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Arabian leopards bred in Oman in new bid to prevent extinction

Our Correspondent Muscat

The Wild Mammal Breeding Centre under Royal Court Affairs has reported success in breeding Arabian leopards, marking renewed efforts to prevent the extinction of the region's most threatened big cat.

A female leopard named Al Muzn, now around two and a half years old, is among the most prominent offspring raised at the centre. She remains in good health under the close care of veterinary specialists. The facility has also recently bred two more cubs, a male and a female, both over three months old, receiving



Once found across both northern and southern Oman, the Arabian leopard's current range is limited to the Dhofar Mountains, where fewer than 50 individuals remain

intensive care during their early weeks - a critical period when leopard mothers sometimes reject their young.

Located in Muscat, the centre

is affiliated to Directorate General of Veterinary Services and houses leopards native to Jabal Samhan in Dhofar. The long-term objective is to breed these ani-

mals in captivity and eventually release them into the wild, once they demonstrate the ability to survive independently.

Efforts at the facility are sup-

ported through regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing with other breeding programmes. These include partnerships with the Breeding Centre for Endan-

gered Arabian Wildlife in Sharjah.

The Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) is listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. Once found across both northern and southern Oman, its current range is limited to the Dhofar Mountains, where fewer than 50 individuals remain.

Captive breeding of the species in Oman began in 1985, using four leopards captured in Jabal Samhan. The first cub was born in captivity in 1989. Over the next eight years, ten cubs were bred successfully, with the last birth recorded in February 1997.

The programme gained fresh momentum in 2015 with the introduction of a male leopard from

Yemen. In 2022, a female from the Sharjah centre was introduced to the Muscat facility. On February 15, 2023 she gave birth to a female cub - the first leopard born at the centre in 26 years.

Officials believe the birth of the cub marks an important step towards preserving the Arabian leopard. As the cub's father is a wild-caught leopard, her genetic makeup could help diversify the limited captive population across the region.

The centre also breeds and cares for other endangered native species, including the Arabian gazelle and Arabian tahr, as part of Oman's broader wildlife conservation efforts.

Foundation stone laid for RO80mn ITC in Salalah

Our Correspondent Salalah

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism laid the foundation stone for an integrated tourism complex (ITC) in the Januf area of Salalah on Monday, signalling a major step in efforts to enhance tourism infrastructure in Dhofar.

With estimated investment of RO80mn, the project is being developed in partnership with Al Wathba Hospitality under a usufruct agreement signed in February 2025. It has been designated an ITC allowing foreign ownership and positioning it to attract international investors.

Phase 1 of the development, expected to be completed in 30 months, includes a five-star hotel, 124 serviced apartments, a marina with restaurants and cafés, a beach club and a health club.

Speaking at the ceremony, H E Azzan bin Qasim al Busaidi, Undersecretary for Tourism, said the project will support SMEs, create direct and indirect employment opportunities, and provide training and qualification programmes for Omanis in tourism and hospitality. He described the development as a significant addition to ongoing efforts to diversify the national economy and develop Dhofar as a key tourism destination.

Khalid bin Abdullah al Abri, Director General of Heritage and



The project is among the most prominent tourism investments in the governorate in terms of scale and components with one of the biggest yacht marinas in Oman

KHALID BIN ABDULLAH AL ABRI

Tourism in Dhofar, said the project is among the most prominent tourism investments in the governorate in terms of scale and components. He noted that the planned yacht marina would be

one of the biggest in Oman and complement a fully integrated beachfront area.

Abri highlighted the ministry's ongoing promotion of Dhofar as a year-round tourism

destination, which resulted in an increase of 9% in visitor numbers during 2024 khareef and 18% in winter compared to the previous year.

The foundation laying cerem-

ony included visual presentations showcasing the project and Dhofar's natural and cultural assets.

In a statement, the ministry described the development as a strategic addition to Oman's tourism sector, offering integrated facilities and attractive investment opportunities while strengthening public-private partnerships and enhancing Dhofar's appeal to domestic and international tourists.

MoL pushes labour amnesty deadline to December 31

Our Correspondent Muscat

In response to public and institutional requests, Ministry of Labour (MoL) has announced an extension of the status correction period for workers and employers till December 31, 2025.

In a circular issued on Monday, MoL confirmed that the decision follows numerous appeals from individuals, employers and workers across the sultanate seeking additional time to complete legal procedures. The original deadline was set for July 31.

'This extension is aimed at allowing the largest possible number of beneficiaries to finalise their legal requirements,' the ministry stated, stressing that this will be the final grace period. It urged all concerned parties to take advantage of the extension and rectify their status in accordance with the law.

The ministry directed all relevant departments and agencies to take necessary steps to implement the new deadline in line with public interest.

The amnesty initiative, introduced in January and approved by the Council of Ministers, includes a set of exemptions and waivers exceeding RO60mn.

Key measures include cancellation of fines for expired labour cards inactive for more than seven years and exemption from repatriation ticket costs for workers who left before 2017. Labour cards unused for over ten



years will be cancelled, though these can be reactivated under certain conditions such as submitting renewal requests, transferring services or reporting work abandonment.

Companies that were officially liquidated can also have financial obligations waived provided their employees are repatriated or transferred to other employers.

During the amnesty period, which began on February 1, fines associated with labour cards will be dropped if certain conditions are met. These include renewing the cards, paying fees for two years and cancelling existing work abandonment reports.

MoL reiterated that the amnesty extension aims to create a balanced, legally compliant labour market, protect the rights of all parties and improve regulatory oversight.

MoL offers 1,000 teacher training opportunities for jobseekers

Muscat - Ministry of Labour (MoL) has announced 1,000 training opportunities under a government-funded diploma programme aimed at preparing Omani graduates for teaching positions in coordination with Ministry of Education and accredited universities.

The 'Diploma in Educational Qualification' programme is de-

signed to equip candidates with the skills required to compete for teaching roles in the Ministry of Education. Only male Omani nationals are eligible to apply.

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a higher education institution in or outside Oman, earned in a full-time, regular programme. The minimum GPA requirement is 2.3 on a 4.0

scale or its equivalent. Degrees obtained from institutions abroad must be recognised by Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Humanities and individual skills specialisations must include at least 60 credit hours, while applied disciplines must have no fewer than 45.

Other eligibility criteria in-

clude passing a subject-specific test, being medically fit for teaching and registered as a jobseeker with MoL. Candidates must not have previously received government-sponsored training.

The programme is fully funded by the government and includes a monthly stipend of RO120 for a nine-month period. Parti-

pants will sign a training contract and complete one academic year of full-time study, comprising two semesters and a minimum of 30 credit hours. The programme also includes practical training in Omani schools.

Graduates will undergo evaluation for potential recruitment as teachers in the Ministry of Education.



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US, EU strike trade deal to avert tariff war



13
Indian teen youngest to win Women's Chess World Cup

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Construction of Al Ashkhara Waterfront Project begins

Our Correspondent
Jalan Bani Bu Ali

Construction of the Al Ashkhara Waterfront Project, a major coastal development aimed at boosting tourism and economic activity in the wilayat of Jalan Bani Bu Ali, South Sharqiyah started on Sunday.

Laying the foundation stone, Dr Yahya bin Badr al Maawali, Governor of South Sharqiyah, said the project is part of broader efforts to develop the governorate's natural assets in line with Oman Vision 2040. He noted that it is designed to enhance tourism infrastructure while supporting sustainable urban growth and private sector



investment.

The development will upgrade the Al Ashkhara coastline using a modern urban design that preserves the area's environmental character. The site will feature a mix of public and commercial facilities, including sea-facing

Additional amenities will include watchtowers, rest areas, children's play zones, multi-use shaded structures, security units and public toilets. The development is expected to offer investment opportunities for local entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Officials said the project will boost Al Ashkhara's potential as a tourism destination and help integrate infrastructure upgrades with wider economic objectives in the governorate.

The foundation laying was attended by several walis, members of Majlis A'Shura and State Council, municipal council representatives and government officials.

Oman's DDA wins nine medals at Global Dance Open in Birmingham

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Dance academy DDA - The Dance Destination secured nine medals and a cash prize at Global Dance Open 2025 held at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, England from July 16 to 20.

Competing against over 250 institutions from 37 countries, DDA achieved the highest overall score in Classical Gala - the most coveted across all categories spanning classical, ballet and national folklore. The academy was named 'Highest Scorer in Classical Gala', marking a standout achievement on the global stage.

The team participated in 17 competition segments, comprising four group acts, three duets,

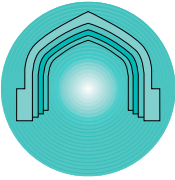


and ten solo performances. The final medals tally included four golds, two silvers and three bronzes.

A DDA official said the academy's achievement represents more than competition success. "This journey is about representing Oman with pride, fostering cultural exchange and inspiring future artists. Our con-

tinued global recognition reflects the artistic potential in Oman and the importance of structured training and international exposure."

The 2025 event was DDA's third consecutive appearance at Global Dance Open. It earlier represented Oman in Spain in 2023 and the Netherlands in 2024.



Al Omaniya Financial Services (SAOG)

Values stronger than money



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025



Economy

The global economy is projected to experience a significant slowdown in 2025 with growth expected to weaken to around 2.8% down from the earlier projections as per the latest April 2025 IMF report citing policy shifts, trade disruptions and rising uncertainties. Growth in advanced economies are expected to slow down, led by tempered expectations for the U.S. economy. Developing and emerging markets are also facing lackluster growth. Despite global headwinds, Oman's economy posted a steady 2.5% growth in real GDP by the end of Q1

2025 and Oman's real GDP is expected to grow by 2.2% in 2025, up from 1.7% in 2024 according to the latest Economic Forecasts Report. The IMF affirmed the resilience of Oman's banking sector, supported by high asset quality, strong capital adequacy, healthy liquidity levels and sustained profitability. The decent growth in international guest numbers and hotel revenue highlights the recovery of Oman's hospitality sector and the growing interest on the sultanate as a travel destination. Oman's economy in 2025 is characterized by cautious optimism, with ongoing planned strategic efforts to diversify the economy.

Financial Highlights

For the second quarter ending 30th June 2025, the company earned a total revenue of RO 7,632K against total revenue of RO 8,274K for the comparative period last year. The company's profit after tax and ECL provision is RO 1,689K for the period as compared to RO 1,653K for the same period last year, showing a marginal increase of 2.20%. The company's Loan Book as of 30th June 2025 stands at RO 134

million. The total ECL and reserve interest on Instalment Finance receivables and guarantees stands at RO 15.343 million as of 30th June 2025.

Concerns

The global economy continues to face the ongoing threat of oil price fluctuations, tariff issues, supply chain disruptions, geopolitical tensions, disruptions in global trade, and extreme climatic events. Although Oman's own exposure to the US tariffs is expected to be limited and the imposed tariff of 10% on the GCC economies is among the lowest compared to other targeted economies, the potential indirect impact on global trade resulting from reciprocal tariffs could lead to slower growth, fluctuating oil prices and inflationary pressures.

Prognosis

We continue to foresee a challenging period ahead tempered with optimism. The company is well capitalized with a healthy capital adequacy of 32.86% (including the Compulsorily Convertible Bonus Stock Bonds), has robust liquidity

buffer in the form of liquid deposits with commercial banks which are being leveraged for effective treasury management. With a healthy capital structure, strong net worth, clean loan book, robust liquidity, lowest NPLs and high NPA coverage, the company is confident of posting satisfactory numbers.

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the company and the Board of Directors, I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his vision and leadership, which is taking the Sultanate on the new path of development and prosperity. We are grateful to the Central Bank of Oman, Financial Services Authority and other regulatory authorities for their guidance and support. We thank our shareholders, bankers, dealers and customers for their continued trust, confidence, and support. We acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the management and staff of the company.

**Khalid Said Salim Al Wahaibi
Chairman**

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2025

	Amount In RO '000 II Quarter ended 30 June 2025	Amount In RO '000 II Quarter ended 30 June 2024
Interest income on finance lease, working capital finance and other advances	5,169	5,314
Finance Income	2,186	2,149
Total Instalment finance and finance income	7,355	7,463
Interest Expense	(3,052)	(3,362)
Net Instalment finance and finance income	4,303	4,101
Other income	277	811
Administration & operational costs	(2,493)	(2,638)
Provision for expected credit loss, net	(100)	(329)
Profit before Taxation	1,987	1,945
Provision for taxation	(298)	(292)
Net Profit	1,689	1,653

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT

	Amt In RO '000 30 June 2025	Amt In RO '000 30 June 2024
Assets		
Gross Instalment Finance Receivables	134,025	135,176
Less: Provision for ECL of instalment finance receivables	15,342	14,256
Net Instalment Finance Receivables	118,683	120,920
Deposit with CBO	250	250
Deposits with Commercial Banks	84,627	84,627
Cash & Bank balances	353	1,178
Land and Buildings	612	653
Other assets	1,705	1,621
Total Assets	206,230	209,249
Liabilities		
Deposit	3,014	3,216
Bank borrowings	116,772	122,500
Trade Creditors & Other liabilities	14,102	12,050
Unsecured Compulsorily Convertible Bonus Bonds	2,684	2,684
Unsecured Non Convertible Redeemable Bonus Bonds	4,575	2,998
Total Liabilities	141,147	143,448
Equity		
Share Capital	31,542	31,542
Legal Reserve	10,514	10,514
Share Premium	1,382	1,382
Cashflow hedge reserve	94	
Special Reserve for Non Performing Assets	4,998	4,998
Retained Earnings	16,553	17,365
Total Equity	65,083	65,801
Total Liabilities & Equity	206,230	209,249

Contingent Liability of RO.78K (2024 - RO Nil) is outstanding as of 30th June 2025 towards Bank guarantees As approved by the regulatory authorities the unsecured compulsorily convertible Bonus bonds are treated as part of the networth, accordingly the networth of the company for computing all regulatory limits is RO 67,767 K (2024: RO.68,485 K)

Note : The complete report is available with the Muscat Stock Exchange. The Complete financial statements of the company together with the financial statements of any subsidiary company required to file financial statements would be available to any shareholders or interested party on request in Arabic or English within seven days as of the date of request.

P.O. Box 1087, Jibroo, PC 114, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: 24724700, Fax: 24813258

Darwish to head film fest in Morocco; Oman to officiate as event's guest of honour

Muscat - Celebrated Omani filmmaker Mohammed al Darwish has been appointed artistic director of Morocco's Zagora International Film Festival, one of Africa's oldest and most prestigious, this November.

The appointment marks a significant milestone for Oman's presence on the global film stage and is expected to deepen cultural and artistic ties between the two countries. Oman has also been named guest of honour at this year's edition of the festival.

An Omani delegation of five will represent the sultanate at the festival.

Speaking to *Muscat Daily*, Darwish said, "Participation of



Participation of Oman in the Zagora International Film Festival will boost the sultanate's presence in the cinema world

MOHAMMED AL DARWISH



Oman in the Zagora festival will boost the sultanate's presence in the cinema world." A member of Oman Film So-

ciety, he has received over 30 international awards for his work. His films includes *Beta-Carotene*, *Al Saef Walhadaf*, *Ta* and *Al Qitehih Al Maqadah*.

In addition to his role in Morocco, Darwish is preparing to release a new film by the end of this year. He also plans to begin work on a documentary in January 2026 and scheduled to participate in an Algerian festival in September. "It's a busy time with participation in international film festivals every couple of months," he said.

Additionally, Darwish is currently working on an autobiography chronicling his journey in the film industry.

(Contributed by Asma al Balushi)

Corner displaying meteorites opens in Mandarin Oriental

Muscat - Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has launched a meteorite corner at Mandarin Oriental, Muscat as part of its strategy to harness the sultanate's geological heritage and enhance the cultural and tourism experience for visitors.

The corner features a collection of rare meteorite samples discovered in Oman's Jiddat al Harasis desert, offering hotel guests a chance to closely view and learn about their scientific significance, historical context and the country's efforts to preserve these under the Cultural Heritage Law.

Among the highlights is a sample from Jiddat al Harasis 91, the largest documented meteorite fall in Oman. The fall's path spans 52km, with over 700 pieces col-



lected, weighing a total of approximately 4,600kg. Scientific studies date the fall to more than 12,600 years ago.

Also on display is a sample from Jiddat al Harasis 73, classified as a stony chondrite meteorite of the L6 type. Considered the second largest meteorite fall discovered in Oman, this specimen is estimated to have fallen 15,600 years ago during the Paleolithic period. It had a scattering path extending 25.8km, with 3,638 pieces recorded, totalling 620.9kg.

The meteorite corner aims to introduce local and international visitors to the importance of meteorites in understanding the formation of the solar system. It also highlights the scientific and cultural value of these finds and the regulatory frameworks that govern their study and preservation in Oman.

National Museum takes cultural learning beyond its walls

Muscat - Affiliated to National Museum of Oman, the Learning Centre at Al Mouj Muscat has attracted more than 3,600 participants since its launch in 2023, offering a model for cultural outreach and museum-based learning in the sultanate.

The initiative is part of a broader strategy to expand the museum's engagement with the wider community by offering educational and cultural experiences outside its main premises. The centre employs interactive

methods inspired by the museum's collections, combining education, art and entertainment to reach diverse audiences, including children, families, university students and international visitors.

