vision 2040 and foster regional economic integration. This interconnection is not only critical for enhancing energy security and reducing carbon emissions, but it also aligns with the strategic goals of enabling renewable energy deployment and unlocking cross-border energy trade."

MARKET

Muscat Stock Exchange records first decline after 11 weeks of gains

Trading data released by the Muscat Stock Exchange showed a decline in purchases by local investment institutions, which fell to OMR52.3 million, compared to OMR91 million the week before

MUSCAT: The Muscat Stock Exchange's main index recorded its first weekly decline since mid-June in the week, ending an 11-week streak of gains during which it climbed above 5,100 points, its best level in more than seven years, rising more than 600 points from its closing level on June 19.

The Muscat Stock Exchange's main index closed the week at 5,081 points, down by 43 points. Sectoral indices followed the same trend, with the exception of the financial sector index, which rose by more than 80 points, benefiting from the support it received from shares of a number of investment companies, such as Ominvest, International Financial Investments, and Al Anwar Investments. Meanwhile, the industrial sector index recorded the largest declines, falling below 7,000 points, recording a decline of 92 points. The services sector index declined by 22 points, and the Sharia index declined by about 3 points, closing at 471 points.

During the week, the prices of 37 securities declined, while the



prices of 21 securities rose and 25 securities remained stable. This decline coincided with local investment institutions reducing their purchases, causing the trading value to fall during the past week to OMR81.9 million, compared to OMR138.3 million in the previous week, recording a decline of 40.7 percent. The number of transactions executed declined by 23.4 percent, falling to 16,000 transactions, compared to more than 21,000 transactions executed in the week ending September 4.

These declines impacted the total market value of securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, which recorded losses of OMR121.7 million during the week, concluding the weekly trading at OMR29.942 billion.

Trading data released by the Muscat Stock Exchange showed a decline in purchases by local investment institutions, which fell to OMR52.3 million, compared to OMR91 million the week before. Purchases by local investment institutions during the past week constituted 63.8 percent of the total trading value, compared to sales of 66.2 percent of the total trading value. At the same time, Omani individual investors turned to buying, capturing 25.7 percent of the total trading value, compared to sales of 23.3 percent of the total trading value.

Bank Muscat attracted investors, with trades worth OMR15.4 million, representing 18.8 percent of the total trading value. OQ Exploration and Production came in second place with trades worth OMR14.6 million, followed by OQ Basic Industries, which saw trades worth OMR12.8 million. Bank Sohar International came in fourth place with trades worth OMR11.8 million, and National Bank of Oman came in fifth with trades worth OMR7.4 million, representing 9.1 percent of the total trading value.

Ominvest shares topped the gainers, rising 11.2 percent to close at 258 baisas. International Financial Investments shares rose 7.7 percent to close at 167 baisas, while Oman Education and Training Investment shares rose to 1400 baisas, recording a 3.7 percent increase.

Majan College's stock was the biggest loser, falling 9.8 percent to close at 119 baisas. Muscat Gases' stock fell to 108 baisas, recording a 9.2 percent decline, while Majan Glass' stock fell to 11 baisas, recording a decline of 8.3 percent.

Corporate news: OQ Basic Industries Corporation announced that its board of directors has pro-

Oman stock market declines in weekly trading

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market posted a negative performance during the week, declining by 0.84% following a long period of gains and solid momentum, according to an analyst. "The market's correction was accompanied by a drop of nearly 40% in both the volume and value of shares traded," said Daniel Takieddine Co-founder and CEO, Sky Links Capital Group.

"While the market's momentum is still bullish, it will be tested next week by the US Federal Reserve's meeting. A potential rate cut would be of ample importance for GCC markets, including Oman's, as regional central banks may follow the same path, which would have a positive impact on market sentiment," he further added.

"Developments in the oil market were an important influence on the markets this week, especially the Opec+ meeting, which resulted in a small increase in production," said Daniel Takieddine. "However, a number of other factors created price volatility, including regional and international geopolitical developments, further G7 sanctions on Russia, potential tariffs on India and Russia, and data showing lower demand from the US. Com-



bined, these factors shaped a volatile week for oil prices, leaving the outlook unclear. The risk of lower prices continues to weigh on the region's economies and market sentiment," he further added.

"Geopolitical developments in the Middle East this week had a limited impact on regional markets during the last few days of trading. Furthermore, investors focused on the US inflation data, which fostered a cautious sentiment on the last day of trading, given its importance for the Fed's decision next week," he said.

Despite the recent market correction, Oman's economic fundamentals present a compelling long-term outlook. The industrial sector's 476% profit growth in the second quarter demonstrates robust underlying strength and resilience. This, combined with positive strides in economic diversification and sustainability, should

bolster investor confidence and provide a solid foundation for a bullish trajectory in the Omani stock market.

Sector performance was mixed this week, with the Industrial sector emerging as the worst performer, declining by 1.32%. The sector's performance was weighed down by OQ Base Industries, which saw a decline of 3.40%. Other notable decliners included Al Anwar Ceramic, which was lower by 3.31%, Voltamp Energy, down by 2.94%, and Gulf Mushroom Products, which fell by 1.67%.

The Services sector also finished lower this week, recording a loss of 1.11%. This downturn was influenced by several companies, including Asyad Shipping, which decreased by 3.79%, and OQ Gas Networks, which was down by 1.25%. Furthermore, OQ Exploration and Production retreated by 4.03%, while Renaissance Services and Oman Telecom declined by 1.07% and 0.19% respectively.

In contrast, the Financial sector posted a positive return, gaining 0.97%. This growth was driven by Ominvest, which surged by 11.21%. Other key contributors to the positive performance were Al Sharqiya Investment, which was higher by 2.30%, and Ahli Bank, which posted a gain of 0.68%.

posed distributing cash dividends to shareholders at 5 baisas per share. This proposal will be presented to the company's ordinary general assembly, scheduled for October 19.