Amina bint Abdullah al Abri, Head of Learning Centre Department at National Museum, said the branch in Al Mouj Muscat offers a dual educational experience for visitors of different nationalities and contributes to expanding the museum's target audience. "It



hosts a variety of activities, including art workshops for adults, training sessions for university and college students, and theatrical performances for children," she said.

Among the centre's programmes is 'Storyteller' - a six-part series highlighting the lives of historical Omani figures across centuries, targeting young readers and first-cycle students. In addition, the centre offers art-based programmes designed specifically for persons with disabilities, aimed at fostering inclu-

sion and enhancing access to cultural education.

With the support of BP Oman, the centre held a summer programme titled 'Our Summer: Heritage and Identity' from July 13 to 24. The two-week programme featured art workshops inspired by Omani heritage, allowing students to create projects using materials such as paper, clay, fabric and colours. It aimed to deepen understanding of national identity and connect young participants with Oman's historical symbols

and traditions.

The Learning Centre is the first of its kind in Oman. Built to international standards, it runs a range of programmes including school visits, university and college workshops, family sessions, continuing education and public awareness events. The museum's outreach through the Al Mouj centre reflects growing demand for accessible cultural education and affirms its role in bringing heritage learning to a wider audience.



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Advertisement No. (24 /2025)

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

Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
(PRE/25/006)	Renewal of Adobe Software (ReCall)	04/08/2025	12/08/2025
(PRE/25/089)	Maintenance of Waterfall at Quram Natural Park (ReCall)	04/08/2025	12/08/2025
(PRE/25/097)	Cleaning Works at Muttrah	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/100)	Consultancy Supervision Services for Construction of Internal Roads at Muscat Governorate (Package 1)	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/101)	Road Leveling & Paving Works at Al Khoud	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/056)	Construction of Water Stagnation Solution at Bousher (35)	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/102)	Consultancy Supervision Services or Rehabilitation & Development of Friday market	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/103)	Maintenance of Street Cable in Muscat Governorate (ReCall)	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/104)	Development & Beautification Works in Al Tuwaina, Al Jabal Al Aswad at Siya	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/105)	Supply & Installation of Lighting for Al Amerat Walkway	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/106)	Provision of cleaners for Muscat Municipality	17/08/2025	07/09/2025
(PRE/25/107)	Consultancy Services for Strategic Intermediary for Operator Outreach for Oman Botanical Gardens	17/08/2025	07/09/2025

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2. Clarification and Support:

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صندوق ترابط Tarabut Fund

TARABUT FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

The Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Fund Management Body Members, I am pleased to present the financial results of Tarabut Fund for the period ending on June 30, 2025.

A summary of financial results is as follows:

Figure 1:	For the period ending June 30, 2025 (OMR)	For the period ending June 30, 2024 (OMR)
Total Income	(19,358)	56,049
Total Expenses	(87,566)	(107,912)
Profit (Loss) for the Period	(106,924)	(51,863)
Profit (Loss) per Unit	(0.022)	(0.011)

Fund Performance:

For the period ended June 30, 2025, the performance of Tarabut Fund is as follows:

Figure 2:	For the period ending June 30, 2025	For the period ending June 30, 2024
Net Asset Value (OMR)	5,272,570	5,361,025
Number of Outstanding Units	4,973,135	4,330,717
Net Asset Value per Unit	1.060	1.087
Tarabut Fund Performance for the period	-2.02%	-0.95%*
Benchmark Performance for the period	-0.29%	-4.07%*

*Benchmark for 2024 was S&P GCC Composite index reflecting the old mandate.

Tarabut Fund has reported a decline of 2.02% with a NAV of RO 1.060 per unit as of June 30, 2025. This compares with a decrease in the benchmark Index (Blended) S&P GCC Composite index and S&P GCC Sukuk Index of -0.29% resulting in an underperformance of 1.73%. The regional and global markets witnessed extreme volatility due to international trade policies.

Market Performance

Figure A: Index Returns

Index	YTD (June 30, 2025)
Boursa Kuwait	14.8%
S&P GCC Index	0.27%
Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul)	-7.2%
Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange	5.7%
Dubai Financial Market	10.6%
Bahrain Bourse	-2.1%
Qatar Exchange	1.7%
Muscat Stock Exchange	-1.7%

Economy and Markets

The second quarter of 2025 was an eventful phase characterized by trade conflicts, geopolitical tensions and resultant volatility in global capital markets. Start of the quarter was rocked by US tariff announcements which took the equity markets sharply lower. Later, geopolitical tensions rose with the conflict in the Middle East and oil prices witnessed heightened volatility. Despite the significant volatility, equity markets posted double-digit gains for the quarter across developed and emerging market indices. The recovery in markets came on the back of temporary suspension of US tariffs, initiation of trade talks and ease in geopolitical tensions. GCC equity markets witnessed more volatility as the geopolitical conflict impacted regional investor sentiments more compared to global markets. Regional markets also recovered the intra-quarter losses as the geopolitical conflict was contained. GCC S&P Composite index to close only marginally lower (QoQ). The regional markets sentiments were adversely impacted by oil price volatility as trade tensions took the prices lower with Brent touching USD 60 / barrel level during April. Oil prices spiked when geopolitical concerns emerged but fell shortly after conflict worries receded. For the quarter, crude oil price (brent) was down 9.6% (QoQ).

Within GCC, Kuwait followed by Dubai were the best performing markets during the 1H 2025. Abu Dhabi and Qatar are also in the positive territory while Saudi Arabia has been the key underperformer dragging the performance of S&P GCC Composite index.

On the Fixed Income markets, yields remained volatile owing to concerns around tariff induced inflationary pressures. US debt sustainability debate amid rating downgrade action by Moody's and shift in monetary easing outlook. The US Fed's dot plot is currently projecting two rate cuts in 2025 and one rate cut in 2026 or 75 bps in total till 2026, which is lower than 100 bps

expected prior to June policy. Despite this volatility, the bond markets showed resilience during the quarter with Bloomberg Global Aggregate bond index gaining 4.5% while S&P GCC Sukuk and Bond index gained 1.2% (QoQ).

Looking ahead, the GCC equity markets are expected to take cues from the upcoming 2Q 2025 corporate earnings season while fixed income markets are likely to benefit from the rate easing cycle which is expected to resume shortly.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Fund Management Body, I extend my thanks to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq bin Taimur for his government's progressive policies and constant encouragement to the financial services sector.

I also take this opportunity to thank the FSA, MSX & MCD for their support and cooperation, our valued unitholders, members of the Fund Management Body for their valuable time and guidance, for your continued support and trust and the fund manager and service providers for their efforts.

Chairman
Tarabut Fund
July 23rd, 2025

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For 30 JUNE 2025		
	30 JUNE 2025 RO	30 JUNE 2024 RO
INCOME		
Dividend income	92,006	126,069
Net realized (loss) / gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss		
	(209,446)	(61,069)
Fair value changes in investments at fair value through profit or loss (net)		
	52,645	(9,147)
Interest income	45,437	196
	(19,358)	56,049
Expenses		
Brokerage commission	30,010	50,521
Management fee	38,965	41,890
Administration and custodian service fee	6,942	6,964
General and administration	9,170	8,300
Fund Management Body fees	2,479	236
	87,566	107,912
Net (loss) / profit and total comprehensive income for the period / year	(106,924)	(51,863)
Net (loss) / profit per unit	(0.022)	(0.011)

Statement of financial position As 30 JUNE 2025		
	30 JUNE 2025 RO	30 JUNE 2024 RO
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	5,216,095	4,701,291
Cash and cash equivalents	62,218	681,209
Receivables	26,793	3,297
Total assets	5,305,106	5,385,797
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accruals and other payables	32,536	24,772
Total liabilities	32,536	24,772
Total net assets attributable to the Unitholders	5,272,570	5,361,025
Net asset value per unit	1.060	1.087

For more information please contact:
Ubhar Capital SAOC, P.O. Box 1137, Postal Code 111 CPO, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 24 949 043/014, Fax: 24949099, Email: tarabut@u-capital.net, website: www.u-capital.net

MARKET WATCH	
MSX30	4,743.05
Sensex	80,891.02
FOREX RATES (RO1 equals)	
India	225.19
Pakistan	735.45
Bangladesh	318.09
Philippines	148.56
Sri Lanka	784.17
*Rates as on July 28 Source: xe.com	

BRIEFS

Oil prices climb after US-EU trade deal

Oil prices rose on Monday after the United States clinched a trade deal with the European Union (EU) and may extend a tariff pause with China.

Brent crude futures inched up 22 cents, or 0.32%, to \$68.66 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude stood at \$65.38 a barrel, up 22 cents, or 0.34%.

The United States and European Union officially reached a tariff agreement on Sunday, averting a potentially crippling transatlantic trade war.

Also, senior US and Chinese negotiators will meet in Stockholm later today aiming to extend a truce keeping sharply higher tariffs at bay ahead of the 12th August deadline.

Oil prices settled on Friday at their lowest in three weeks.

Sohar Port partners with Swiss firm to develop hydrogen value chain

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Sohar Port and Freezone has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with HYNAT, a pioneering Swiss company specialised in the research, exploration, and exploitation of hydrogen, to advance the development of a comprehensive natural hydrogen value chain in Oman.

This partnership marks a significant step toward establishing a robust hydrogen ecosystem at the Sohar Port and Freezone, with a focus on natural hydrogen as an emerging low-carbon energy source.

The collaboration will focus on the identification and assessment of natural hydrogen production areas, development of logistics corridors, and the creation of dedicated storage and processing infrastructure. It will also encompass demand mapping across industry, mobility, and logistics, while exploring export potential for this low-carbon energy source.

The agreement builds on an earlier MoU signed between HYNAT and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM) in February 2025, which granted HYNAT the rights to conduct



The agreement builds on an earlier MoU signed between HYNAT and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in February, which granted HYNAT the rights to conduct feasibility studies

The collaboration will focus on the identification and assessment of natural hydrogen production areas, development of logistics corridors, and the creation of dedicated storage and processing infrastructure

feasibility studies. The joint roadmap includes defined operational targets, and a development timeline aligned with Oman's broader clean energy transition strategy.

Emile Hoogsteden, CEO of Sohar Port, said, "This agreement reinforces Sohar Port and Freezone's commitment to advancing Oman's clean energy vision by supporting the exploration

and development of natural hydrogen. Through this partnership with HYNAT, we are laying the foundation for a future hydrogen economy, positioning Sohar Port and Freezone as a key gateway for low-carbon solutions and sustainable industrial growth."

Stéphane Aver, Chairman of HYNAT, said, "The signing of this agreement demonstrates our commitment to further developing natural hydrogen as a renewable and low-carbon resource. Together with Sohar Port and Freezone, we aim to accelerate the energy transition and unlock a new pillar of economic value and sustainability."

Sohar Port and Freezone continues to play a leading role in supporting Oman's Vision 2040 by promoting investments in renewable energy, industrial decarbonisation, and sustainable logistics. With HYNAT's advanced geological expertise and cutting-edge AI-powered detection technologies, this partnership is set to explore the untapped potential of natural hydrogen as a critical component of the global energy mix.

Sohar Port and Freezone is one of the world's fastest-growing integrated industrial and logistics hubs, strategically positioned to connect businesses to the world and facilitate trade across diverse sectors. With over 20 years of operation, the port has become the primary gateway for Oman's import and export activities, contributing 2.6% to the nation's GDP and creating nearly 42,000 direct and indirect jobs. Sohar Freezone enhances operational efficiencies through synergies in green manufacturing, logistics, and trade. Currently, land occupancy for both phase one and phase two has reached 66%.

HYNAT currently operates in Africa and Asia, and it is already active in six countries, including Morocco since 2021.

Duqm Refinery celebrates export of 500th shipment of petroleum products

Duqm - Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company (OQ8) has marked a significant milestone with the export of its 500th shipment of refined petroleum products via its export terminal. This achievement reflects the company's rapid progress and further solidifies its position as a strategic hub in global energy supply chains.

The milestone underscores the refinery's continued commitment to operational excellence, safety, and the delivery of high-quality products.

Eng Abdullah al Ajmi, CEO of OQ8, said that since the first shipment in May 2023, the refinery has maintained a flawless safety record while exporting over 19mn tonnes of refined products to multiple global markets. This success highlights the refinery's operational resilience, efficiency, and accelerated growth, driven by sustained momentum.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, Ajmi emphasised that reaching the 500th shipment milestone demonstrates



Since the first shipment in May 2023, Duqm Refinery has maintained a flawless safety record while exporting over 19mn tonnes of refined petroleum products to multiple global markets

ENG ABDULLAH AL AJMI

what can be achieved through vision, collaboration, and operational excellence. He noted that Duqm Refinery has consistently set new benchmarks in performance, achieving exceptional loading rates of 130,000 barrels per hour across five simultaneous berths - a testament to the refinery's advanced operational efficiency and precision.

The CEO added that the refinery has shown remarkable logistical capabilities, handling 304,388 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and managing vessels of various sizes - from small tankers to

giant LR2-class ships - with seamless efficiency. Additionally, the refinery has completed the loading of petroleum coke shipments, each exceeding 50,000 tonnes, in under 120 hours per shipment.

Ajmi noted that, after more than two years of full-scale operations, night-time crude oil off-loading at the Ras Markaz terminal has become an integral part of daily operations, showcasing the refinery's readiness to provide round-the-clock integrated logistics services.

He explained that Duqm's export terminal, strategically lo-

cated outside the Strait of Hormuz, offers a competitive logistical advantage, enabling smooth exports to key destinations across East Africa, South Asia, the Gulf of Mexico, and Europe.

He affirmed that Duqm Refinery continues to diversify its exports, with plans to expand sulphur shipments as part of its strategy to broaden its product portfolio and flexibly meet global market demands through innovation.

Ajmi stressed that this rapid achievement further reinforces Duqm Refinery's position as a strategic development hub, advancing Oman's industrial ambitions and strengthening global confidence in Oman as a reliable supply chain partner. The refinery is regarded as one of the world's most advanced and efficient facilities.

It is worth noting that Duqm Refinery has achieved remarkable growth in a short period, exceeding 110% of its nameplate capacity and increasing production from 230,000 to 255,000 barrels per day.



Oman's refinery output rises by 1.6% during H1

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman's total refinery production increased by 1.6% during the first half of 2025, according to preliminary data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The production of Mogas 91 petrol rose by 11.5%, reaching 8.6595mn barrels by the end of June 2025, up from 7.7679mn barrels during the same period in 2024. Sales also increased by 2% to 6.9645mn barrels, compared to 6.8287mn barrels a year earlier. Exports of Mogas 91 grew by 6.1% to 1.4946mn barrels, up from 1.4084mn barrels by June 2024.

In contrast, production of Mogas 95 dropped by 2.2% to 6.4184mn barrels, down from 6.5595mn barrels in the same period last year. However, sales of Mogas 95 edged up by 0.9%, reaching 6.4696mn barrels compared to 6.4124mn barrels in June 2024. Exports rose significantly by 20.6% to 690,700 barrels, compared to 572,800 barrels a year earlier.

Diesel production recorded a 3.8% increase, reaching 16.6214mn barrels during first half of 2025, up from 16.0166mn barrels in the same period of 2024. Sales climbed 5.8% to 7.2137mn barrels, compared to 6.8202mn barrels in the same period last year. However, exports fell by 5.5% to 8.5506mn barrels,

down from 9.0521mn barrels by June 2024.

Jet fuel production experienced a notable decline of 13.1%, registering 4.9458mn barrels, compared to 5.6923mn barrels in the same period of 2024. Sales decreased by 6.4% to 1.8676mn barrels, from 1.9953mn barrels, while exports dropped 16.3% to 3.019mn barrels from 3.605mn barrels last year.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production saw a marginal increase of 0.2%, reaching 3.7645mn barrels, compared to 3.7556mn barrels in June 2024. Sales surged by 22.2% to 1.9444mn barrels, up from 1.5912mn barrels. Conversely, LPG exports declined sharply by 60.3%, dropping to 115,500 barrels from 280,700 barrels the previous year.

In the petrochemicals sector, benzene production rose by 3.1% to 86,000 metric tonnes, compared to 83,500 metric tonnes in 2024. Paraxylene production increased by 6.8% to 283,000 metric tonnes, up from 265,100 metric tonnes. Polypropylene production recorded the highest growth, soaring by 73.4% to 176,600 metric tonnes, compared to 101,800 metric tonnes in the same period last year. Despite the rise in output, polypropylene sales declined by 9.2% to 15,400 metric tonnes, down from 17,000 metric tonnes.

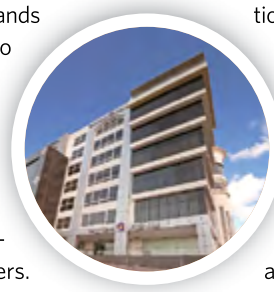
Moody's upgrades Bank Nizwa rating to Baa3

Muscat - Moody's Investors Service announced significant upgrades to its long-term foreign and local currency deposit ratings of Bank Nizwa, which have been elevated to an investment grade Baa3 from Ba1 with stable outlook. Concurrently, the bank's Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and Adjusted BCA have also seen a robust improvement.

The rating upgrades reflect Bank Nizwa's commitment to financial excellence and its strong positioning within the sultanate's evolving economic landscape. The enhancements directly reflect the positive momentum driven by improved operating conditions, which are continually

strengthening the bank's financial performance, including capital buffers.

In a press release, Khaled al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa, said, "This rating stands as a testament to Bank Nizwa's operational resilience and reflects the deep confidence placed in us by our shareholders, customers, and partners. It also aligns with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040, which lays a strong foundation for diversified economic growth, robust fiscal sustainability, and an Islamic finance sector capable



of contributing meaningfully to a progressive and resilient future."

He added, "As the nation's first Islamic bank, we view this upgrade as a strong affirmation of the growing relevance of Sharia-compliant finance as a catalyst for national stability, financial inclusion, and enduring value creation. A rating action of this nature strengthens market sentiment, improves long-term credibility, and enables us to channel Islamic financial solutions toward effectively creating a tangible transforma-

tional impact."

The upgrades to Bank Nizwa's deposit ratings and Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) reflect Moody's positive outlook on the bank's intrinsic financial strength, reaffirming its strong capital adequacy and ample liquidity. These upgrades also underscore the bank's continued ability to achieve its strategic objectives - including the expansion of its Islamic banking operations - while maintaining disciplined cost control and adhering to sustainable growth practices.

Bank Nizwa's institutional strength is reflected in the growing confidence of its customers, as the bank continues to expand

its services and enhance its offerings and products. Customer deposits remain a fundamental pillar of its funding structure, and the sustainable growth in the deposit base stands as clear indication of the trust placed in the bank by both individuals and businesses.

This development also comes at a time when Oman is earning renewed global recognition for its economic reforms and fiscal discipline. Moody's recent upgrade of the sultanate's sovereign rating to Baa3 underscores the government's efforts to foster stability, diversify the economy, and strengthen the financial sector.

US, EU strike trade deal to avert tariff war

The trade deal, finalised by US President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, will introduce a 15% tariff for the vast majority of EU products. But some will benefit from a ‘zero-for-zero’ scheme

Jorge Liboreiro and
Peggy Corlin

The European Union and the United States have struck a tentative trade deal to avert a potentially devastating tariff war between two of the world's largest economies, capping a race against time before a self-imposed deadline of August 1.

Under the agreed terms, finalised on Sunday by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and US President Donald Trump during a meeting in Scotland, the majority of EU exports bound for the American market will be subject to a 15% tariff.

The tariff for US exports bound for the EU market was not immediately clear. The deal is preliminary and needs to be further fleshed out.

"I think it's great we made a deal today instead of playing games," Trump said at the end of the meeting. "I think it's the biggest deal ever made."

"It's a big deal. It's a huge deal," von der Leyen said. "It will bring stability, it will bring predictability. That's very important for businesses on both sides of the Atlantic."

Von der Leyen noted the 15% tariff would be "across-the-board" and "all-inclusive", blocking the application of other duties. "It was tough negotiations (but) we came to a good conclusion," she said, highlighting the "openness" of the EU market, which Trump had vehemently



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen after agreeing on a trade deal between the two economies on Sunday

challenged.

Both leaders shook hands to applause in the room.

"We were able to make a deal that's satisfactory to both sides, so it's a very powerful deal. It's the biggest of all the deals," Trump said.

The 15% rate is lower than the 20% rate that Trump imposed, and later paused, in April as part of his contentious, self-styled "reciprocal tariffs", as well as the 30% rate that he threatened to slap in a letter sent to von der Leyen earlier this month.

The 15% rate is also inferior to the rates that other countries have negotiated with the White House in recent days, including Indonesia (19%) and the Philippines (19%), and matches the number granted to Japan (15%), a G7 ally.

Still, it represents a painful concession, considering the talks began with von der Leyen offering a "zero-for-zero" tariff agreement. Through the back-and-forth process, von der Leyen repeatedly warned that "all options", including a never-

used instrument against economic coercion, were on the table in case of an undesirable scenario.

As tensions mounted, the European Commission prepared several lists of retaliatory measures against US products worth 93bn euro in total.

Brussels never resorted to any tit-for-tat measure due to stark differences between member states. Some countries, like France and Spain, advocated a show of force against Washington, while others, like Germany

and Italy, pushed for a quick deal.

The ideological gap closed after Trump made his out-of-the-blue 30% threat, which prompted outrage across the bloc and hardened the mood towards retaliation.

The end of the story?

Before Trump's arrival disrupted transatlantic commerce, EU-made products were subject to an average tariff rate of 4.8% upon entering US territory. Sunday's deal presumably entails an additional 10% to reach the 15%

mark. EU cars, which are today under a 27.5% tariff, will be brought under the 15% rate.

A "zero-for-zero" scheme will apply to aircraft and related components, semiconductor equipment, critical raw materials and some chemical and agricultural products.

"We will keep working to add more products to this list," von der Leyen said.

Additionally, she explained, the bloc commits to spending over \$250bn per year on purchasing American liquefied nat-

ural gas (LNG), oil and nuclear fuels to replace Russian energy. The total pledge will amount to about \$700bn by the end of Trump's term.

Asked about what concessions, if any, the US had made in the talks, the Commission chief replied with a general remark about shared prosperity.

"The starting point was an imbalance, a surplus (of goods) on our side and a deficit on the US side. We wanted to rebalance the trade relation, and we wanted to do it in a way that trade goes on between the two of us across the Atlantic," she said.

"I think it's going to be great for both parties," Trump said.

Sunday's meeting in Scotland took place amid sky-high expectations due to the looming deadline of 1 August that Trump had imposed to force nations to either offer far-reaching concessions or face punishing tariffs.

In the last stretch of negotiations, von der Leyen's team had realised that 15% was the lowest number that Trump was willing to settle for. The 15% rate was considered high for the bloc but palatable if paired with carve-outs for strategic sectors.

A major concern along the way has been pharmaceuticals, which the EU exports in large volumes to the American market. The White House has opened a formal investigation into pharmaceuticals, a step that can pave the way for a tailor-made tariff. (Source: Euronews.com)



Tesla signs \$16bn chip deal with Samsung Electronics

Una Hajdari

A Samsung manufacturing facility in Texas will produce the newest generation of an advanced microchip for its yet-to-be rolled-out cars, Tesla CEO Elon Musk announced in a post on X.

"Samsung's giant new Texas fab will be dedicated to making Tesla's next-generation AI6 chip. The strategic importance of this is hard to overstate," Musk said.

The deal is a major win for the South Korean tech giant, which lost major clients like Google in recent years to competitors such as the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) due to workflow issues and low production yields.

"Samsung agreed to allow Tesla to assist in maximizing manufacturing efficiency," Musk continued in the post. "This is a critical point, as I will walk the line personally to accelerate the pace of progress."

While Samsung already produces the AI4 and has been working with Tesla since 2017, it lost the AI5 deal to TSMC, who

Elon Musk confirmed that the South Korean giant's US-based foundry will produce chips used in Tesla's self-driving cars, a record-breaking deal for both Samsung and American chipmaking

initially produced it in Taiwan and will soon be moving production to a plant in Arizona.

According to another post on X, the deal amounts to \$16.5bn, which Musk claims is "just the bare minimum. Actual output is likely to be several times higher".

Besides Tesla vehicles, the upcoming AI6 chip is expected to power the technological advancement of Tesla's humanoid robots and will be involved in AI model training.

A fab is a tech industry term for a semiconductor fabrication

plant or a cutting-edge factory where companies like Tesla get their custom computer chips built after they are designed.

There are only a few tech giants in the world that have the excruciatingly precise machinery to build 2-nanometer (nm) chips, which fit 50bn transistors on a chip barely the size of a human fingernail.

The obsession with miniaturisation in the tech world is part of a drive to achieve better computational power and combine it with greater energy efficiency.

The South Korean multinational conglomerate has been operating a semiconductor plant in Austin, Texas, since 1996. However, the new AI6 Tesla chip will be produced in a new plant in Taylor, around 50 kilometres away from the original fab.

"The fab is conveniently located not far from my house," Musk said in the post.

Musk has lived near the launch site of his space exploration company, SpaceX, in Texas since 2021.

(Source: Euronews.com)



شركة الكروم العمانية

Oman Chromite Company

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UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025

Board of Directors' Report

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors ("the Board") of Oman Chromite Company SAOG ("the Company"), I have the pleasure to present the Board of Directors' Report for the three-month period ended 30th June 2025.

Corporate Governance

The Company has complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and applicable circulars issued by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

Operations

For the six-month period to 30th June 2025, the Company produced 29,686 tons and sold 43,706 tons of chromite ore, compared to 13,852 tons of production and 37,486 tons of sales during the same period in 2024.

Financial Results

Despite the notable increase in production and sales, financial performance declined compared to 2024 due to the continued drop in global chromite prices.

Nevertheless, the company succeeded in achieving a net profit after tax of OMR 409,171 by the end of the second quarter, compared to OMR 633,227 for the same period in 2024. This reflects the company's ability to maintain positive results despite challenging market conditions.

Future Outlook

On another front, the Company continues its ongoing and intensive efforts to strengthen its ore reserves through expanded exploration activities in its new mining concession area (Concession 11-A) located in the northern region of Oman. We are hopeful that this new area, along with existing operational zones, will contribute to increasing the Company's reserves and enhancing its production capacity in the future.

As Chairman of the Board, I would like to thank our Shareholders, not only for their confidence, but also for their continued support and for the expertise they bring into the Company. Furthermore, the Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to the governmental and non-governmental bodies for their guidance and support.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and his Government for their continued support to the mining sector and the private sector in general in Oman.

Mr. Humaid bin Masoud Al Maqbali
Chairman of the Board

Statement of Financial Position As At Jun 2025

Asset	Jun-25 OMR	Jun-24 OMR
Non-current Asset		
Plant and Equipment	1,099,157	880,168
Right-of-use assets	10,923	0
Intangible Assets	1,356,334	975,208
Investment in Associate Company	519,017	486,210
long Term deposits	1,000,000	2,350,000
Bank Guarantee	272,001	152,000
Total Non-current Assets	4,257,433	4,843,586
Current Assets		
Investments (Securities Portfolio)	6,097	5,026
Stock	1,668,480	938,580
Receivables and Advance Payments	469,678	965,689
Related Party Receivable	18,582	0
Cash at banks and at the fund	779,575	27,368
Loan to associate	108,452	115,452
short Term deposits	0	250,000
Total Current Assets	3,050,864	2,302,114
Total Asset	7,308,297	7,145,700
Equity and Liabilities		
Property Rights:		
Share Capital	3,300,000	3,300,000
Legal Reserve	1,100,000	1,006,335
Optional Reserves	155,240	171,135
Retained Earnings (loss)	1,823,679	1,783,754
Total Ownership Rights	6,378,919	6,261,224
Non-current Liabilities		
End of Service Allowances	58,862	40,801
Lease Liability on right to use asset-		
Non-Current Portion	5,202	0
Deferred Tax Liability	78,400	59,857
Total Non-current Liabilities	142,464	100,658
Current Liabilities		
Accounts & other Payables	708,588	672,072
Lease Liability on right to use asset-Current Portion	6,119	0
Provision for income tax	72,207	111,746
Total Current Liabilities	786,914	783,818
Total Liabilities	929,378	884,476
Total Equity and Liabilities	7,308,297	7,145,700
Net Assets Per Share	1.933	1.897

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For The Period Ended At 30/06/2025

Description	April-June 2025 RO	April-June 2024 RO	Jan-June 2025 RO	Jan-June 2024 RO
Revenue	924,099	1,396,373	2,349,237	2,397,479
Cost of Sales	(520,506)	(750,046)	(1,413,424)	(1,256,477)
Gross Profit	403,593	646,327	935,813	1,141,002
Other Income	30,240	0	30,240	1,953
Total Operating Profit	433,833	646,327	966,054	1,142,955
Selling and Distribution Expenses	(143,971)	(146,706)	(293,979)	(263,547)
General and Administrative Expenses	(111,755)	(144,127)	(224,615)	(258,441)
Profit from Operations	178,107	355,494	447,460	620,967
profit/(losses) form investments	(26,013)	27,768	(15,422)	45,401
Realized Gains on Sales of Investment at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss	840	451	525	(11)
Interest Income	23,662	36,629	48,817	78,616
Net Profit Before Tax for the Period	176,596	420,341	481,379	744,973
Income Tax Expenses	(26,489)	(64,541)	(72,207)	(111,746)
Net Profit After Tax for the period	150,107	355,800	409,172	633,227
Basic Earnings Per Share	0.045	0.108	0.124	0.192

Changan UNI-K - luxury and performance

The Changan UNI-K continues to turn heads across Oman, offering a seamless combination of striking design, cutting-edge technology, and exhilarating performance.

With monthly installments starting from just RO173 for 6 years, the UNI-K makes intelligent luxury more accessible. These EMI plans are based on a 20% down payment, subject to bank credit approval, and apply only to vehicles purchased for personal use, a press release said.

The Changan UNI-K is a sleek, mid-size SUV known for its futuristic design and advanced features. It offers a spacious interior, a 360° HD camera, and a "space battleship" gear shifter.

The UNI-K comes with 2 variants Trend and Royal, at the core of the UNI-K is a 2ltr turbocharged engine that generates



233hp, paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission for smooth yet responsive power delivery. An intelligent all-wheel-drive system ensures superior traction and stability, whether on urban roads or rugged terrain, making the UNI-K as capable as it is refined.

Its commanding presence is accentuated by a borderless front grille, sculpted LED headlamps, and a sleek fastback silhouette that communicates both elegance and athleticism. In Royal variant 21-inch alloy

wheels enhance its bold design, giving the UNI-K an assertive road stance.

Inside, the UNI-K is a show-case of modern luxury. The cabin features premium materials, ambient lighting, and ergonomically designed seating for optimal

cabin in natural light, adding to the feeling of openness and sophistication.

Technology plays a central role in the UNI-K's appeal. Voice-activated controls, adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, and a 360-degree camera

Technology plays a central role in the UNI-K's appeal. Voice-activated controls, adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, and a 360-degree camera system are just a few of the advanced features

comfort. A multi-screen digital cockpit includes a 12.3-inch infotainment display and an advanced digital instrument panel, providing intuitive access to connectivity and controls. A panoramic sunroof bathes the system are just a few of the advanced features that offer drivers convenience, safety, and peace of mind. With powerful performance, standout design, and thoughtful innovation, the Changan UNI-K redefines the modern SUV.



OMAN REINSURANCE COMPANY S.A.O.C
Post Box 1968, Postal Code 114, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman, Telephone: 24397700 Fax: 2439 7777

OMAN REINSURANCE COMPANY S.A.O.G.
Directors' Report For the 6 months ending 30 Jun 2025



Dear Shareholder,
After Compliments,
The Board of Directors is pleased to present the unaudited results of Oman Reinsurance Company S.A.O.G. ("Oman Re" or "the Company") for the Six months period ending 30 Jun 2025.

The Financial Highlights for six months ending 30 Jun 2025 are summarized below:

	30 June 2025 OMR	30 June 2024 OMR
Reinsurance revenue	26,460,344	24,514,049
Net reinsurance results	961,709	354,236
Investment and other income-net	2,005,605	1,602,773
Expenditure – General and Admin Expenses	660,033	(757,302)
Net Profit after tax	2,211,977	1,069,130

Reinsurance revenue and underwriting performance

The company's reinsurance revenue for first six months is OMR 26.5 million, 8% more than last year. Reinsurance service expense reduced to OMR 19.1 million compared with OMR 24.9 million for the same period last year. Net reinsurance results, after taking retrocession results into account and impact of discounting, were OMR 962k for the six months ending 30 Jun 2025 compared to OMR 354k for the same period in 2024.

General and Administrative Expenses

During the first six months of 2025, the total expenditure amounted to OMR 660k as against OMR 757k for the same period in 2024.

Investment Income

The investment and other income for the six months ended amounted to OMR 2.0 million compared to OMR 1.6 million for the same period last year. The investment income is better than last year because of the continued favourable interest rate environment and an increase in the invested assets of the Company.

Net Profitability

The Company's net profit after tax for the six months of 2025 was OMR 2.2 million compared to OMR 1.1 million for the same period last year.

We would like to inform our esteemed investors that the board has appointed Mr. Aimen Saba Azara as a board member to fill the vacant seat effecting from 13th April 2025. Below is Mr. Azara's bio: Mr. Aimen Azara has 30 years of experience in the insurance and reinsurance sector and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Wales, UK, in addition to various professional certifications in insurance, leadership, and corporate governance.

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

The Directors of Oman Re wish to acknowledge the valuable guidance and assistance received from the Financial Services Authority, and the support received from clients and business partners. We look forward to receiving their continued support and encouragement.

The Directors also wish to extend their thanks and appreciation and express their gratitude for the continuing commitment and dedication of its strategic shareholders, the Executive Management and employees at all levels. The Directors are thankful to the esteemed shareholders for their support and the confidence placed in the Company and the Board.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Executive Management and the Staff Members, we are honoured to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said for his visionary leadership and we pray to the Almighty God to grant him every strength to continue to lead the nation toward further progress and prosperity.