During the week, Asyad Shipping Company held its Ordinary General Assembly meeting, during which a cash dividend of 5,560 baisas per share was approved for the six months ending June 30. -OMA

Elevate Your Business and Events with Us!



EVENT MANAGEMENT

- Corporate Events
- Weddings & Celebrations
- Product Launches
- and more

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

- Custom Website Design
- E-commerce Solutions
- User-Friendly Interfaces

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLING

- Strategy & Campaign Management
- Creative Content Creation
- Analytics & Performance Insights
- 24/7 Online Presence

BRANDING

- Logo & Visual Identity Design
- Marketing Collaterals
- Brand Strategy Development
- Consistent Brand Messaging

The New 4th Dimension LLC
Po Box 86, Postal code 115
Sultanate of Oman

+968 92839679 +968 99321290



COMEX

Omran Group and Ithca spotlight tourism & hospitality innovators

MUSCAT: The Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group), in collaboration with Ithca Group, successfully featured the winning innovators and entrepreneurs of the Tourism & Hospitality Track within the Scale Award at Comex Oman 2025.

This milestone marked the first major tourism startup-focused competition, combining showcasing, pitching, and networking under one roof. The showcase celebrated some of the most promising startups, presenting pioneering solutions that addressed real-world industry challenges while exploring opportunities to shape the future of tourism.

The Tourism & Hospitality Track was developed to support and empower startups in the sector by addressing real-world challenges and inspiring innovative solutions informed by global and regional trends. Participants were given direct access to investors, and industry partners, creating a valuable platform for exposure, investment, and knowledge exchange. The top ten projects presented their pitches to a judging panel, gaining direct engagement with decision-makers and potential backers. The top three projects in this track were also recognized: "Valo", an integrated smart booking application for tourism establishments in Oman that offers innovative financial

solutions to boost profitability and operates on a "pay-per-use" model; "GuiderX", an on-demand platform that directly connects travelers with local tour guides in real time; and "Mulhem", an immersive visual and sensory experience that blends entertainment with cultural elements, utilizing advanced motion seating technologies in 3D and 6D with dynamic effects such as air, vibration, and water spray.

AGREEMENT

Alizz Islamic Bank signs pact with Credit Oman to empower local business

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently signed a strategic agreement with Credit Oman, Oman's national export credit agency, with the aim of empowering local businesses, supporting exporters and enhancing the competitiveness of Oman's economy on the global stage.

The agreement was signed by Ali Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank and Khalil Al Harthy, CEO of Credit Oman in the presence of a number of senior officials from both organisations.

The agreement will see both institutions working closely to design and implement tailored Islamic financial solutions that address the needs of exporters, including trade finance, credit guarantees and risk mitigation tools. By leveraging Credit Oman's expertise in supporting international

trade and Alizz Islamic Bank's exemplary record in providing Sharia-compliant financing, the partnership seeks to strengthen Oman's export ecosystem and encourage sustainable business growth. The agreement also aligns with Oman Vision 2040 by diversifying the national economy, empowering the private sector and creating an enabling environment for innovation and investment.



ADVERTISE WITH US,
FIND THE RIGHT **CANDIDATES**
FOR YOUR COMPANY

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email to classifieds @ timesofoman.com



RENT

RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email: classifieds@timesofoman.com

CARGO

DNV 2.7-1 OFFSHORE CONTAINERS, REEFER CONTAINER SALES & RENTALS

ISO CONTAINER SALES, CONVERSIONS & RENTALS

CONTAINER SOLUTIONS LLC
Po Box 522, Pc 322, Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar Free Zone, Oman
Tel: +968 9358 5556, +968 99508921, +968 26942610
FAX: 26942611, Email: sales@containersolutions.com.
www.containersolutions.com



VACANCY

For High Impact Professional | Oman Web Award Winner

WEBSITES GULFCYBERTECH E-Solutions

Designing & Maintenance
E-Commerce Solns.
Domain & Hosting
Mobile Applications
Email Ads & Promotions

Tel: 99818819 Email: 24130929 info@gulfcybertech.com
www.gulfcybertech.com

WJ Towell Group Company



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

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9679 0594 9679 0684 | Sohar 9731 6218 9429 9325 | www.orbit-oman.com

أوربیت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

SERVICES

SERVICES
Electrical and Plumbing maintenance of Flats/Villas and we undertake Projects inclusive of supply and installation of LV Panel/ DB/Armoured cabling/wiring/GRP water tank / Pump/PPR/copper/uPVC pipe & fittings
International Rose LLC.
Contact: + 968 92886065. Email: sujith.internationalrosellc@gmail.com

Cleaning services & pest control
specialized cleaning of build-ings carpet, sofa shampooing pest control, termite treatment Painting, plumbing, electrical works manpower supply. Glow Services Trading LLC Contact: 99844284, 99450130

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED
Hiring for a Reputed Educational Institution in Oman.
We are looking for experienced candidates for the following positions:
• **CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**
• **ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT**
• **HR AND ADMIN ASSISTANT**
Apply to: hrm.mrc25@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED
Experienced CHEF/COOK
(Arabic & Indian Dishes)
for a reputed family in Muscat.
Contact: 99735820

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS MANAGER/ CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
ACCA (Finalist), Male, 14 Years+ experience, including 8.5 years of GCC and 1 year in Oman. Expert in Financial Management, Budgeting, Accounting, Payroll, Cash flow, VAT & Management Reporting. NOC & Driving license available.
Contact : 9469 2990
Email: habib.rehman@outlook.com

Finance Manager
Seasoned professional (Over 32+ Years' Experience) with extensive expertise in accounting, taxation (VAT, Income Tax, WHI), budgeting, compliance, and SAP ERP across diverse sectors in Oman. Proven track record in streamlining operations, securing bank facilities, and implementing/improving ERP systems. Seeking new opportunities.
GSM & WhatsApp (00968) 94676186