Dr. Juma Bin Ali Al Juma
Chairman of the Board

Condensed interim statement of financial position
as at 30 June 2025

	30 June 2025 (Un-audited)	31 December 2024 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,701,435	2,295,930
Bank deposits	20,995,465	21,978,961
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	1,608,524	2,195,444
Investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	53,126,039	48,082,285
Reinsurance contract assets	685,636	845,087
Retrocession contract assets	17,713,722	20,345,974
Accrued income	1,478,376	1,375,177
Deferred tax asset	206,432	206,432
Other receivables	369,660	342,272
Investment property	2,100,000	2,100,000
Intangible assets	15,442	22,112
Fixtures, furniture and equipment	146,543	161,085
TOTAL ASSETS	102,147,274	99,950,759
LIABILITIES		
Retrocession contract liabilities	905,560	963,431
Reinsurance contract liabilities	61,567,381	62,401,126
Current tax liability	126,983	312,144
Other payables	704,941	956,397
Reinsurance Contract Liabilities - Due to Takaful policyholders	24,380	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	63,329,245	64,633,098
EQUITY		
Share capital	32,615,926	32,615,926
Legal reserve	1,247,772	1,247,772
Investment fair value reserve	1,340,281	96,027
Contingency reserve	11,138,292	11,138,292
Accumulated losses	(7,524,242)	(9,780,356)
TOTAL EQUITY	38,818,029	35,317,661
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	102,147,274	99,950,759
NET ASSETS PER SHARE	0.117	0.107

Condensed interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the six-months period ended 30 June 2025 (un-audited)

	Period from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 (Un-audited)	Period from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (Un-audited)
Income		
Reinsurance revenue	26,460,344	24,514,049
Reinsurance service expense	(19,127,040)	(24,920,296)
Net expense from retrocession	(4,909,530)	1,097,839
Reinsurance service results	2,423,774	691,592
Takaful policyholders share of profit	(24,380)	-
Reinsurance service results after takaful policyholders share of profits	2,399,394	691,592
Reinsurance finance (expense)/income	(2,670,645)	(773,271)
Retrocession finance income	1,232,960	435,915
Net reinsurance results	961,709	354,236
Investment and other income, net	2,005,605	1,602,773
	2,967,314	1,957,009
Expenses		
General and administrative expenses	(660,033)	(757,302)
Foreign exchange losses, net	295,045	58,093
	(364,988)	(699,209)
Net profit before tax for the period	2,602,326	1,257,800
Income tax expense	(390,349)	(188,670)
Net profit after tax for the period	2,211,977	1,069,130
Other comprehensive income:		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Valuation gains / (losses) on fair value through other comprehensive income on debt instruments, net of deferred tax	277,646	869,386
Items that will or may be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Valuation gains / (losses) on fair value through other comprehensive income on debt instruments, net of deferred tax	1,010,745	(631,689)
Other comprehensive income for the period	1,288,391	237,697
Total comprehensive income for the period	3,500,368	1,306,827
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	0.007	0.003



Bank Muscat introduces sports project in Kumzar

In a significant stride towards sustainable development and social responsibility, Bank Muscat proudly announced the inauguration of the first integrated social sports project in Kumzar village, Musandam Governorate.

This initiative, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor of Musandam, underscores the bank's dedication to enhancing the quality of life in local communities and developing sports infrastructure across the sultanate, a press release said.

The project seeks to enrich sports, social, and cultural activities in Kumzar village by establishing a modern football turf designed to host a variety of events and recreational endeavors. Strategically located with stunning views of the Strait of Hormuz, the playground is equipped with state-of-the-art safety features, lighting, and artificial turf, creating an ideal environment for individuals of all ages and serving as a vital recreational hub for the village's residents.

On behalf of the governor's office, Eng Mohammed bin Saif al Jabri, assistant director general, Musandam Municipality, emphasised the significance of this integrated project as a successful example of partnership between the public and the private sector.

He said, "This project reflects the government efforts to provide bespoke services to the coastal areas, such as Kumzar, which is distinguished by its unique location and culture. The football turf is a pivotal addition that addresses the needs of the youth, providing a secure and well-equipped setting for both sports and social activities. I would like to extend gratitude to Bank Muscat for its robust support and collaboration in bringing this project to fruition."

Talib Saif al Makhmari, head-Community and Media Relations, Bank Muscat, expressed pride in the bank's role in actualising this project, which reflects its commitment to bolstering local sports infrastructure.

Oman Oasis embraces lush khareef colours

This khareef, Oman Oasis takes inspiration from the heart of Salalah, where lush green mountains burst with life and blue rain-kissed skies meet the sea, capturing the season's magic in its most vibrant form.

The special seasonal edition is inspired by Dhofar's rich biodiversity, unique geography, and captivating climate, reflecting a balanced design concept that embodies the true spirit of Omani khareef, a press release said.

Additionally, Oman Oasis shares memorable moments with Dhofar's visitors through a dedicated booth at Refill 3 in Samharam Village, offering them a refreshing experience that reflects the spirit of the season.



Oman Oasis also supports Khareef Dhofar through its Bronze sponsorship, reaffirming its ongoing commitment to national events that celebrate Omani identity, natural beauty, and cultural heritage.

Moosa al Hasni, COO at Oman Oasis, said, "Oman Oasis is committed to actively participating in national events that embody Omani identity."

ahlibank offers school supplies for 2025 students

Reinforcing its leadership in fostering impactful community partnerships and taking swift action to address societal needs, Ahlibank has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Al Rahma Association for Motherhood and Childhood.

Through this agreement, the bank assumes the role of exclusive banking sponsor of the 'Back to School 2025' initiative, which aims to support orphans and underprivileged families by providing essential school supplies to students, empowering them to begin the academic year with confidence and readiness, a press release said.

The initiative aims to support over 2,000 children across various governorates of the sultanate. This step reflects the bank's ongoing efforts to extend meaningful opportunities to deprived segments of society, particularly in the field of education, which is the cornerstone of building an informed community and paving the way for a brighter future.

Jumana al Hashmi, AGM - head of Marketing and Corporate Communications, stated, "At Ahlibank, we recognise the importance of identifying and responding to the needs of the communities we serve through impactful partnerships that help uplift the lives of those most in



need, particularly in areas essential to well-being, such as education. Our sponsorship of this initiative reflects our deep-rooted belief in social responsibility and our commitment to

The initiative aims to support over 2,000 children across various governorates of the sultanate, to support deprived segments of society

equipping society with the tools necessary to shape a promising present - one that enables growth and development and serves as a steadfast foundation for the nation, both now and in the future."

The initiative will feature the

active participation of members from the 'Ahli Cares' volunteer team in distributing 'Back to School' kits to students across various wilayats in the sultanate. These kits include school uni-

forms, a school bag, and a complete set of essential stationery supplies, contributing to supporting underprivileged families and alleviating the financial and emotional burden of preparing their children for the new academic year.

This sponsorship marks a significant milestone in Ahlibank's ongoing journey of impactful community initiatives, which the bank consistently delivers through a diverse range of strategic partnerships. Its collaboration with Al Rahma Association stands as a notable example of its commitment to supporting the local community. Previous joint efforts include the 'Kaswat Eid' initiative, through which the bank provided Eid essentials to 300 underprivileged families, as well as another impactful program that delivered over 400 air conditioning units to low-income households helping to ease the hardships caused by high temperatures during summer.

Bank Muscat relaunches Asalah and Al Jawhar

Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has launched its highly popular Asalah and Al Jawhar referral scheme for the year 2025 after the great success of the campaign.

The current referral scheme is a continued programme that offers cash rewards when referring new customers to the bank to enjoy an extraordinary banking experience. It is worth noting that the current scheme is cross-referral between the two segments, 'Asalah Priority Banking' and 'Al Jawhar Privilege Banking'.

Asalah customers may refer Al Jawhar customers to the bank, while Al Jawhar customers may also refer customers to open a new Asalah salary account and avail the advantages of this year's campaign. The Asalah and Al Jawhar referral scheme sees positive feedback from customers every year.

The scheme offers Asalah customers and new customers a chance to win RO100 for every successful referral after the referees meet the eligibility criteria. The referees should have a monthly salary of RO3,500 or transfer and maintain a deposit of RO30,000 in their savings accounts. Customers may transfer the deposit to a new Bank Muscat account or an existing account within a maximum period of 30 days from the date of referral. Both the referrer and referee get a sum of RO100 if the referee



The scheme offers Asalah customers and new customers a chance to win RO100 for every successful referral as eligible

successfully meets all eligibility criteria after opening the new Asalah account.

For Al Jawhar customers, the referrer and the referee will win RO50 per successful referral once the referees successfully meet all eligibility criteria, including having a monthly salary of RO1,000 - 3,499 or maintaining

a deposit of RO10,000 - 29,999 in their Bank Muscat Al Jawhar savings accounts. Customers may transfer the deposit to a new or an existing Bank Muscat savings account within a month from the date of successful referrals. The referrer and referee wins RO50 per successful referral, if the referee successfully meets all eligibility criteria after opening the new Al Jawhar account.

The participation in Asalah and Al Jawhar referral schemes is based on successful referrals to the bank based on the eligibility criteria set for each segment. To take part in the Asalah Referral scheme, the referrer should fill up the form on the bank's website.

Al Madina Takaful wins CMO Asia's 'Insurance Company of the Year'

Al Madina Takaful, one of Oman's leading Takaful insurance providers, has been named Insurance Company of the Year at the prestigious Oman Leadership Awards 2025 by CMO Asia.

The award ceremony took place at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Muscat, on July 23 and brought together top industry leaders and institutions from across the sultanate, a press release said.

This recognition highlights Al Madina Takaful's consistent commitment to innovation, customer-centric solutions, and operational excellence in the insurance sector.

Usama al Barwani, CEO of Al Madina Takaful, said, "We are truly honoured to receive this award, which reflects the trust our customers and partners place in us. At Al Madina Takaful, we are committed to creating value-driven insurance solutions that uphold the principles of Takaful while driving industry standards forward. This recognition motivates us to continue our journey toward sustainable



growth and meaningful impact."

Shakaib Mahmood, deputy CEO, added, "This award is a testament to the strength of our strategy, the dedication of our team, and our relentless focus on digital transformation and customer satisfaction. We thank CMO Asia for this honour and reaffirm our commitment to continuous innovation and service excellence."

Aneesh Varghese, head of Operations, stated, "Operational efficiency and customer experience are at the heart of everything we do. This award

underscores our efforts in building robust systems and delivering seamless service across all touchpoints. It is a proud moment for the entire team."

The Oman Leadership Awards, organised by CMO Asia, recognise outstanding achievements across industries, celebrating organisations and leaders who demonstrate excellence, leadership, and innovation.

This milestone adds to Al Madina Takaful's growing list of accolades and reinforces its position as a pioneer in the region's Takaful landscape.

Canon celebrates photojournalism

This September, Canon will be championing the work of photojournalists for the 36th consecutive year, as part of its decades-long partnership with Visa pour l'Image.

During the festival's Pro Week (September 1-6), held in Perpignan in the south of France, Canon will honour the craft of documentary storytelling, awarding two independent project grants, bringing together industry experts to foster meaningful exchange and providing resources for the professional community at the Canon space, a press release said.

As a special highlight this year, Canon has also invited Reuters to showcase a selection



Marion Pehée

of images from the upcoming book 'In the Moment', celebrating 40 years of Reuters photojournalism.

For a quarter of a century now, Canon and Visa pour l'Image have awarded at times ca-

reer-defining project grants to female photojournalists pursuing a long-term documentary project, alongside the opportunity to showcase their work on the acclaimed Visa pour l'Image stage.

This year, the international jury, consisting of leading industry professionals, has chosen to award French photojournalist Marion Péhée for her ongoing photographic investigation of young adults in Ukraine with the Canon Female Photojournalist Grant. With the grant money of 8,000, she hopes to reconnect with young Ukrainian teenagers who she met 10 years ago and to continue exploring the complexities of growing into adulthood in a frontline region.

FINCORP AL AMAL FUND

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Dear Unit holders,
On behalf of the Investors' Committee, I hereby present to you the unaudited financial results of Fincorp Al Amal Fund (AIGF), for the period ended June 30, 2025.

Fund Performance

Figures In OMR	30-Jun-25	30-Jun-24	31-Dec-24
Fund Income	318,403	319,215	344,093
Fund Expenses	-44,343	-49,970	-107,454
Net Profit / (Loss)	274,060	269,245	236,639

Figures in OMR

	30-June-25	30-June-24	31-Dec-24
Net Asset Value	4,032,335	4,016,676	3,963,634
Units Outstanding	3,721,089	3,740,831	3,721,729
Net Asset Value per unit	1.084	1.074	1.065
Fund Performance (net of fees)	6.92%	6.41%	5.60%
MSCI ACWI INDEX	9.10%	10.32%	15.73%
S&P GCC Composite Index	0.27%	-4.07%	2.02%
Blended MSCI ACWI and S&P GCC Composite Index	4.69%	3.12%	8.87%

Q2 2025 Performance
The second quarter of 2025 was marked by significant volatility from the start across financial markets. The period was notably impacted by various tariff policies, heightened geopolitical tensions, ongoing uncertainty surrounding US budget and tax negotiations and persistent concerns about the deficit and inflation. Altogether, US Fed kept the federal funds rate unchanged in June meeting. Despite these challenges, the stock market demonstrated resilience after a dramatic decline in April, it rebounded strongly and ended the quarter at new highs. The war between Iran and Israel caused significant geopolitical volatility, but its impact on markets was muted. The announcement of increased OPEC production dragged on oil prices hereafter. One of the elements that influences investor confidence in the UK is the Bank of England (BoE) and its interest rate decisions. In May 2025, the BoE cut the base rate of interest by 0.25%, bringing it to 4.25%. This move is a sign that the institution is confident that the rate of inflation is under control. During Q1 2025, MSCI ACWI jumped by 10.97%, Nasdaq inclined by 17.75%, and S&P 500 also inclined by 10.57%. Inversely, S&P GCC Composite performance was down by -0.49% for Q2 2025 amidst oil market volatility, geopolitical tensions amidst tariffs levy & consequences. U.S. 10-year Treasury yields are almost flat from 4.24% in January to 4.22% by June month end.

Market Outlook
US Tariff negotiations are ongoing, but the markets have become unexpectedly volatile by frequent headlines. Robust second-quarter earnings drove the fastest rebound since 1982. The economy is not yet showing signs of stress, and inflation remains contained. The resolution of the US Fiscal budget and tax plan could provide a meaningful tailwind for economic activity. The Fed is prepared to adjust interest rates if needed in upcoming months. At the headline level, US real GDP contracted at an annualized rate of 0.5% in the first quarter, largely attributable to a surge in imports as businesses and consumers sought to stockpile goods ahead of anticipated tariff increases. Despite the uncertainty, macroeconomic indicators have remained solid. The US Purchasing Managers' Index for June registered at 52.8, signaling ongoing growth. Inflation, though still above the Fed's target of 2%, has been on a downward trajectory, with annualized Consumer Price Index (CPI) for May coming in at 2.4%. The unemployment rate has remained stable, fluctuating between 4.0% and 4.2% from January to June 2025. The Q2 GDP report is expected to show a rebound from the first quarter's decline. The Q2 2025 consensus GDP growth forecast from the Philadelphia Fed Survey of Professional Forecasters is 1.5%—slower than last year but still indicative of decent growth. While tariff uncertainty may slow US economic growth in the near term, there is possibility for a rebound in 2026, driven by increased clarity on trade policy, tax reductions, deregulation, ongoing AI investment, and more accommodative fiscal policy. Further, President Donald Trump announced several significant foreign investment commitments during the quarter at the Saudi-US Investment Forum in Riyadh. GCC economies are set for stronger-than-expected growth this year, despite rising global trade tensions and subdued oil prices, according to the latest ICAEW Economic Insight report for the second quarter, prepared by Oxford Economics. The report highlights upgraded regional forecasts, with the GCC region's GDP now expected to expand by 4.4% in 2025, up from a previous estimate of 4.0%. The report also stated that the impact of the 10% US tariff on imports from GCC countries is expected to be limited, given the region's relatively low export exposure to the US and the exemption of energy products. 'Non-oil sectors in the GCC are forecast to grow 4.1% this year, supported by strong domestic demand, investment momentum, and diversification initiatives. The region is also well positioned to absorb any trade rebalancing resulting from tariff pressures and geopolitical tensions,' the report said.

Investment Strategy
Despite lingering risks, resilient economic data, easing trade tensions, potential policy support provide grounds for cautious optimism. The turbulence from April is a useful reminder that maintaining a balanced portfolio with strategic tilts will help to take advantage of opportunities amid market volatility while staying aligned with long-term investment goals. Diversification remains a cornerstone of resilient portfolio construction such as exposure to international and emerging markets equities strategically. We would like to state that we would remain vigilant yet optimistic to utilize volatility to hold investments in fundamentally quality names with revenue diversification & valuable appreciation. Currently, we are well positioned in the fundamentally very strong stocks in International & GCC Markets with sound business streams. In our view in GCC Markets, Non-energy sectors will have better up-side potential to drive overall growth with ongoing diversification efforts and ambitious regional reforms going forward. Banking, Tourism and renewables sectors will possibly remain be a key for diversification. This is broadly in line with a stable fiscal outlook.

New Fund Manager
As fincorp has requested the FSA to cancel all the licenses granted by the FSA, Al Amal fund is set to appoint a new fund manager during its EGM on 27th July 2025. The transition is expected to ensure continuity of fund operations while introducing fresh management expertise, details about the new fund manager will be disclosed on MSX once the appointment has been approved by the Al Amal Fund EGM.

In Conclusion
The Investors' Committee would like to express its appreciation and gratefulness to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and the Omani Government for providing a secure and stable economic environment focused on driving growth and continued prosperity for all. The Committee also wishes to thank the Financial Services Authority and Muscat Securities Exchange for their sustained and continued efforts in building a vibrant capital market and the management team for their diligence and dedication in managing the fund successfully in a challenging economic environment. On behalf of the Investors' Committee, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the unit holders for their continued support and confidence.

On Behalf of the Investors Committee
Cabeos Al Khonji
Chairman
Dated: July 29, 2025

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024	31 December 2024
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(audited)
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	3,918,276	3,518,300	3,696,268
Receivables	86,477	173,743	228,056
Cash and cash equivalents	48,654	347,712	72,024
Total assets	4,053,407	4,039,755	3,996,348
UNITHOLDERS' FUNDS			
Fund capital	3,721,089	3,740,831	3,721,729
Retained earnings	311,249	275,845	241,905
Total unitholders' funds	4,032,338	4,016,676	3,963,634
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accruals and other payables	3,214	7,437	7,355
Amounts due to related parties	17,855	15,642	25,359
Total liabilities	21,069	23,079	32,714
Total unitholders' funds and liabilities	4,053,407	4,039,755	3,996,348
Net asset value per unit	1.084	1.074	1.065

INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Six-month period from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025	Three month period from 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025	Six-month period from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024	Three-month period from 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
INCOME				
Dividend income	82,001	26,963	80,743	17,944
Realised gains on sale of investments at fair value through profit or loss	1,204	-	197,692	65,033
Unrealised gains on investments at fair value through profit or loss	234,494	323,380	37,014	27,247
Interest income	144	50	513	356
Redemption charges	2	2	1,328	1,328
Foreign exchange gains (net)	558	166	1,925	494
	318,403	350,561	319,215	112,402
EXPENSES				
Management fees	(11,087)	(5,439)	(12,453)	(5,753)
Administration fees	(9,071)	(4,450)	(10,189)	(4,707)
Advisory fees	(9,071)	(4,450)	(10,189)	(4,707)
Custodian service fees	(2,235)	(1,058)	(3,066)	(1,485)
Investors Committee's meeting attendance fees	(4,470)	(2,695)	(4,177)	(2,089)
Brokerage commission expenses	(252)	-	(3,448)	(2,008)
General and administrative expenses	(8,156)	(5,253)	(6,448)	(2,017)
	(44,342)	(23,345)	(49,970)	(22,766)
Net profit for the period	274,061	327,216	269,245	89,636
Earnings per unit	0.074	0.088	0.066	0.023

Note:
The complete accounts, either in Arabic and English as requested, will be sent by mail within 7 days of request to any unitholder who requests the Fund at the address: PO Box 782, PC 131, Sultanate of Oman, Tel : +968 24822327, Fax : +968 24822390

P.O. Box 782, PC 131,
Sultanate of Oman, Phone: (968) 24822327,
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Website: www.fincorp.org

شركة المركز المالي ش.م.ع.
The Financial Corporation Co. SAOG

ادارة الاصول | واسطة | تمويل الشركات والاستشارات | بحوث
Asset Management | Brokerage | Corporate Finance and Advisory | Research

Trump to reduce deadline for Putin

Washington, D.C., US - US President Donald Trump said on Monday he is to reduce the 50-day deadline he previously set for Russia to agree to a peace deal in Ukraine, highlighting his growing frustration with the ongoing all-out war, now well into its fourth year.

"I'm disappointed in President Putin," Trump said alongside UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland. "I'm going to reduce that 50 days that I gave him to a lesser number because I think I already know the answer what's going to happen."

"I've spoken to President Putin a lot, I've gotten along with him very well," he said, adding that Putin 'goes out and starts launching rockets into some city, like Kyiv, and kills a lot of people in a nursing home or whatever, you have bodies lying all over the street.'

Trump, who boasted on the presidential campaign trail several times that he could end Russia's war in Ukraine within a day, said he and Putin have been close to reaching a ceasefire deal five times, but a final agreement has remained elusive.

Euronews

Russia launches regular air link between Moscow and Pyongyang

Moscow, Russia - Russia on Sunday opened a regular air link between Moscow and Pyongyang, a move reflecting increasingly close ties between the two countries.

The first flight operated by Russian carrier Nordwind took off from Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Sunday, carrying over 400 passengers, and landed in North Korea's capital around eight hours later. Tickets were priced at 45,000 rubles, according to Russian state media outlet TASS. It reported that authorities gave Norwind permission to fly to North Korea in July.

The airline used to carry Russians to holiday destinations across Europe, including Spain and Germany, until the EU banned Russian carriers from operating in its airspace in 2022.

Russia's Transport Ministry said there will be one flight a month to meet demand. It may be the first regular flight between the two capital cities since the mid-1990s, according to Russian aviation blogs and follows the resumption of the 10-day Moscow to Pyongyang rail service in June.

Previously, the only direct flight between Russia and North Korea was the service from Vladivostok in Russia's Far East.

North Korea's tourism push

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey



The first flight operated by Russian carrier Nordwind took off from Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Sunday

It may be the first regular flight between the two capital cities since the mid-1990s, according to Russian aviation blogs and follows the resumption of the 10-day Moscow to Pyongyang rail service in June

Lavrov, who visited North Korea's new Wonsan-Kalma beach resort earlier this month to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, promised to encourage Russian tourists to visit the complex.

The resort, which can accom-

modate nearly 20,000 people, is at the centre of Kim's push to boost tourism to improve his country's troubled economy.

North Korea has been slowly easing the curbs imposed during the pandemic and reopening its borders in phases. But the coun-

try hasn't said if it will fully resume international tourism.

Restrictions still largely ban foreign tourists from entering the country.

Regular flights between Russia's eastern port city of Vladivostok and Pyongyang reopened in 2023 following a break caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Russia and North Korea have sharply expanded military and other ties in recent years, with Pyongyang supplying weapons and troops to back Russia's military action in Ukraine.

Russian attack on Kyiv injures 8

Meanwhile, a Russian air strike on Kyiv overnight on Monday injured at least eight people, including a child, the head of the Ukrainian capital's military administration, Tymur Tkachenko, said on Telegram.

He added that the strike damaged a residential building and several cars in the Darnytskyi District, but that no fires broke out.

"The blast wave shattered the windows of a high-rise building from the fifth to the 10th floor, as

a result of which five people suffered shrapnel wounds," he said.

A wave of drones also targeted the city of Kropyvnytskyi in central Ukraine, damaging a philharmonic hall. No injuries or fatalities were reported.

Russia also claimed on Sunday to have targeted Ukrainian supply depots. Russian Ministry of Defence claimed its forces destroyed seven electronic warfare stations, 16 ammunition depots, two material warehouses and seven supply depots.

Russian air defence systems intercepted and shot down 72 Ukrainian drones over Russian territory and the Sea of Azov from early morning until evening on Sunday, the ministry said. These claims could not be independently verified.

Meanwhile, Ukraine said that its troops struck a Russian ammunition storage site on its territory. The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported that 153 combat engagements had occurred along the front lines in the past 24 hours, with Ukrainian troops repelling Russian attacks from multiple directions.

Ukraine's Air Force reported that since Saturday evening, Russia launched 83 drones of various types, of which Ukrainian air defences shot down 78.

Euronews

Congo: Over 40 people killed in attack by ADF rebels on church

DRC - At least 43 people were killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo after a Catholic church was attacked by Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels on Sunday.

The ADF - an insurgent group with ties to the so-called 'Islamic State' group - raided the church located in the northeastern town of Komanda as worshippers gathered for prayer.

Nine children among killed

Nine children were among those killed, according to MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping mission in the country.

According to reports, houses and shops surrounding the church were also set ablaze by the rebels.

"These targeted attacks on defenceless civilians, especially in places of worship, are not only revolting but also contrary to all norms of human rights and international humanitarian law," the mission's deputy chief, Vivian van de Perre, said in a statement.



People gather around the charred remains of a burned vehicle following the attack

Congo military denounces attack

Sunday's attack marked the end of a months-long period of calm in the region of Ituri, bordering Uganda.

In February, 23 people had died in an attack by the ADF in the province's Mambasa territory. The Congolese military condemned what it described as a 'large-scale massacre' on Sunday.

It said the ADF had decided to take 'revenge' on defenceless

peaceful populations to spread terror'.

Eastern Congo is considered one of the world's most dangerous regions.

Nearly 130 different armed groups are said to be active across the country, many of which are focused on controlling the region's vast and valuable reserves of natural resources like coltan, cobalt, gold and diamonds.

Hostilities earlier this year between Congolese forces and the

M23 rebel group ended in a truce on July 19.

Who are the ADF?

The ADF is a long-standing insurgent group originating in Uganda and operating in eastern Congo. They have been responsible for the killings of thousands of civilians. The group often uses hatchets and machetes to carry out attacks. In 2019, the ADF pledged allegiance to the 'Islamic State' group.

DW

Bangkok: Gunman kills five at popular fresh food market

Bangkok, Thailand - A gunman on a shooting spree killed five people at a popular fresh food market in the Thai capital on Monday, police said.

The victims included security guards at the Or Tor Kor market in the Chatuchak district of Bangkok, according to a police statement.

The Erawan Medical Centre, which coordinates emergency medical services, reported two people were also wounded.

The fresh food market, located next to the sprawling Chatuchak Weekend Market, offers a wide range of goods and is popular with both Thai and foreign tourists.

A video circulating online reportedly showed the shooter wearing a sports hat and shorts walking in the market with a handgun in his hand and a satchel strapped to his chest. He killed himself after the spree, according to authorities.

Police said they were probing details about the suspect, including his motivation. The incident



Five people, including security guards, were killed by the gunman

is not connected to the recent Thailand-Cambodia conflict, reports say.

Police General Kitrat Phanphet, chief of the national police force, said he has ordered city law enforcement to conduct their investigation promptly and gather all evidence, including closed-circuit video footage.

Thailand has fairly restrictive laws on gun ownership, but the number of those who possess firearms is still high, and gun violence is not unusual.

October 2023 marked the last

mass shooting incident in Bangkok, when a teenager using a modified blank pistol shot several people at the Paragon shopping centre in the city's central shopping district, killing three.

One of the country's worst mass killings occurred in October 2022 in the northeastern province of Nong Bua Lamphu, when a police sergeant who had lost his job used guns and knives to kill 36 people, including two dozen toddlers at a day care centre.

Euronews

US lawmakers push to release Jeffrey Epstein files, dividing Republicans

Washington, D.C., US - There is increasing pressure in the US Congress to release sealed documents related to child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, revealing divisions among Republicans as some lawmakers break ranks with US President Donald Trump, a report by Axios on Sunday indicated.

The pressure follows renewed attention on the case of Epstein, the disgraced American financier accused of sexually abusing minors, who died in jail in 2019.

Several reports indicated that US Attorney General Pam Bondi informed Trump in May that his name, along with those of other high-profile individuals, appears

in sealed files the Justice Department has yet to make public.

Despite Trump dismissing the matter as a political 'hoax', some lawmakers from both parties are pressing ahead, according to the report.

Representatives Thomas Massie, a Republican from Kentucky, and Democrat Ro Khanna of California are leading efforts to force a vote in the House of Representatives to release the files. Speaking on talk shows on Sunday, both expressed confidence that their measure has enough support to pass.

"It will pass," Khanna said on NBC's 'Meet the Press'.

Massie warned on ABC's



'This Week' that inaction could cost Republicans politically, adding: "If we don't act, voters may check out."

House Speaker Mike Johnson,

a Republican, has also voiced opposition to the current approach, stating that the proposed legislation lacks proper protections for victims. "We want the truth, but

we must also safeguard innocent people," he told NBC.

Immigration policy towards Haiti

Meanwhile, US Senator Edward Markey urged the Trump administration on Sunday to provide answers on its 'contradictory' foreign and immigration policies toward Haiti.

"@SenatorWarnock and I are demanding answers by August 15. You can't deport people into a war zone," Markey said on X.

Markey and Senator Raphael Warnock led their colleagues last week in writing to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi

Noem, requesting clarification on the policies. The senators also demanded answers on the involvement of a US private military contractor (PMC) - led by Blackwater Worldwide founder Erik Prince - conducting armed operations in Haiti.

Citing recent media reports, the senators wrote in the letter that the PMC is conducting armed operations in Haiti under a formal contract with that country's transitional government.

"These reports raise urgent questions about compliance with US arms export laws, the risk of US complicity in gross violations of human rights, and fundamental contradictions in current US

foreign and immigration policy toward Haiti.

"In light of these concerns, and in view of the Trump administration's recent decision to both terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti and include Haiti in its newly announced travel ban, we request that you immediately clarify how these decisions are being coordinated and justified across the Executive Branch," they added.

Weaponised drone operations, arms shipments and deployments of US mercenaries 'unquestionably' constitute activities requiring export licenses, the senators said.

Anadolu Agency

South Korea successfully upgrades core air defence system: Report

Seoul, South Korea - South Korea said on Monday that it has successfully upgraded its Cheongung-I air defence system to the Cheongung-II system, which is capable of intercepting ballistic missiles as well as aircraft, a local media report said.

The first batch of the upgraded system has been deployed and is expected to be fully installed and operational across the military by 2027, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing the Defence Acquisition Programme Administration (DAPA), South Korea's state arms procurement agency.

The system upgrade is part of Seoul's broader project aimed at strengthening the country's air defence capabilities against North Korean missile threats.

The Cheongung-II system, a core asset of South Korea's multilayered air and missile defence system, can help significantly cut costs compared to the earlier version. The Cheongung-II is an upgraded version of the Cheongung-I and is designed to intercept not only aircraft but also ballistic missiles at mid-altitudes.

The system has also been procured by the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.



'Will not sit down for dialogue'

North Korea is not interested in any proposal from South Korea and will not sit down for dialogue, Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said on Monday,

state-run media reported.

Kim, who serves as deputy department director of the Publicity and Information Department of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), accused the administration of South Korean President Lee Jae-myung of continuing a hostile approach despite its calls for engagement, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"Looking at (the time) since Lee Jae-myung took office... (he) is no different from his predecessor in blindly adhering to the South Korea-US alliance and pursuing confrontation

with us," she said.

She emphasised that Pyongyang's stance remains unchanged regardless of Seoul's outreach.

"We are not interested in any policy or proposal put forward by Seoul, and there will be no chance of us sitting down with South Korea for any discussions," Kim added.

South Korea responded after North Korea rejected its proposal to resume dialogue.

"We have witnessed the high wall of distrust between the two Koreas due to years of hostility and confrontation," a senior presidential official was

quoted by Yonhap News Agency as saying on Monday.

"The government will consistently take necessary actions to ensure a Korean Peninsula without hostility and conflict, in line with the Lee Jae-myung administration's firm principle of establishing a state of peace where there is no need to fight," the official added.

Since taking office last month, the Lee Jae-myung administration has signalled its intention to resume talks with Pyongyang in hopes of easing tensions and restoring inter-Korean cooperation.

Anadolu Agency

Thailand, Cambodia agree to unconditional ceasefire

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to an unconditional ceasefire, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced on Monday.

"Both Cambodia and Thailand reached a common understanding as follows: One, an immediate and unconditional ceasefire with effect from 24 hours local time, midnight on 28th July 2025, tonight," Anwar said following mediation talks in Malaysia.

At least 35 people have been killed and around 200,000 displaced in the deadliest fighting between the two countries in more than a decade.

The dispute between the two Southeast Asian neighbours over their shared border dates back decades, but tensions have escalated since a Cambodian soldier was killed in a skirmish in late May.

Last week's fighting was triggered by a landmine explosion along the border on Thursday, with both sides blaming each other. In response, there has been heavy fighting, including airstrikes and missile attacks.

Both countries also recalled their ambassadors, and Thailand closed all border crossings with Cambodia, allowing only Cambodian migrant workers to return home.



Malaysia's PM Anwar Ibrahim smiles as Cambodia's PM Hun Manet and Thailand's acting PM Phumtham Wechayachai shake hands

Both Cambodia and Thailand reached a common understanding: an immediate and unconditional ceasefire with effect from midnight on 28th July 2025, tonight

ANWAR IBRAHIM

Donald Trump spoke to both leaders and threatened to withhold trade deals with the two countries unless the fighting stopped.

Anwar, in his capacity as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said acting Thai Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet had reached a mutual understanding to take steps toward restoring normalcy.

"This is a vital first step," Anwar said after the talks, adding that both leaders had 'expressed their positions and willingness to... an immediate

ceasefire, a return to de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security'.

"The solutions that Prime Minister Anwar just announced will set a condition for moving forward for our bilateral discussion to return to normalcy of the relationship," Hun Manet said.