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE
Indian male B.com MBA having 17 yrs exp up to finalization with LC & LTR, ERP, Odoo Tally, focus, health care, trading, logistics, rent a car, having Omani D/L looking for the Sr. position.
Contact: 99279626

MEP PROJECT MANAGER
Seeking a job opportunity with solid background in MEP Project management with 21 years of professional experience in managing MEP projects across GCC (Bahrain, Saudi, Oman).
Contact: +968 76861551
Email: karthi.engr2004@gmail.com

SYSTEM ADMIN
Sr. System Admin, IT Lead – 15 yrs (India, Oman) in IT, Banking, Airlines & construction. Skilled in IT infra, Microsoft 365, Digital transformation, ERP, Networking & Servers. Currently in Oman. Seeking opportunities.
Contact 71284555
Email: prabhumanjunath359@yahoo.co.in

GM/ HEAD TENDERING/OPERATIONS
Result oriented Civil Engineer + Management Professional with 17+ yrs of experience in Business Development, Project Management, finance analysis, Tendering and Contracts management. Adept at managing multiple large scale Projects & teams.
Contact : 92392341
Email: bm.engg008@gmail.com

WANTED

We are looking to acquire a **Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP)** registered contractor/ consultant company doing Solar projects. Interested companies may contact : 968 -95740701
Email: Jyothi9938596@gmail.com
Deadline to Apply: 10th September 2025

LOST

MARIAM JOSEPH has lost Tan-zanian passport no. TAE573561 .Finder please handover to ROP

BAKERY



the bake & wake
BAKERY

The Bake & Wake – Frozen Cakes for Sale!

Craving something sweet and ready to serve?
At The Bake & Wake,

we offer delicious frozen cakes from
Turkiye that are perfect for any occasion!

Always fresh, always frozen

Order now:
96573840 or 96586409
Location:
Mabela South, Al Masarat street, near Al Masarat Hall

Send email to classified@timesofoman.com or
Call: 24 72 66 66 (Ext: 815 / 462 / 354)



CARGO AND LOGISTIC
PROMOTE YOUR SERVICE WITH US

FOR RENT

FOR RENT

SPACIOUS 2 BHK & 1 BHK FLATS FOR RENT
NEAR LULU DARSAIT & LIFELINE HOSPITAL



CONTACT: 96077888

Let Your Brand Grow
with our Creative Services

NEXUS NOVEL
ADVERTISING

LOGO DESIGN
CREATIVE CAMPAIGNS
BRANDINGS
PACKAGING
PRINT COLLATERALS



99440826 | media@nexusnovel.com

Email: dailyguide@timesofoman.com
classifieds@timesofoman.com
Tel: 24726666
Ext: 815 / 462 / 354

CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

SALES/MARKETING

Required sales representative with minimum 3-5 years Oman experience in FMCG industry, with a valid driving license. Send your cv to admin@dilipinternational.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Urgently required AutoCAD Draughtsman with knowledge of interior Design with minimum 2-5 years' experience. Email : fareedadesign@gmail.co

MISCELLENOUS

Urgently required Electrician, plumber, HVAC technician, refrigeration, BMS, electronics, kitchen equipment technicians for building maintenance. Contact: 99107632,91302874

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male Sr. Accountant (M.com with Finance)17+ yrs exp in Oman with valid D/L. Contact 71316458 Email : sayaanputhu@gmail.com

Accounts asst with 4 yrs of exp in Gulf (accounts) looking for a job.Contact 76253948. Email: jafarali2016m@gmail.com

Indian male, 25, BCom Int'l finance & accounting, 4 yrs exp incl. Goldman Sachs (Ops, reconciliation, payments, client mgmt, accounting). Seeking accounting,audit,sales roles in Oman. Contact: 94996076.

Indian male, accountant, M.com (finance) 12 yrs experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently & business development. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141.

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

Indian male MBA, Senior accountant, admin having 10 yrs experience. Contact: 95416322, Email: aabynarayan@gmail.com

Indian male 28 yrs experienced FCMA (ICWAI) working with a leading finance company in Oman as senior accounts officer,looking for a managerial position in finance & accounts. Contact 99126545. Email madhuhemanth2005@gmail.com

B COM, ICWA (Inter), SAPB1, 16 yrs experience Oman ,accounts payable,receivable, product costing, financial planning & analysis, budgeting, MIS,audit, payroll with D/L, looking job. Contact: +968 93876169. Email: bikashoman@gmail.com

Indian male accountant with 4+ yrs of experience, pursuing CMA US. Seeking new opportunities. Contact: +968 76226098

Indian male, Asst Finance manager (Mcom&MBA Finance), having 10 yrs of Oman experience, valid D/L.Contact 97524285. Email bobykkj@gmail.com

Chief Accountant, finance manager Indian male with 19 yrs experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalization. MIS, audit, tax, VAT. Contact 78543201. E-mail kramct2021@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Secretary with 20 yrs of experience in India and Oman looking for a job. NOC available. Contact 97932277.

ADMINISTRATION

Indian male, 9+ yrs exp with valid Oman DL. Suitable for business develop, procurement, admin, proj coordination, executive support. Contact: 94661829, Email aryaprabhat1992@gmail.com

Indian female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), Oman experienced, overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles, having valid Oman D/L. Contact: 79166904/97498882

11 yrs experienced in document controller, HR & admin officer, executive secretary with Omani D/L looking for job. Contact 91695786, Email: Jsr.Shahid@gmail.com

Experienced HR & Admin professional, 24 yrs GCC & India experience , including 12 yrs in Oman. Indian national Arabic speakers with Omani D/L. Available immediately. Contact WA+ 968 99278746, 91 8335008166

MBA HR & marketing, Indian female, looking for a suitable job, Currently in Oman Contact 72851131, Email: teenavalen01@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

Female diploma Architect having 10yrs exp engineering consultancy in Oman. Contact96683293

Architect, Interior designer having more than 8+ yrs of experience with design and engineering consultants. Contact: 95759832, Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking light driving job. Contact: 96091045

Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job . Contact 99116288

DRIVER

Looking for suitable job (driving) 10 yrs experience, knows Arabic English Hindi. Contact: 97133246

Driver with 03 yrs experience looking for job. Contact 97405894

Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Creative, professional and detail oriented Graphic designer with 5 yrs experience(India) looking for job. Contact: +968 98732676 Email: shravanbaby92@gmail.com

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email: induchandran01@gmail.com

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email:induchandran01@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Diploma in Electrical Engineering looking for Fire Fighting site supervisor/suitable job. Contact: 95933453, Email: haquefaizan3786@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer (BE),10 yrs exp (Qatar & India) in facility management, projects, retrofit jobs (HVAC). Presently in Oman,with valid Qatar D/L, looking for opportunities. Contact: 79892494

ENGINEER

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

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

BE Civil engineer seeking for job in reputed construction company in Oman.Currently in Oman. Contact +968 95031935

Indian M (35) MBA in Oman, 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma with D/L. Contact: 79755795

Electrical engineer, with 17 yrs Oman experience seeks job. Contact 98148034

Civil engineer 15 yrs experience D/L 78002980.

Indian male B.Tech in Mechanical engineering with 2 yrs experience. Contact 91178607

Dedicated female civil engineer seeking career opportunities in the fields of Quantity surveying and Accounting. Contact: 97247744, Email: kalakalesh159@gmail.com

IT

Indian male, 25, B.Tech (CS), Power BI analyst with 4 yrs at global financial firm. Expert in dashboards, DAX, SQL, python. Available in Oman for immediate joining. Contact 94230875. Email: axisharsh@gmail.com

LOGISTICS

Indian male graduate with 25 yrs of proven experience in Car rental, fleet Management & logistics. Currently seeking for Senior/ middle management position. Contact: 92152334.

MANAGER

Indian professional(M), MBA pursuing, 7 yrs Oman exp (5 yrs managerial roles). Ops, BD, management. D/L. Contact 96722110, Email yasiny007@gmail.com

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

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male, certified international procurement professional,manager by IPSCMI USA and have 13+ yrs of procurement, supply chain and projects experience in oil & gas &financial services of UAE. Presently in Oman. Contact. 9943900. Email: s_k_azeemuddin@rediff.com

Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading whatsapp+96895839964

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 9456 6786

Country manager for mobile phones marketing looking for suitable placement. Contact 97175344.

16 yrs sales executive in Mars Wrigley's company Enhance,seeks placement. Presently in Oman. Contact: 96544255

Indian male 14 yrs sales marketing experience with Oman D/L, looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 95136784

Indian male, 17 yrs experience in sales marketing in Oman with valid D /L. (FMCG, electrical, sanitaryware). Contact 99508485



PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

RENT OR SALE?

Send email to classifieds@timesofoman.com



LIFESTYLE



Surgery more effective than antibiotics in sinus disease treatment: Study

The researchers found that surgery was effective at relieving sinusitis symptoms, and trial participants who underwent surgery were still feeling better six months later, according to the findings

A comprehensive clinical trial sponsored by University College London (UCL), the University of East Anglia, and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust found that sinus surgery is more effective than antibiotics at treating chronic rhinosinusitis.

One in every ten people in the United Kingdom suffers from chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS), sometimes known as sinusitis. Symptoms include a blocked and runny nose, loss of smell, facial pain, fatigue, and worsening of respiratory difficulties, such as asthma. It generally resembles the symptoms of a bad cold, but it can persist for months or even years.

The team conducted a randomised controlled patient trial comparing sinus surgery with long-term antibiotic use and a placebo.

More than 500 patients from around the UK participated, all of whom used nasal steroids

and saline rinses as part of their usual care - both of which have been shown to help alleviate the condition.

The researchers found that surgery was effective at relieving sinusitis symptoms, and trial participants who underwent surgery were still feeling better six months later, according to the findings published in The Lancet. Of those who underwent surgery, 87 per cent said their quality of life had improved six months on.

A three-month course of low-dose antibiotics was not found to be helpful, as there was no significant difference in outcomes between those on antibiotics and those in the placebo arm of the trial.

The study is part of the MACRO programme, involving a collaborative group of researchers from UCL (the trial's sponsor), the University of East Anglia (UEA), Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, the University of South-

ampton, the University of Oxford, UCLH, and Imperial College London. The programme is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research.

Lead author Professor Carl Philpott, from UEA's Norwich Medical School, one of the Chief Investigators of the MACRO trial, said, "Chronic rhinosinusitis causes the spaces inside the nose and head, called sinuses, to become inflamed and swollen.

"This common condition keeps mucus from draining. It gives patients a very stuffy nose, breathing through the nose can be really hard, and it is the major underlying cause of smell loss in the general population. What we found is that surgery was effective at reducing symptoms six months on, while taking the course of antibiotics seemed to make little difference."

"We hope our findings will help reduce the length of time for patients to get treatment. Streamlining clinical pathways will help

reduce unnecessary visits and consultations, and save on health-care resources."

For the trial, all participants received nasal steroids and saline rinses as standard care, alongside their randomly allocated treatment option of either sinus surgery, antibiotics or placebo tablets. They were followed up after three and six months, where researchers examined their nose and sinuses, took airflow readings and conducted smell tests, to gauge the success of each treatment in terms of improvement of symptoms, quality of life and possible side effects.

Professor Claire Hopkins (Guy's Hospital, London), one of the Chief Investigators of the MACRO trial, said, "Although sinus surgery is commonly performed within the NHS, uncertainty regarding its effectiveness has led to restricted access for many patients in the NHS.