His Thai counterpart said the ceasefire would 'be carried out successfully in good faith by both sides'.

The defence and foreign ministers of Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia will develop a mechanism for the implementation and verification of the ceasefire towards 'sustained peace and accountability', said

Anwar. "This mechanism will serve as a foundation for sustained peace and accountability," he stressed.

'Malaysia stands ready to coordinate an observer team to verify and ensure implementation' of the ceasefire, he added.

Anwar said Malaysia will consult with its fellow ASEAN members to be part of 'supporting peace on the ground'.

Besides agreeing to direct communication between prime ministers, Anwar said Thailand and Cambodia will convene a meeting of the General Border Committee on August 4 to be hosted by Phnom Penh.

Anwar said the Kuala Lumpur meeting reaffirmed the 'shared resolve' of Malaysia, Cambodia, and Thailand to 'uphold the principles of international law, peaceful coexistence, and multi-lateral cooperation in the pursuit of a just and lasting solution to the situation'.

Early on Monday, Cambodia's Defence Ministry spokeswoman Lt. Gen. Maly Socheata accused the Thai forces of using chemical weapons.

At a news conference, Socheata said that the Thai forces opened an attack on Ta Moan Thom and Ta Krabei on Monday morning despite the fact that the Cambodian prime minister and acting Thai prime minister are scheduled to meet in Malaysia.

She alleged that since Sunday, Thai forces have been using air jets to carry out poison gas attacks on several Cambodian areas.

However, the Thai Armed Forces strongly denied Cambodia's claim that Thailand used chemical weapons. "Thailand does not develop, produce, or use chemical weapons and fully complies with the Chemical Weapons Convention," Thai Enquirer reported, citing a Thai army statement.

Agencies



ISRO-NASA Earth observation satellite all set to be launched

Chennai, India - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for a series of exciting missions.

According to the organisation's chief, Dr V Narayanan, ISRO will launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite on July 30 using the GSLV-F16 rocket.

This satellite will scan the entire globe every 12 days, providing high-resolution, day-and-night, all-weather imagery across a 242km swath. NISAR aims to support climate change research, disaster response, and Earth science studies.

NISAR features NASA's L-band and ISRO's S-band radar, enabling it to track surface changes with centimetre-level precision. The satellite will systematically map Earth's surface, monitoring dynamic processes like glacier retreat, vegetation changes, and earthquakes. NISAR will deliver high-resolution data crucial for monitoring natural disasters, environmental degradation, and infrastructure stress.

Narayanan also provided an update on the Gaganyaan Mission, which aims to send Indian astronauts into space. Before the crewed mission, ISRO will conduct three uncrewed missions, including the Humanoid Mission. In December, a robot called Vyommitra will be sent into space to test the systems.

Two Uncrewed Missions: If the humanoid mission is successful, two more uncrewed missions will be launched next year. Following the completion of all tests, the Gaganyaan Mission is scheduled to launch in March 2027.

"We will conduct three uncrewed missions before the Gaganyaan Mission. In December, a humanoid mission will be conducted, during which a robot called Vyommitra will be sent into space. If it's successful, then two uncrewed missions will be launched next year. After all the tests in March 2027, as PM Modi said, Gaganyaan Mission will be launched," added the ISRO chief.

ANI

Google admits alert system failed to warn most users before Turkey quake

London, UK - Google has acknowledged that its Android Earthquake Alerts (AEA) system failed to accurately warn the vast majority of people before the catastrophic earthquake that struck Turkey in February 2023, killing over 55,000 and injuring more than 100,000.

Despite the potential to issue high-level alerts to 10mn people within 158km of the epicentre, only 469 'Take Action' alerts were sent out ahead of the first 7.8 magnitude quake, a risky shortfall, as this is the level of warning designed to wake sleeping users and prompt them to seek immediate safety.

Instead, Google told the BBC that around 500,000 users received the less severe 'Be Aware' notification, intended only for light shaking and incapable of overriding a device's Do

Not Disturb setting.

The alert system underestimated the severity of the quake, initially calculating the shaking at just 4.5 to 4.9 on the moment magnitude scale, which is far below the actual magnitude of 7.8.

"We continue to improve the system based on what we learn in each earthquake," a Google spokesperson said.

The BBC's investigation following the disaster revealed that no users interviewed across the affected region had received the more serious Take Action alert before the tremors.

The alert would have been especially vital given that the earthquake struck at 4:17am local time (3:17am CET), when most people were asleep in buildings that ultimately collapsed.

While Google had previously



claimed the system had 'performed well', it later published research in the Science journal acknowledging 'limitations to the detection algorithms' that contributed to the system's failure.

The second major earthquake

that struck later that day was also underestimated, although it triggered more alerts - 8,158 Take Action and nearly four million Be Aware.

After the incident, Google revised its detection algorithms

and ran a simulation of the first earthquake. The updated system, had it been in place at the time, would have sent 10mn Take Action alerts and an additional 67mn Be Aware notifications, according to the

company.

"Every earthquake early warning system grapples with the same challenge - tuning algorithms for large magnitude events," Google told the BBC.

like."

The AEA system, available in 98 countries, operates independently of national governments and is managed directly by Google. It detects tremors

Despite the potential to alert millions with its Android Earthquake Alerts system, only 469 high-level 'Take Action' warnings were sent out before the initial earthquake

Yet experts have expressed grave concern about the delay in releasing this information.

"I'm really frustrated that it took so long," said Elizabeth Reddy, assistant professor at the Colorado School of Mines.

"We're not talking about a little event - people died - and we didn't see a performance of this warning in the way we would

through the movement of Android smartphones, which make up over 70% of mobile devices in Turkey.

Google has maintained that AEA is meant to supplement, not replace, national warning systems. However, scientists worry that some countries may be overly reliant on this technology.

Euronews

Gaza: Starvation kills 14 Palestinians, including 2 children, amid Israeli siege

New fatalities brought the death toll from starvation in Gaza since October 2023 to 147, including 88 children

Gaza City/Istanbul - At least 14 more Palestinians, including two children, died of starvation in the Gaza Strip in the last 24 hours as famine induced by Israel's months-long siege continues to worsen, the Health Ministry said on Monday.

"Hospitals recorded 14 new deaths in the past 24 hours due to famine and malnutrition, including two children who died of hunger," the ministry said in a statement.

The new fatalities brought the death toll from starvation in Gaza since October 2023 to 147, including 88 children.

Israel has imposed a blockade on Gaza for 18 years, and since March 2 has shut down all crossings, worsening humanitarian conditions in the enclave.

40,000 infants face risk of death

More than 40,000 infants face the risk of death due to Israel's continued ban on the entry of baby formula into Gaza, local authorities warned on Monday.



At least 50 killed in new wave of Israeli attacks

Gaza City, Palestine - At least 50 more Palestinians were killed and dozens injured in fresh Israeli attacks on the war-torn Gaza Strip, medical sources said on Monday.

Seven people lost their lives and 22 others were injured in an Israeli strike targeting a gathering of civilians in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, Al-Adwa Hospital in the area said.

Two more Palestinians were killed and several others wounded when Israeli warplanes struck a college sheltering displaced families near the Al-Saftawi neighbourhood in northern Gaza City, medics said.

Medical sources said at least 19 Palestinians were also killed and several others remained missing under the rubble following Israeli airstrikes on homes in southern and central Gaza early on Monday morning.

An Israeli airstrike on a family house in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, killed one woman and injured several others, eye-witnesses reported.

Also, three Palestinians were killed and several others injured when Israeli forces bombed a home in the al-Daraj neighbourhood in eastern Gaza City.

Five more Palestinians were killed when Israeli forces bombed an apartment in the al-Mawasi area west of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Another 10 people were killed and more than 30 injured in another airstrike targeting a three-story house in the 'Japanese' neighbourhood west of the city.

In a separate attack, three Palestinians were killed and several others injured when Israeli forces bombed a home in the al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza.

Anadolu Agency

unconditional opening of Gaza's border crossings and urgent entry of baby formula and humanitarian aid.

The office held Israel, its supporters, and the international community 'fully responsible for every innocent life lost as a result of this systematic blockade'.

Gaza's hunger crisis has spiralled into a humanitarian catastrophe. Harrowing footage shows severely emaciated residents, some reduced to skin and bone, collapsing from exhaustion, dehydration, and prolonged starvation.

hera News.

It added that the Egyptian Red Crescent, which has maintained a consistent presence in the border city of Arish, continues to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of aid from Egypt and various international donors.

The latest convoy, organised by the Egyptian Red Crescent, 'includes over 100 trucks transporting more than 1,200 tonnes of food aid, including approximately 840 tonnes of flour and 450 tonnes of assorted food parcels.'

The channel reported that since the onset of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, an estimated 35,000 aid trucks have entered the territory through coordination efforts led by Egypt.

More than 40,000 infants face the risk of death due to Israel's continued ban on the entry of baby formula into Gaza, local authorities warned on Monday

Aid trucks lined up near border

Egyptian aid trucks lined up near the Rafah border crossing are set to enter Gaza via the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing for the second consecutive day, Al-Qahera News Channel reported on Monday.

The trucks carrying vital humanitarian supplies are waiting to proceed toward Kerem Shalom, where they will unload their cargo for distribution inside the besieged Palestinian enclave, according to the media outlet.

"The trucks are loaded with large quantities of flour - the most critically scarce commodity in Gaza - as well as infrastructure repair equipment," said Al-Qahera News.

The Gaza Media Office said on Sunday that only 73 aid trucks entered the besieged enclave in the last 24 hours, amid a deepening famine caused by Israel's months-long blockade.

Palestinian authorities say that Gaza needs 600 aid trucks daily to meet the needs of the territory's 2.4mn population. On Sunday, Israel announced plans for localised temporary pauses in fighting to allow aid deliveries through designated safe corridors after scores of Palestinians died of starvation in the enclave.

Anadolu Agency

Iran announces rail routes to connect with three nations

Tehran, Iran - Iran has announced plans to launch three international passenger rail routes - including a key connection to Afghanistan - as part of efforts to boost regional connectivity and economic integration, Khaama Press reported.

According to Jabar Ali Zakari, CEO of Iranian Railways and Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development, the new rail links will connect Iran with Turkey, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan.

Zakari said a direct passenger service between Tehran and Ankara is one of the flagship projects. "This will build on the existing Tehran-Van line in Turkey," he noted, adding that 'talks are underway between officials of both countries on fares and financial arrangements'. The line is expected to become operational within two months, as reported by Khaama Press.

The second proposed route will connect Tehran and Mashhad to Herat in western Afghanistan. Zakari said the service will commence 'once travel document issues between the two countries are resolved'.

Iranian media cited by Khaama Press reported that the route will initially reach Rozanak, near Herat, before being extended into the city itself following the completion of a 70km stretch by Iranian firms. The third international route will link Mashhad with Mary in Turkmenistan, further enhancing Iran's rail access to Central Asia.

"These new routes will not only boost tourism but also strengthen Iran's economic and trade ties with its neighbours, particularly in Central Asia," Zakari said, as quoted by Khaama Press.

Once the network is fully operational, it is expected to facilitate smoother passenger movement and provide improved access from Iran to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, reinforcing the role of rail in regional integration.

The announcement comes at a time when public assistance efforts in Iran are ramping up to support Afghans returning home. According to Tolo News, the free transportation of Afghans deported from Iran to their home provinces has accelerated, easing the burden of return for many.

Several returnee migrants said the aid helped them forget the hardships of exile and the exhaustion of the long journey.

Mohammad, a deported migrant from Iran, said: "I am happy that we are being transported for free, and I am satisfied with our government and people who helped us. Now we can travel freely to our provinces."

Noorullah Nawrozi, another deported migrant, said: "It hasn't even been a day since we returned to the country, and we are already on a bus heading to Kabul."

ANI

Syria to hold parliamentary elections

Damascus, Syria - Syria will hold its first parliamentary elections since the fall of former President Bashar al-Assad, with voting scheduled to take place between 15 and 20 September, the head of the election organising body told state media on Sunday.

Mohammed Taha al-Ahmad, chairman of the Higher Committee for People's Assembly Elections, confirmed the dates to the state-run SANA news agency.

The elections will be held under the authority of interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, who took power following a rapid rebel advance that ousted Assad in December.

One-third of the 210 seats in the new assembly will be appointed directly by Al-Sharaa, while the remaining two-thirds will be filled through provincial-level elections.

In an interview with the Erem News website, committee member Hassan Al-Daghim said that electoral colleges would be established in each province to oversee the voting



for the elected seats.

A temporary constitution, signed by Al-Sharaa in March, established a People's Committee to serve as a transitional parliament until a permanent constitution is enacted and full national elections are held, a process expected to take several years.

The announcement comes amid heightened political uncertainty and deepening divisions over Syria's new leadership, particularly after a wave of violence, between the Bedouin and Druze communities, erupted in Suwayda earlier this month.

Clashes between the two groups spiralled into heavy fighting that left hundreds dead and threatened to destabilise the postwar transition.

Though Syrian government troops intervened, their actions have been criticised. Some government forces allegedly sided with the Bedouins, reportedly carrying out executions against Druze civilians and looting homes in Druze areas.

The violence also drew in Israel, which launched airstrikes targeting Syrian government positions, including the Defence Ministry headquarters, citing the need to protect the Druze minority as justification for its intervention.

Euronews

Southern Europe battles wildfires amid high temperatures

Istanbul, Turkey - Wildfires continue to burn across Southern Europe on Monday, as high temperatures persist in some areas while others see relief from the heat wave.

Albania has been battling serious wildfires since Friday, with blazes continuing to spread around the southern town of Himara on Monday, according to broadcaster RTSH.

Firefighters, police, and civil emergency teams have been on the ground for over 60 hours, as flames reignite each time the wind picks up.

Bulgaria's wildfire situation is improving, though the blaze near the southwestern village of Strumyani remains 'extremely large' and 'widespread', Deputy Interior Minister Tony Todorov said, according to the Bulgarian News Agency.

While not reported as threatening, active fires have also been recorded in other regions, including Pernik, Plovdiv, and Yambol.

"Over the past 24 hours, 269 fires have been extinguished. The fire in Strumyani is currently the most severe. The fire could spread south and east towards Pirin Park," Todorov said during



a news briefing.

Southern Serbia has also been grappling with wildfires in the past week, while the risk remains still high, according to broadcaster RTS.

In the city of Vranje, where a state of emergency has been declared, the fire situation is reportedly stabilising as active fires are being extinguished.

A fire also broke out on Sunday evening in the southern French department of Alpes-Maritimes, burning approximately 8,000sqkm (about 2 acres) before being extinguished, according to broadcaster BFM TV.

France's national weather

service, Meteo-France, has issued high to very high wildfire risk alerts for Monday along the Mediterranean coast, with five departments on high alert and two on very high alert.

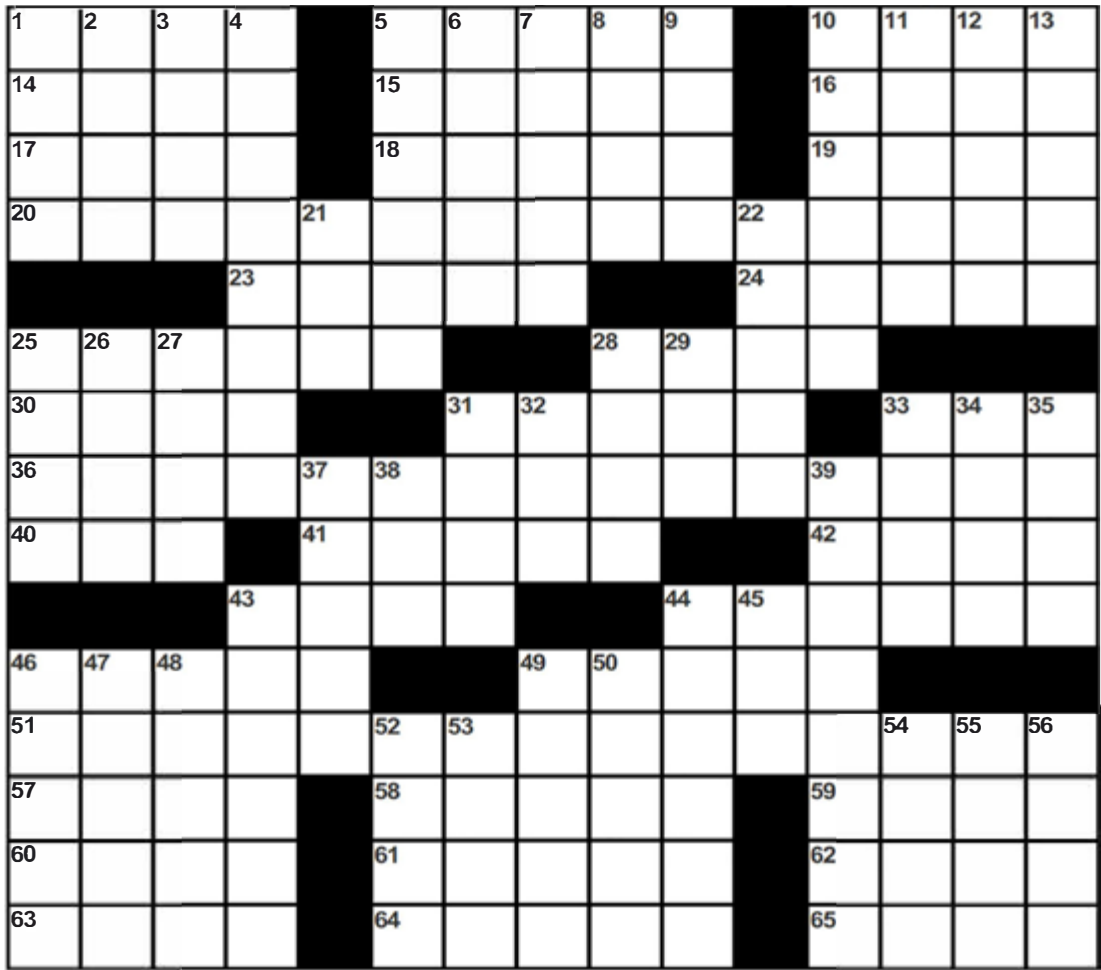
Battling wildfires in several regions on Sunday, Greece is set to brace for cooler weather and rains, although temperatures are still expected to approach 40°C (104°F) across the country, according to local media.