The results of the MACRO trial highlight the significant improve-

ments in quality of life that many patients experience after surgery, and should give them and their referring primary care doctors more confidence in seeking treatment for chronic rhinosinusitis. We hope that this work will enhance the care for adult patients with chronic rhinosinusitis within the NHS, and beyond."

Study co-author Professor Anne Schilder (UCL Ear Institute), director of the NIHR UCLH Biomedical Research Centre Hearing Health Theme, who is leading the project at UCL, commented, "Here we have provided robust evidence that surgery is an effective means to treat chronic rhinosinusitis when local treatments have failed, which should be welcome news to the large numbers of people with the condition."

"The MACRO trial has shown the value of research collaboration across specialities and organisations. It was the first NIHR programme grant for our special-

ity, recognising the need for better evidence for the management of common ENT conditions and the strength of our collaborative team. The commitment of our investigators, research nurses and of course our patient participants across 20 UK sites made it a success."

Jim Boardman, MACRO patient representative, said, "I've lived under a cloud for years with CRS, as have many others I've met with the same condition.

"There's a persistent headache and blocked nose along with the loss of sense of smell, which removes a whole dimension of everyday experience and enjoyment. A clear path to successful treatment will be welcomed by all CRS sufferers."

The researchers are now continuing their research to assess the cost-effectiveness of sinus surgery, while also continuing to follow up trial participants over longer periods of time to see how long the benefits last. —ANI

SPORTS

England’s record breaker Salt wants to be ‘best in the world’

The opener slammed unbeaten 141 off just 60 balls in his team’s 146-run win over South Africa in the second T20I

LONDON: Phil Salt has set his sights on becoming the “best in the world” as a T20 opener after smashing a record-breaking century in England’s 146-run victory over South Africa on Friday.

The 29-year-old lit up Old Trafford with an unbeaten 141 off 60 deliveries to not only shatter a host of individual records - most notably reaching three figures off just 39 balls to beat Liam Livingstone’s England record - but also propel his side beyond 300 for the first time in T20s.

England amassed 304-2, a record total in a T20I between two Test nations, in a blistering display of hitting before bowling South Africa out for 158 to level the series at 1-1 going into Sunday’s decider in Nottingham.

Salt was aggressive from ball one, immediately dispatching Marco Jansen for a trio of boundaries, and went on to find the rope no fewer than 23 times, including eight sixes, in his monster knock.



“Enjoying being there at the crease for as long as you can and just a will to impact the game, that’s how I see it,” Salt said.

“I want to take games as deep as possible while still batting at a high strike-rate. The two don’t often go hand in hand but that’s what I want to do as a player.

“The goal is to be right up there. I want to be the best in the world at this.”

Salt set a record after just six balls, with the 18 runs he scored off Jansen the most by an England batter in the first over of a T20I.

After being deprived of the

strike by opening partner Jos Buttler for a while, he brought up his half-century off 19 deliveries and needed just 20 more to reach three figures.

His 39-ball hundred is the fastest by an England player, beating Liam Livingstone’s 42-ball ton against Pakistan in 2021.

In finishing unbeaten on 141, Salt also broke his own record of 119 (set versus West Indies in 2023) for the highest score for England men in the format and Danni Wyatt-Hodge’s overall record of 124 against India in 2018.

He has now scored four of Eng-

land’s eight centuries in men’s T20Is, with Livingstone, Buttler, Alex Hales and Malan contributing one apiece.

That moves him level with India’s Suryakumar Yadav for career T20I centuries, with Rohit Sharma and Glenn Maxwell (five) the only players ahead of him.

“I want to put that stamp on [an innings],” Salt said. “In order to knock a man out of possession, you have to do something they can’t do.

“From early in my career, I looked at that and if I can be the most dangerous in the first 10, 15 balls of the game, that’s a unique

tool. It’s something I’ve always worked on.”

Jos Buttler played his part, blitzing 83 runs off 30 balls as part of a 126-run first-wicket partnership with Salt, while there were handy supporting knocks from Jacob Bethell (24 off 10) and captain Harry Brook, who brought out several of his trademark tumbling boundaries in an entertaining 41 not out from 21 balls.

In reply, Aiden Markram and Ryan Rickelton smacked 50 runs off 22 deliveries to briefly silence Old Trafford as South Africa threatened an unlikely chase.

However, Jofra Archer struck twice in the fourth over and later took a catch off Sam Curran to reduce South Africa to 58-3 and knock the stuffing out of their innings.

Archer finished with 3-25 while Curran returned economical figures of 2-11, although Bjorn Fortuin’s 16-ball 32 provided some late cheer for the visitors, who were bowled out for 158.

Brief scores: England 304-2 in 20 overs: (Salt 141* (60), Buttler 83 (30) beat South Africa 158 in 16.1 overs: (Markram 41 (20); Archer 3-25). - Agencies

RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

Boks inflict record defeat on All Blacks



WELLINGTON: New Zealand suffered their biggest defeat in history as they were beaten 43-10 by South Africa in the Rugby Championship in Wellington on Saturday.

World champions South Africa produced a stunning display, which included six tries and 36 unanswered second-half points, as they bounced back from defeat by the All Blacks a week ago.

New Zealand’s previous heaviest defeat was a 35-7 loss to the Springboks at Twickenham in 2023. All four teams in the Rugby Championship, which also features Australia and Argentina, have two wins and two defeats from four games.

“I give credit to my boys - we didn’t give up. And to the coach (Rassie Erasmus) as well,” said South Africa captain Siya Kolisi.

“We played fearlessly. We didn’t want to hold back. We knew what we needed to do and we believed in ourselves - that

was the most important thing out there.”

South Africa made a strong start at the Wellington Regional Stadium but were denied a try following a brilliant Jordie Barrett tackle on Cheslin Kolbe.

“That’s a tough one to swallow,” said New Zealand captain Scott Barrett.

Argentina hold on to beat Australia

Elsewhere, Argentina held on to claim a tense 28-26 win against Australia in Sydney.

A week after the Wallabies beat the Pumas thanks to a try after the final hooter, Argentina capitalised on an undisciplined performance from the hosts at Allianz Stadium.

Argentina fly-half Santiago Carreras kicked seven penalties and a conversion, with 23 points coming from his boot. Julian Montoya, playing his 112th Test and 50th as skipper, scored their only try.

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Japan celebrate first medal as athletes battle gruelling Tokyo heat conditions

TOKYO: Japan celebrated the return to Tokyo of a premier global sporting event with a medal in a curtain-raising 35km race walk contested in gruelling conditions at the World Athletics Championships on Saturday. Hayato Katsuki made the first podium of the worlds, finishing third in the men’s 35km race walk on Saturday.

Canada’s Evan Dunfee was the first athlete to cross the finish line in the Japan National Stadium, winning the men’s 35km race walk in 2:28:22. Despite suffering a cramp in the closing stages, the former world record-holder held on to win his first global title – adding world gold to his Olympic bronze from the Japanese capital four years ago and his world bronze from Doha in 2019.

He won by half a minute. Brazil’s Caio Bonfim secured silver in 2:28:55 and Japan’s Hayato Katsuki opened the host nation’s medal campaign to great celebration, clocking 2:29:16 for bronze.

Despite the road race start times being moved 30 minutes earlier than scheduled, in anticipation of the heat over the opening weekend in the Japanese capital, temperatures still climbed to 30C over the course of the first morning session.

That was accompanied by stifling humidity above 90%. Canadian men’s 35km race walk winner Evan Dunfee described the race - which for him lasted almost two and a half hours - as “absolutely brutal”.

Four years after Tokyo hosted the postponed 2020 Olympics behind closed doors because of the coronavirus pandemic, home



athlete Katsuki held on to a podium place to the delight of those watching the finish inside Japan’s

National Stadium on Saturday morning.

With the streets outside also lined by enthusiastic supporters as the nine-day championships began, it marked a poignant moment for the host nation after it was denied the opportunity to cheer on its athletes at the same location for its Games.

That is a lost opportunity for which the people of Japan intend to make up for over the next nine days, with close to 500,000 tickets sold and some night sessions completely sold out according to World Athletics president Lord Coe.

Bronze medallist Katsuki’s com-

patriot Masatora Kawano at one stage led the men’s race as Japan temporarily held the top two positions, but he succumbed to the conditions.

Kawano was able to complete the race and receive the adoration of his home support on his closing lap of the track, but there was concern for the 26-year-old after he collapsed to the ground upon crossing the finish line and had to be assisted off the track in a wheelchair.

Spain’s men’s competitors still had the strength to lift compatriot Maria Perez on their shoulders after she dominated the women’s event. A short while later, Perez became the second champion in Tokyo, retaining her 35km race walk title in 2:39:01 and securing a dominant victory.

She broke away in the second half of the race and eventually won by three minutes. Italy’s Antonella Palmisano, who won the Olympic 20km race walk title in the Japanese capital four years ago, got silver this time in 2:42:24. Ecuador’s Paula Torres claimed bronze in a national record of 2:42:44. - Agencies

GOLF

Rose among Ryder-Cup bound trio in contention at BMW PGA

LONDON: Japan’s Hideki Matsuyama carded a superb 64 to lead at 12 under overall after the second round of the BMW PGA Championship on Friday at the Wentworth Golf Club, with Ryder Cup-bound trio Justin Rose, Ludvig Aberg and Viktor Hovland all in contention a stroke back.

Matsuyama, 33, who won the Masters in 2021, knocked in five birdies and chipped in on the 17th for his second eagle of the day, with a bogey on the 15th, for the second consecutive day, the only blemish to his scorecard.

England’s Rose followed up Thursday’s round of 67 with a 66,

while Norway’s Hovland capped an impressive round by draining a 44-foot eagle putt on the 18th to also sign for 66.

Sweden’s Aberg, who like Hovland was a captain’s pick for the Europe team to face the United States at Bethpage Black in New York later in September, is also firmly in the mix after a three-under 69 on Friday.

On another day when the rain lashed down in Surrey, Spain’s Pablo Larrazabal reached the clubhouse at 10 under, while Scottish duo Richie Ramsay and Ewen Ferguson are at nine under along with England’s Aaron Rai and Sweden’s



Alex Noren, who is one of Luke Donald’s vice-captains at the Ryder Cup.

However, there were contrast-

ing fortunes for other members of Donald’s team competing at Wentworth.

Matt Fitzpatrick ended the day

at seven under with a 71 in which he was punished for being wayward off the tee on the ninth, 11th and 14th holes.

Northern Ireland’s Rory McIlroy made bogeys on the third, fourth and fifth - and then threatened to undo a fine recovery, which included four birdies on the back nine, with a double-bogey seven on the 18th, after going out of bounds off the tee.

The five-time major champion’s level-par round of 72 left him three under for the tournament alongside his friend Shane Lowry and just inside the cut line at two under.

Tyrrell Hatton is at five under,

while Jon Rahm benefited from a huge stroke of luck when his drive at the 18th was prevented from going out of bounds after landing in a buggy parked in the left rough - from where he made birdie to get to four under.

Scotland’s Robert MacIntyre is right on the cut line at two under after a second successive 71, while Tommy Fleetwood had to drop in a birdie putt on the 18th to ensure his participation at the weekend.