The Spanish meteorological agency Aemet issued orange alerts for certain regions on Monday as temperatures are expected to approach 40°C (104°F).

Finland also marked the 16th consecutive day on Sunday where temperatures have exceeded 30 degrees Celsius (86°F), according to broadcaster YLE.

Anadolu Agency

DAILY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1) One way to attend a party
 - 5) Turn blue, as skies
 - 10) The African Queen, famously
 - 14) What you want your engine to do
 - 15) Unable to hold water
 - 16) Actress Jessica
 - 17) Large part of a world map
 - 18) Met show
 - 19) Book page
 - 20) Destroy a track record, in a way
 - 23) Cast off from the body
 - 24) Like some retreats
 - 25) In_ (together)
 - 28) Singer Tori
 - 30) Bollywood drape
 - 31) Embroidered loop
 - 33) Thing to push for in a hotel?
 - 36) Thing given upon entering the military
 - 40) Howard who was Opie
 - 41) Seriously corpulent
 - 42) Smallest bit
 - 43) Become unhinged
 - 44) Film festival site
 - 46) Swiftly, to Shakespeare
 - 49) Chlorinated waters
- DOWN**
- 1) Centers of lavish attention
 - 2) Keister
 - 3) Solo in 18-Across
 - 4) Thing for which to ask forgiveness
 - 5) Selected
 - 6) Runs easily
 - 7) Send to Congress
 - 8) Prefix for "space" or "dynamic"
 - 9) Meg of "You've Got Mail"
 - 10) Modeler's woods, sometimes
 - 11) Dairy section purchases
 - 12) Towards the back of the boat
 - 13) Saltwater confection
 - 21) Cause of a power trip
 - 22) Garment worn by some Indian men
 - 25) Former world power
 - 26) Defense alliance based in Brussels
 - 27) Tehran's locale
 - 28) Stomach woe
 - 29) Extinct kin of the ostrich
 - 31) Ready for an operation
 - 32) Checkpoint requests
 - 33) Clickable image
 - 34) Adorable, as a puppy
 - 35) In-flight announcements, for short
 - 37) Transplant receiver
 - 38) Atty. grp.
 - 39) Some salon activities
 - 43) Plotter's plot
 - 44) Hold fast
 - 45) "By_ means!"
 - 46) Deep gulf
 - 47) St... Girl (beer brand)
 - 48) Book full of maps
 - 49) Grand master's instrument?
 - 50) Aquatic relative of a ferret
 - 52) Turns down, as lights
 - 53) Habeas corpus, e.g.
 - 54) Creature with a beard
 - 55) "... you heard?"
 - 56) Not us

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19
Your financial accounts have become rather tangled recently, so don't pretend to yourself that everything is just peachy. Blindly ignoring the issues just makes things worse for you, but if you roll up your sleeves, you have the chance to get back on the road to fiscal well-being. Forget about risky investments, get-rich-quick plans, and silly spending. Focus on saving money and defer investments to get back on track.

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22
You're on fire now. Angry dogs quiet down and relax, your worst critics start to see the truth, and good luck practically lights your way. It's all quite dramatic, and you should feel no shame in enjoying it thoroughly. At the same time, try not to rub it in anyone's face! Remember to use your power wisely or it could all go south before you realize what's happening.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Don't save pennies if it just means wasting dollars! Making your own lunch all week doesn't mean anything if you end up blowing your cash on one fancy dinner. Observe your cash flow and spending habits carefully for now, especially if your emotions are high-strung. You don't need retail therapy to feel better. Find some other alternative when it comes to dealing with stress.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1. Where is El Nino, a warm current that affects the world's weather?**
A. South Atlantic
B. North Atlantic
C. Arctic
D. Pacific
- 2. Los Angeles, USA, was selected as the venue for an Olympic Games in 1932 and 1984, both times under what conditions?**
A. It was the only bidder by the time of the selection
B. It withdrew its bid for the previous Games in return for a favourable vote next time
C. It was not the first choice
D. There were no bidders, and the International Olympics Committee asked it to put its name forward
- 3. What is the name of a family of satellites launched since 1995 and operated by Eutelsat, located at 13°E over the Equator (orbital position) with a transmitting footprint over Europe, North Africa and the Middle East?**
A. WorldCom
B. Hot Bird
C. Telstar
D. Intelsat

Answers: 1.D 2.A 3.B

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20
You know you've still got it, but did you ever really doubt it? It's actually possible that you might have been doing just that because some recent flare-up has left you feeling that your charm might be in decline. Fortunately, you can rid yourself of that attitude and get back to causing mischief. Your energy is pumping your charisma back to where it used to be, maybe higher!

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Someone who was barely visible until now triggers an intense wave of interest in you. Who could have known that they were so talented or that they could complement your own strengths and weaknesses so well? Follow up on this new link and make sure to tell this person how you're feeling. A casual friendship might turn into something a lot deeper, of course, if that is what you want.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19
Changes are coming soon, and you may feel as if you're just about to start a new chapter in your life. You should be excited, but you might also feel a bit queasy. Transitions are hard for you. You almost never jump in headfirst, so give yourself a break and give yourself credit for working through this rough patch. If you try to foresee problems, you just make yourself crazy. Let it ride.

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21
A bit of haziness may be clouding your mind, but it's nothing that a little rest and relaxation can't take care of. Focus on yourself. It's almost always the case that any time you feel that you mustn't take any time off is exactly when you need that break the most. If you work yourself to the point of exhaustion, you do nothing but hurt yourself in the long run, so walk off the job and get right again.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Could you be ignoring your primary relationships in favor of your career? A few of your people certainly think so! It's way too easy to get snagged by key projects, but it's called the rat race for a reason. Reprioritize, making sure you pay attention to what's really essential. When you're looking back on your life, are you going to wish you had spent more time at the office or hanging out with friends and family?

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18
Relations centered around a deep core of trust are impossible to beat. You and someone close have been through a tough (maybe traumatic) emotional event together, but now, you're proud of the fact that you're together by choice, not just because of inertia. You're able to stick together from a position of strength and genuine affection. It keeps growing and getting better, too!

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22
You need to jump right in and take on any major tasks at work or at home that you've been putting off for too long, because when you feel the need to socialize, like you do tonight, you don't want to be stuck at work catching up. Enjoy playtime with a clean conscience by making sure everything is where it should be, including any odd details. Once that's all taken care of, get out there!

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
If your people are spinning off on crazy tangents, you need to give up trying to drag them back to reality. It's like trying to herd cats. Let them indulge in erratic behavior and just tend to your own business. All this madness may be a golden opportunity, actually, if you can get yourself moving. Leap on new opportunities and seize control. When people wander out of the fog they should be shocked by what you've accomplished.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20
Some inspiring and wonderful times lie just ahead, so keep smiling even if you feel down right now. Take a break from stressing out, no matter how big the stress is, and let yourself enjoy something you love. It could mean a cup of chai or a brisk walk around a lake. Whatever it is that makes you happy inside, do it to cheer up almost immediately. Personal issues are soon repaired, which gives further cause for celebration!

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

A	G	E	G
E	S	A	N
W	T	O	Y
M	K	A	S

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.

SOLUTION
20-25 words: Excellent,
15-20 words: Very good,
10-15 words: Good,
5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

LEVEL EASY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 and only one instance of each number

				6	1	3	4	7
		2	3	5	9			
		3	8			5		
2	6				3			
		9				1		
			5				8	6
		1			5	7		
			1	2	4	8		
3	5	4	7	8				

WORD BUILDER



You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

Rules: Words should be at least four letters long, proper nouns and duplicates don't count

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

1	6	2	9	8	7	4	5	3
3	5	8	4	2	1	9	6	7
4	9	7	5	6	1	2	8	
9	8	4	2	6	3	7	1	5
2	3	1	8	7	9	6	4	5
6	7	6	3	1	4	8	9	2
6	2	5	7	4	7	8	3	1
1	8	9	6	3	5	2	7	4
4	7	1	3	9	2	5	8	6

I played the tournament with a fractured tibia, says England's Bronze

Basel, Switzerland - England defender Lucy Bronze revealed after Sunday's Euro 2025 final victory over Spain that she had played the entire tournament with a fractured tibia.

In the quarter-final against Sweden, the 33-year-old scored a goal before firing home the winning penalty in the shootout.

"I have actually played the whole tournament with a fractured tibia, and then I have hurt my knee on my other leg," Bronze said on Sunday after helping the Lionesses to edge Spain 3-1 on penalties after the final ended 1-1 following extra time.

"That's why I got a lot of praise from the girls after the Sweden game, as I've been in a lot of pain. If that's what it takes to play for England, that's what I'll do."

The Chelsea defender admitted the tournament in Switzerland had been one of the most demanding of her career.

"I do not think we ever stopped believing in ourselves. There was a lot of noise from the outside, but we stayed united and gave everything," Bronze said.

"To win it on penalties shows just how inspiring this team is to be part of."



Lucy Bronze celebrates with the trophy

ROAR OF THE LIONESSES

Kelly scores winning penalty as England sink Spain in shootout to win Euro title

Basel, Switzerland - Chloe Kelly fired in the decisive spot-kick as England beat Spain 3-1 in a penalty shootout to win Euro 2025 on Sunday, successfully defending the title they won three years ago after an enthralling game that ended 1-1 after extra time.

It was another spectacular turnaround from Sarina Wiegman's side, who came back from two goals down to beat Sweden in a shootout in the last eight and beat Italy in the semi-finals with another extra-time goal from Kelly.

World and Nations League champions Spain made the breakthrough in the 25th minute as Ona Batlle crossed and caught the England defence flat-footed, allowing Mariona Caldentey to head the ball past goalkeeper Hannah Hampton.

With Lauren James suffering an ankle injury, England were struggling, but Kelly came off the bench to replace her just before the break and it proved an inspired substitution.

Kelly helped close down England's porous left flank and provided the cross for Alessia Russo to level in the 57th minute, the forward heading home her inch-perfect assist.



England's Chloe Kelly celebrates after firing home the winning penalty



England players celebrate after winning the Euro 2025 trophy on Sunday

I'm so proud, so proud of this team, so grateful to wear this badge, and I'm so proud to be English ... I was cool, I was composed and I knew I was going to hit the back of the net

CHLOE KELLY

Russo to level in the 57th minute, the forward heading home her inch-perfect assist.

Spain continued to monopolise

the ball but could not find another goal before the end of normal time, and the story continued through extra time as they

pressed and probed, but could not break the English defence as the game finished 1-1.

The Spaniards got the shootout off to a great start when Cata Coll stopped Beth Mead's effort, but England keeper Hannah Hampton saved from Caldentey and from Aitana Bonmati to put England in the driving seat.

Coll got Spain back into it with another one-handed stop to block Leah Williamson, but Spain substitute Salma Paralluelo hit her kick wide of the target.

That set the stage for Kelly to repeat her 2022 heroics, when she scored the extra-time winner over Germany that won them the title at Wembley.

Kelly made her trademark prancing run-up before smashing the ball into the net and peeling away in ecstasy to celebrate with her teammates in front of the England fans.

"I'm so proud, so proud of this team, so grateful to wear this badge, and I'm so proud to be English ... I was cool, I was composed and I knew I was going to hit the back of the net," Kelly said.

The final was the first time since the inaugural edition in 1984, in which England were beaten by Sweden, that the game was decided by a penalty shootout.

"Unbelievable, incredible, showing throughout this tournament we can come back when we go a goal down, and we have that grit," an elated Hampton said.

"We've got English blood in us, so we never say die and we just keep going, and we did that today."

Bonmati heartbroken after Spain's defeat

Basel, Switzerland - Spain playmaker Aitana Bonmati cut a disconsolate figure as she picked up her Player of the Tournament award at Euro 2025 on Sunday, minutes after her side finished as runners-up after losing a penalty shootout to England in the final.

Bonmati bounced back from a meningitis scare ahead of the tournament to play a crucial role in Spain's progress to the final.

However, on Sunday Spain struggled to unlock the England defence and Bonmati missed her

spot-kick in the shootout as she slumped to another painful defeat following her club side Barcelona's Champions League final loss to Arsenal in May.

"It's hard to see you right now," she told reporters. "Two months ago I found myself in this situation with the club. You have to value more when things are going well, we have been better on the pitch, not on penalties," she said.

The 27-year-old apologised to the Spanish people for not being

able to deliver a victory against an England side that was no match for them in terms of skill, but who refused to give up.

"I assume my part of my responsibility, I play for the team and for many more people. There is no point in playing a better game and missing penalties," she said.

"For me, England is a team capable of not playing well and winning. There are teams that don't need much to win."

England took the chance they

were offered and though Spain found themselves on the losing side, Bonmati was philosophical.

"We haven't lost a game (in 90 minutes), we have received support and I feel bad about that too. We have won off the field of play and that is valuable too," she explained, before promising to come back stronger.

"We are a trained team, we have already shown that we know how to overcome. We hope to reach (Euro) 2029 at full capacity and try again."



Aitana Bonmati

Spain deserved more, says coach Tome after defeat

Basel, Switzerland - Spain coach Montse Tome was left ruing her side's inability to take their chances as they fell to a penalty shootout by England in the Women's Euros final on Sunday after they dominated a game that finished 1-1 after 120 minutes.

The Spaniards had 24 attempts on goal, but England's grit and determination dragged them to a shootout where they came up short, failing to convert three of their four spot-kicks as Chloe Kelly fired England to victory.

"I think this team deserved more. I think we worked hard for a long time to reach this moment, to reach this final against a high-level national team as an event and what we saw in the game makes me think that the team deserved it," Tome said.

"This is a sport, you must know how to lose, and today we missed the penalties."

Spain took a first-half lead but England equalised through Alessia Russo and battled superbly to take the game to a 1-1 draw and a shootout.

"I think we were better, but



Montse Tome

football is a sport where the best team doesn't always win. England are an excellent national team, they showed their level during the tournament. They draw, and then they defend themselves to get the penalties," Tome said.

The 42-year-old coach could not hide her disappointment that her squad had come up short of

another major title.

"This is our profession. what we worked for, what they worked for deserved a different ending," she said. "That's why today I have the feeling that we almost reached it, but it's gone. I value all the work done - we wrote history during the whole tournament, and the team was good."

England 'love football chaos', says coach Wiegman after title triumph

Basel, Switzerland - Sarina Wiegman broke into a celebratory dance when Chloe Kelly struck the winning penalty in Sunday's shootout to help England clinch a second consecutive Women's Euros title, capping a wild ride that the coach called the most chaotic tournament ever.

The 55-year-old, who is under contract with England through 2027, had already made history by becoming the first football manager to coach in five consecutive major tournament finals.

Euro 2025 proved to be a roller-coaster of emotions for Wiegman, with England fighting back to win all three knockout games in extra time or a shootout, including the final in which they beat world champions Spain 3-1 on penalties after the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Asked how she plans to celebrate, she said: "Maybe with



England coach Sarina Wiegman celebrates with his players

some more dancing. I might have a drink but I will not be drinking as much as the players."

Wiegman's players had raved about her motivational speeches throughout the tournament, and she must have delivered another memorable one on Sunday.

"The main message was enjoy it," said Wiegman, who com-

pleted a hat-trick of Euro triumphs on Sunday having also guided her native Netherlands to the 2017 title.

"We've got so far now in this tournament. I think we all created something again together. So these are the moments where you dream of, well some couldn't even dream of because it wasn't

possible when they were little kids.

"But go out there and enjoy it and play your very best game."

Goalkeeper Hannah Hampton was brilliant in and was named player of the match on Sunday after saving two penalties from Spanish players and making several other key saves.

INDIA LOSE PANT FOR OVAL FINALE

Wicket-keeper batsman to miss fifth Test against England with fractured foot

Manchester, England - India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant will miss the fifth Test against England at the Oval due to a fractured foot, The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Sunday.

Pant retired hurt in India's first innings of the fourth Test in Manchester, but re-emerged on day two, limping back onto the field to great applause from the Old Trafford crowd.

Pant did not keep wicket in England's innings and was not needed to bat as India dug in to earn a hardfought draw and deny the hosts victory in Manchester.