Meanwhile, Ryder Cup rookie Rasmus Hojgaard will not have taken much confidence after struggling to a 75 to miss the cut. - Agencies

IN PICTURES

EAST EUROPEAN COMIC CON FESTIVAL HELD IN ROMANIA: A costumed enthusiast poses during the East European Comic Con festival in Bucharest, Romania. The three-day East European Comic Con festival celebrating pop culture brings together thousands of fans who love comic books, movies, TV series and gaming. — Xinhua



WILDLIFE IN MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE IN KENYA: A lion is pictured in the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Narok County, Kenya. — Xinhua



PEOPLE ENJOY SPRING VIEW IN NEW ZEALAND: People pose for a selfie under blooming trees at a park in Christchurch, New Zealand. — Xinhua



SCENERY OF ULAN BUTONG GRASSLAND IN INNER MONGOLIA: Horses forage on the Ulan Butong grassland in Hexigten Banner of Chifeng, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. — Xinhua



INDONESIA'S FOOD PRODUCTION RISES DESPITE CLIMATE CHALLENGES An aerial drone photo shows rice fields in Cibarusa village, Bekasi regency of West Java, Indonesia. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto said that the country's food production has increased despite the prolonged dry season and impacts of climate change. —Xinhua



WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY IN KIGALI, RWANDA: This photo shows a view of a wetland in Kigali, Rwanda. Kigali has launched a wetland restoration project in March 2024 which involves five key wetlands covering an area of 491 hectares. Once completed, it will benefit more than 220,000 citizens by reducing flood risks, restoring ecosystems, improving water management, enhancing the city's landscape, and providing new recreational opportunities. — Xinhua

HIGHLIGHT OF 2025 SPEED SKATING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Manuela Rodriguez Torres (front right) of Colombia competes during the heat 1 of Junior Women's 5000m Points Semifinal at the 2025 Speed Skating World Championships in Beidaihe District of Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei Province. — Xinhua



WARSAW CHOPIN AIRPORT HANDLED 2.5 MILLION PASSENGERS IN AUGUST: This photo shows the terminal building of Warsaw Chopin Airport in Warsaw, Poland. The airport authorities announced that the airport handled 2.5 million passengers in August. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

ahlibank leads digital excellence at Comex

Throughout the exhibition, ahlbank offered unique digital experiences for individuals through interactive activities

MUSCAT: Showcasing its achievements in digital banking innovation, ahlbank took the lead in the digital landscape through its participation in Comex 2025, held from 8 to 11 September.

The bank showcased innovation across all its banking services and solutions, catering to the needs of both individual and corporate customers, keeping pace with the global digital revolution and supporting the national agenda for digitalisation.

Throughout the exhibition, ahlbank offered unique digital experiences for individuals through interactive activities. Children also enjoyed a share of this innovation, as the bank introduced them and their parents to the 'ahliNext' app, the first app in the Sultanate designed to help children manage their money smartly and enhance their financial literacy. Visitors



also praised the contactless payment solutions, which enabled them to make their payments easily and securely.

ahlibank excelled in delivering exceptional workshops under the theme 'AI and Digital Excellence: Unlocking New Horizons'. The first workshop was presented to individuals, providing an in-depth session on how to empower them through digital excellence and open new horizons for their skills and opportunities. The second workshop targeted startups and SMEs, highlighting innovative strategies to enhance their operations and boost efficiency using the latest AI technologies.

This landmark initiative by ahlbank reflects its ongoing efforts to share expertise and valuable insights, enrich collective knowledge, and pave the way for

powerment, the bank also targeted micro-enterprises with fewer than 10 employees, offering dedicated accounts with features that enhance their financial growth.

Entrepreneurs and government entities also expressed their appreciation for the bank's digital corporate banking platform. The platform's e-payment solutions provided companies with a seamless way to connect with their clients, alongside point-of-sale (POS) devices compatible with their preferred payment methods, whether bank cards, digital wallets, or contactless payments.

The accompanying app delivers comprehensive insights and detailed sales reports, enabling businesses to monitor performance and make informed financial decisions. Additionally, the bank's capabilities in digital wealth management stood out, offering smart investment solutions that provide direct access to diverse opportunities, supported by expert analysis and carefully designed wealth services characterized by transparency and security.

The ahliExpress multifunctional kiosks also made a prominent appearance at the exhibition, allowing visitors to experience 12 banking services available around the clock, supported by a personal assistant that facilitates transactions quickly and smoothly – an illustration of the digital branch era that ahlbank has deployed across the Sultanate.

AT COMEX



NBO showcases innovation and strengthens partnerships

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) participated in the 34th International Technology Exhibition, Comex 2025, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) in Muscat. This participation reaffirms the Bank's commitment to fostering innovation, sharing expertise, and promoting its digital banking services. Over the fourday event, NBO showcased its latest digital capabilities to Comex visitors, underscoring its role as a key contributor to digital transformation.

At the booth, visitors were able to instantly open new accounts through the Self Service Kiosk or with the support of staff, print debit cards, apply for a Systematic Investment Plan on the spot, and more. NBO also introduced new kiosk services, including cheque leaf printing, KYC updates, digital signatures, and customer feedback.

In addition, the Bank presented its new mPOS and Full Function Machine (FFM), which provide a wide range of services such as remittances and enhanced accessibility features, including voice guidance for balance inquiries and cash withdrawals. Through the NBO app, visitors explored services such as SIP applications and virtual debit card issuance, highlighting the Bank's commitment to providing customers with convenient, secure, and fully digital banking experiences accessible anytime, anywhere.

NBO signed several strategic agreements with key partners to strengthen collaboration and expand services. An agreement with Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) was signed

to deliver integrated digital solutions, cybersecurity services, and the development of an AI platform for enterprise knowledge management. Another agreement with Al Jabr was signed to launch the second edition of the NBO Fintech Accelerator Program, building on the success of its inaugural edition.

NBO also entered into an agreement with the Public Prosecution to integrate its Payment Gateway, deploy POS machines, and enable seamless Public Prosecution payments through the NBO app. Further, an agreement with Taageer was signed to integrate its financial products and services with NBO's open banking framework, enhancing digital offerings and financial connectivity.

Additional agreements included one with the American International School of Muscat (TAISM) to enable API banking integration covering payments, reconciliation, and Direct Debit for e-mandates, as well as one with Abraj Bousher Real Estate to provide tailored corporate banking solutions aimed at boosting efficiency and customer experience across industries.

Beyond the booth, NBO hosted knowledgesharing workshops on critical industry topics such as Digital Fraud Risk, AI-Powered Cyber Attacks, and Customer Experience, as well as dedicated sessions on the Bank's corporate, digital, and card services.

With a clear purpose of reinforcing its position in the fintech sector, NBO's participation at Comex 2025 focused on enhancing strategic partnerships, sharing expertise, and showcasing its innovative digital solutions.

THROUGH ELECTRONIC PAYMENT GATEWAY

Sohar International and Ministry of Housing sign exclusive agreement to launch Aqari platform

MUSCAT: In conjunction with Comex 2025, Sohar International signed an exclusive agreement with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to formally launch the Aqari platform through the electronic payment gateway. This landmark partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing digital transformation in the Sultanate and underscores Sohar International's position as Oman's Digital Leader.

The Aqari Platform, introduced by the Ministry of Housing and powered by Sohar International, is set to revolutionise the way land and housing transactions are conducted. By digitalising the sale and purchase of land through a secure and user-friendly platform, the initiative simplifies property-related processes for citizens and residents while ensuring efficiency, transparency, and reliability. Sohar International stands as the



exclusive bank to provide the Ministry with a fully automated, end-to-end financial solution, managing every aspect of transaction settlement within the platform.

Commenting on the occasion, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said: "We at Sohar International take pride in our

role as an enabler of digital innovation in the Sultanate of Oman. The signing of the agreement during Comex 2025 to launch the Aqari platform reaffirms our ability to deliver advanced, fully integrated digital solutions that support government initiatives and serve the people of the nation. It also underscores our commitment to shaping

the future of the national financial ecosystem and contributing to the broader goals of comprehensive digital transformation."

With its seamless integration into government systems, fully digital workflows, automated reconciliation, and streamlined payment processing, the Aqari-platform delivers a frictionless experience that aligns with Oman's Vision 2040 objectives. The launch highlights the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors in driving the nation's digital economy and sets a benchmark for innovative partnerships.

The signing of the agreement at Comex reaffirms Sohar International's dedication to strengthening Oman's digital ecosystem, partnering with key government entities, and continuing its mission of enabling people to win through innovation and technology.

LEAD PARTNER

Bank Nizwa leads knowledge exchange and dialogue at IFN Oman

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its leadership in advancing Sharia-compliant financial solutions, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, participated as the Lead Partner at the IFN Oman 2025 Forum. The bank's prominent involvement underscored its commitment to the development of Oman's Islamic finance landscape and further validated its role as a trusted leader driving sectoral progress.

As one of the most prominent events in the field of Islamic finance, the IFN Oman Forum serves as a distinguished platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among regula-



tors and financial institutions. The forum featured several discussion sessions in which Khalid Al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer of Bank Nizwa, participated in a panel discussion titled 'Islamic Financial Services: Driving Oman's Economic Transformation', where he highlighted the role of Islamic finance in supporting the nation's

economic diversification and development agenda. Additionally, Mohammed Al Hashmi, Assistant General Manager – Chief Compliance Officer at Bank Nizwa, took

part in a panel discussion titled 'Driving Innovation and Transformation in Islamic Banking and Islamic insurance', and Mohamad Noranuar Sajari, Head of Sharia Structuring at Bank Nizwa, participated in a discussion session titled 'Open Opportunities: Oman's Islamic Capital Market'.

In this context, Khalid Al Kayedsaid, "The progress of Islamic finance is measured not merely in institutional performance, but in the values it instills and the opportunities it creates for societies to thrive. Participating in forums such as IFN Oman allows us to contribute to conversations that transcend technicalities and focus on the industry's

broader purpose – supporting economic growth, promoting innovation, and enabling inclusive prosperity. These dialogues are essential to ensuring that Islamic finance continues to respond meaningfully to evolving needs."

Bank Nizwa's leading role at the IFN Oman Forum 2025, along with its multiple awards, reaffirms its position as a pioneering and trusted institution in Islamic finance. In line with Oman's national vision and guided by its steadfast commitment to values-based banking, Bank Nizwa continues to lead transformative dialogue, contribute to policy shaping, and drive tangible progress across the financial landscape.

Hot & Cold Dispenser

+2 Full Bottles*

+35 E-coupons

50 OMR Only

+2 Full Bottles*

+20 E-coupons

40 OMR Only

White Tap Dispenser

OR Blue Tap Dispenser

OR Manual Water Pump

OR Cradle With Tap

+2 Full Bottles*

+30 E-coupons

30 OMR Only

+2 Full Bottles*

+18 E-coupons

20 OMR Only

Enjoy our amazing summer deals on 5-gallon bundles exclusively on the Oman Oasis app.

Scan the QR code to download now.

Offer valid from 15.07.2025 to 14.10.2025.

@OmanOasis @OmanOasisOfficial @OmanOasisWater

800 71 222

9275 5522

oman

OASIS

SODIUM FREE DRINKING WATER

BALANCED DRINKING WATER



ALL NEW
CS75 PLUS
4WD

INTRODUCING ALL NEW CS75PLUS - 4WD SEE THE FUTURE NOW

طراز
2026
MY



 **2.0L Turbo Engine,**
232 hp

 **8 Speed AT**

 **Manufacturer's Warranty**
6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS#



Panoramic Sunroof



Co-pilot
12.3 inch TFT Screen



Zero Gravity
Passenger Seat



14 Speakers



Integrated
Adaptive Cruise Control



Automatic
Parking Assist



Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. #Whichever is earlier. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles
and Equipment LLC

Showrooms:
Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930,
Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

 **800 50800**
 **9662 8909**
  changanoman
 www.changanoman.com