"The BCCI Medical Team will continue to monitor his progress and the team wishes him a speedy recovery," a BCCI statement said. "The Men's Selection Committee has named Narayan Jagadeesan as replacement for Rishabh Pant for the fifth test."

Pant's fifty on day two, his third of the series in addition to centuries in each innings of the first test, took his run total to 479.

He also passed former England captain Alec Stewart as the highest-scoring wicketkeeper in a single Test series in England.

Bumrah not ruled out

Meanwhile, India head coach Gautam Gambhir said they had

not ruled out playing pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah in the Oval Test as they look to avoid a series defeat.

Bumrah has already played three tests in the series, the maximum workload team management had targeted for the bowler after he spent three months on the sidelines with a back injury before returning to action in April.

India snatched an unlikely draw in the fourth Test at Old Trafford on Sunday but trail the hosts 2-1 in the five-match series.

"We haven't had any conversation around the combination for the last test," Gambhir said.

"No decision has been made on whether Jasprit Bumrah will play or not. Ultimately, whoever plays, they will try and do the job for the country."

India captain Shubman Gill suggested it might be left up to Bumrah to make the call.

"If he feels like he's fully fit and available for us, I think it would be a great deal for us," Gill said.

India went into the fourth Test with a depleted bowling attack having rested the injured pace duo of Akash Deep (groin) and Arshdeep Singh (hand).

Bowling all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy had already returned home after a knee injury cut short his tour.

Anshul Kamboj made his Test

debut in Manchester but Gambhir said they would have a full set of fit bowlers at their disposal for the Test at the Oval, which begins on Thursday.

"All the fast bowlers are fit," Gambhir said. "There are no injury concerns."

India showed great character to battle to an unexpected draw, given they are a young team. Gill, 25, is playing his first Test series

The BCCI Medical Team will continue to monitor his progress and wishes him a speedy recovery. The Selection Committee has named Narayan Jagadeesan as replacement

BCCI

as captain following the retirements of Indian greats Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin and Gambhir reserved special praise for his skipper, who became only the third captain to score four hundreds in a single Test series to help his side salvage a draw.

"These are characters who are sat in the dressing room wanting to fight for their country," Gambhir told reporters. "I don't believe in something like transition. It is still an Indian team. It is only experience and inexperience."



Rishabh Pant suffered the injury and retired hurt in India's first innings of the fourth Test but showed great determination to return to the field on day two to great applause from the Old Trafford crowd

I'll run through a brick wall for the team, says Stokes

Manchester, England - With England seemingly reliant on Ben Stokes with bat and ball, the struggling skipper insisted "pain is just an emotion" as he plans to take to the field for his side's fifth and deciding Test against India this week.

The England captain struggled with cramp in his left leg and was feeling his shoulder as the hosts failed to bowl India out in their second innings at Old Trafford on Sunday and had to settle for a fourth Test draw.

Stokes took his first five-wicket haul for eight years in India's first innings, an impressive feat given his recent injury issues.

"It's just a workload sort of thing," Stokes told reporters after the draw with India left England leading 2-1 in the five-match series.

"We got a fair amount of overs and everything starts creeping up on you. I'll keep trying, keep going and as I say to all the bowlers: pain is just an emotion."

"I'll always try to run through a brick wall for the team."

Ben Stokes

De Minaur saves three match points to win Washington Open title

Washington, DC, US - Alex De Minaur rallied from a set down and saved three match points to claim the Washington Open title with a 5-7 6-1 7-6(3) win over Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in the final of the ATP 500 event on Sunday.

The Australian number one, who lost the 2018 final to Alexander Zverev, felt he rode his luck to secure his 10th career title and ensure he will enter the top 10 in the world rankings ahead of next month's U.S. Open.

The two 26-year-olds exchanged breaks early in the opening set before Spain's Davidovich Fokina seized control by breaking again and closed out the set with the help of some crisp forehand winners.



Alex De Minaur savours his Washington Open triumph

De Minaur responded emphatically in the second set, converting two of four break-point opportunities while holding serve throughout, wrapping up the set in just over 30 minutes with an ace to level the contest.

The Spaniard looked on course for his first career title when he broke to grab the lead in the decider but he failed to serve out the match at 5-3, sending a forehand long to hand the break back to seventh seed De Minaur.

Fernandez claims women's title

Leylah Fernandez earned the biggest win of her career as she beat Anna Kalinskaya 6-1 6-2 in the women's final on Sunday.

After a brief rain delay in the nation's capital, Fernandez - who was just one game away from defeat in the semi-finals - overcame the extreme humidity to capture her first WTA 500 title in her first final in over a year.

The Canadian gained the upper hand early on, securing a break thanks to a Kalinskaya double fault, before breaking again with a sharp return winner.

The Russian world number 48 appeared to struggle physically as Fernandez calmly served out the opening set in just under half an hour.

India's Deshmukh pips Humpy to win Women's Chess World Cup

Batumi, Georgia - Teenaged Indian chess player Divya Deshmukh became the youngest to win the Women's World Cup here on Monday as she outwitted the seasoned Koneru Humpy in the tie-breaker of an all-Indian final which left the youngster emotionally overwhelmed.

The victory not just earned the 19-year-old the prestigious title: but also made her a Grandmaster, something which looked improbable when she started the tournament.

The victory for the Nagpur player came after the two classical games played on Saturday and Sunday ended in draws.

Deshmukh entered the tournament seeded 15th but outplayed much stronger and higher-ranked opponents enroute to the title, showcasing re-



Divya Deshmukh

markable tactical skill and mental toughness. The final against Humpy, India's first woman Grandmaster and a veteran competitor, was a dramatic thriller marked by intense strategic battles. Both classical games ended

in draws, reflecting the cautious yet skilful play from both sides. The rapid tiebreaks proved decisive. After drawing the first rapid game, Divya capitalised on a rare lapse from Humpy to clinch the second rapid game.

Women's Copa America exposes inequality in women's football in the region

Quito, Ecuador - Intended to spotlight women's football in South America, the 2025 Women's Copa America in Ecuador has instead exposed deep inequalities with the men's game, outraging some players and drawing unflattering comparisons with the Women's Euros in Switzerland.

With Olympic and Pan American qualification at stake, the continent's finest players expected professional conditions when the tournament kicked off earlier this month. What they found sparked widespread outrage and calls for systemic change.

The controversy erupted when images circulated on social media showing Brazil and Bolivia players warming up side-by-side in a cramped indoor space before



Players at the Women's Copa America have voiced their concern about the lack of facilities at the tournament

I think we saw an example of what can be done with the Men's Copa America and its huge infrastructure. Why does the women's tournament have to deal with this kind of thing?

ARY BORGES, BRAZIL

their Group B clash, rather than on the pitch as is standard in men's competitions.

Brazil great Marta, who came out of international retirement for the competition, led the calls for change. "We are expected to perform well and work hard, but we also have to demand a high level of organisation," the six-time FIFA Player of the Year told Globo Esporte.

Brazil midfielder Ary Borges delivered even sharper criticism, directly challenging CONMEBOL

president Alejandro Dominguez: "Even amateur matches are better organised than this. Ask Alejandro if he could warm up in a space measuring five or 10 metres and smelling of paint," she said.

"I think we saw an example of what can be done with the Men's Copa America and its huge infrastructure. Why does the women's tournament have to deal with this kind of thing?"

While CONMEBOL eventually allowed 15-minute pitch warm-

ups following the backlash, the absence of VAR technology in knockout stages intensified player grievances.

Chilean forward Yanara Aedo called the lack of VAR "disrespectful" after a controversial 2-1 loss to Argentina. "VAR changes everything... Everyone could see the two penalties that weren't awarded," she told reporters.

"This is the Women's Copa America, and it should be the same as the men's tournament. The Women's Euros are being played at the same time, so it's disappointing for us to see this competition taking place with no VAR," she added.

The timing proved particularly galling, with Europe's tournament in Switzerland breaking attendance records while utilising cutting-edge technology.



Tadej Pogacar (C) celebrates with second-placed Wout van Aert (L) and Florian Lipowitz, who finished third

Pogacar wants to just enjoy the moment

Paris, France - Although Tadej Pogacar appears on the verge of emulating cycling great Eddy Merckx, the Slovenian says he is in no rush to chase history, warning that the risk of burnout looms large in one of the most mentally and physically demanding sports.

The 26-year-old sealed his fourth Tour de France title on Sunday after three weeks of dominance, but admitted fatigue crept in during the final days.

"We were comfortably in the yellow, but yeah, I was a bit tired in the last week, to be honest," Pogacar told a press conference, adding that for now he wanted to enjoy the moment in Paris rather than dissect mistakes.

While his achievements have already placed him among the all-time greats, Pogacar said relentless calendar and obsession with training create a dangerous cycle that can leave riders mentally and physically drained.

"Burnouts happen in sports, in a lot of sports, mental burnout, physical burnout. We train a lot. Cyclists are sometimes too obsessed with training, and everybody wants to train more and more and more," he explained.

The world champion warned that overtraining combined with constant racing demands can trap riders in a cycle of fatigue that rarely allows time for recovery.

ery.

"You see some riders have fatigue too early in the season and then the team needs you to race, race, race. In the end, you just keep going into this circle and you never recover," the UAE Emirates-XRG rider said.

"Then you come to October and you're like, finally a break.

We train a lot. Cyclists are sometimes too obsessed with training, and everybody wants to train more and more and more

TADEJ POGACAR

And then in December, you're trying to do it all over again."

For Pogacar, that risk is why he refuses to set lofty targets such as joining Merckx and Miguel Indurain with five Tour titles.

"Obviously it's not the goal to win five tours. Right now, I have no clear goals. Maybe the world championships this year and (the Tour of) Lombardy, but for now I just enjoy the moment and will think about the next goals quite soon," he said.

FOUR DE FRANCE!

Flawless Pogacar claims his fourth Tour de France crown with dominant all-round display

Paris, France - Tadej Pogacar claimed his fourth Tour de France title on Sunday, cementing his status as the most dominant rider of his generation and moving alongside Britain's Chris Froome on the all-time winners' list.

The 26-year-old Slovenian, who triumphed in 2020, 2021 and 2024, delivered a near-flawless performance, even coming close to prevailing on a spectacular final stage on the Champs Elysees after an epic duel with Belgian Wout van Aert.

"Just speechless to win a fourth Tour de France. Six years in a row on the podium and this one feels especially amazing, and I'm super proud that I can wear this yellow jersey," Pogacar, who was second in 2022 and 2023, said.

Pogacar attacked relentlessly in the ascents of the Butte Montmartre but eventually suffered a brutal counterpunch from Van Aert, who went solo to win the last stage.

The competitive element was largely neutralised on Sunday after organisers decided to freeze the times with about 50 kilometres left due to hazardous road conditions in driving rain.

It did not prevent Pogacar from going for it, however, but Van Aert proved to be the best on the day, beating Italian Davide Ballerini and third-placed Matej Mohoric with Pogacar taking fourth place.

The world champion effectively sealed his victory in the Pyrenees, with a brutal attack on the climb to Hautacam and a commanding victory in the uphill individual time trial, leaving chief rival Jonas Vingegaard more than four minutes behind.

Twice champion Vingegaard of Denmark ended up 4:24 off the pace in Paris.

German Florian Lipowitz finished third, 11:00 behind Pogacar, on his Tour debut and won the white jersey for the best Under-25 rider.

"This was one of the hardest



Tadej Pogacar was in a class of his own throughout this year's Tour de France



FAST FACT

En route to his 2025 win, Pogacar set the record for the fastest ascent of the Mont Ventoux during Stage 16, riding up in 54 minutes and 41 seconds - one minute 10 seconds faster than the previous best mark set by Spain's Iban Mayo in 2004

Tours I've ever been in," Pogacar said.

The celebrations turned tense on Sunday when the final stage featured three climbs up Montmartre. Times had been neutralised some 50km from the

who share the record with five titles.

Pogacar also secured the polka-dot jersey for the mountains classification, underlining his all-round dominance, while Italy's Jonathan Milan clinched the green jersey for the points competition.

For Ineos Grenadiers, the once all-conquering team that ruled the 2010s with victories by Bradley Wiggins, Froome and Geraint Thomas, there was little to celebrate beyond two stage wins by Thymen Arensman.

Thomas, a former champion, rode his last Tour in virtual anonymity, as the British team continues to face questions amid doping allegations reported in recent weeks.

As tradition dictates, riders entered Paris in celebratory mood, but the finale proved anything but routine with the Montmartre climbs spicing up the closing laps.

TADEJ POGACAR

26 YEARS OLD

4 TOUR DE FRANCE TITLES:

2020, 2021, 2024 & 2025

1 GIRO D'ITALIA WIN: 2024

finish due to slippery roads, but a fierce fight for the stage win still unfolded.

Pogacar equalled Froome (2013, 2015-17) and now only trails cycling greats Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault, Jacques Anquetil and Miguel Indurain,

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BIRTHDAY WISHES



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July 28

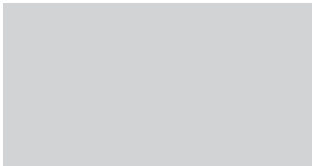
Breaking News!
It's SUPRIYA's Birthday!
Cake is mandatory, attention is welcome, gifts are appreciated

BIRTHDAY WISHES



SUHAS RAJ ALLAMPALLI
July 28

Happy 15 and Fabulous Birthday Vivid. Wishing you a bright year ahead filled with lots of joy, success and blessings.
From Emmanuel & Family





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WELLNESS MANTRA

A NEW STUDY HAS FOUND THAT YOU NEED NOT TAKE 10,000 STEPS DAILY TO LOWER RISKS OF HEART DISEASE, TYPE 2 DIABETES, AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES, AS BEING POPULARISED BY INFLUENCERS. YOU MAY CUT IT DOWN TO JUST 7000 STEPS, IT SAYS

nal recently. Getting 7,000 steps per day was also tied to a 28 per cent lower risk of falls, which can be fatal for older adults.

"The findings debunk the myth that 10,000 steps per day should be the target for optimal health," Dr Daniel Bailey, a reader in sedentary behaviour and health at Brunel University of London, who was not involved with the study,

Step by step

Have you been struck by the popular wellness mantra of taking a minimum of 10,000 every day to stay clear of risks associated with heart disease or to keep type 2 diabetes at bay? And are you struggling to keep up, and feel stressed if you do not meet the target?

Relax, you can now set an easier target of just 7000 steps per day and you don't really need to keep a count and be anxious to maintain it. The bottom line is - be active every day, and move, move, move!

Avoid the elevator, choose a parking slot that's far away from the mall entrance, celebrate when you've forgotten to carry the car keys for a minor errand, play with kids, walk the

dog, be obsessed with your morning/evening constitutional. Chop, shop, and drop your sedentary habits.

New research indicates the magic number is now around 7,000 steps daily. Reaching that mark is linked to a significantly lower risk of health issues as wide-ranging as dementia, heart disease, depression, type 2 diabetes, and cancer.

That impact ranged from a 6 per cent reduction in cancer risk to a 38 per cent decline for dementia, according to the study, which was published in The Lancet Public Health jour-

says.

The study's findings will come as no surprise to those familiar with walking's benefits for heart health. Walking briskly increases the heart rate, improves circulation, lowers blood pressure, and can help people lose weight.

But the new analysis is the first to explore how getting your steps in can curb the risk of multiple health issues, according to the international research team.

Benefits of walking

The researchers tracked data from more than 160,000 peo-

ple across 31 studies for the analysis. They found that people with even modest step counts - around 4,000 per day - had better health outcomes than people with very sedentary lives, getting around 2,000 steps per day.

The more people walked, the better they fared if they had a condition such as heart disease. But for other health outcomes, the benefits seemed to taper off after about 7,000 steps per day, the study found.

"The real-world implications are that people can get health benefits just from small increases in physical activity, such as doing an extra 1,000 steps per day," Bailey said.

Steven Harridge, a professor of human and applied physiology at King's College London who was not involved with the study, said in a statement that step counts do not shed much light on the intensity of people's physical activity, which is also important for wellbeing.

Health experts recommend that adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise - such as brisk walking or riding a bike - per week, or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise once per week.

"This study adds to the body of knowledge that shows physical activity is vitally important for health, and anything that encourages people to be more active is a good thing for both physical and mental health," Harridge said.

(Courtesy: euronews.com)

VANDANA CHAWLA



NUTRITION & YOU

In the world of healthy eating, oats and muesli are often considered 'breakfast champions'. Both are whole grain-based, rich in fibre, and packed with health benefits, but which is better?

Oats are a type of cereal grain known for their high fibre content, especially beta-glucan, a soluble fibre that helps reduce cholesterol and manage blood sugar levels. They are available in several forms, steel-cut, rolled, or instant and each vary slightly in texture and cooking time, but are nutritionally quite similar. Oats are naturally gluten-free and hence, great for those with gluten sensitivity.

Muesli, on the other hand, is a ready-to-eat 'mixture', typically made from rolled oats, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, and sometimes puffed grains or other cereals. Originating in Switzerland, it was developed as a nutrient-dense, raw breakfast option. Today, muesli comes in various commercial versions raw, toasted, sugar-free, or sweetened.

Nutritionally, both of them provide almost similar amounts of macro-nutri-



Breakfast champions

ents, that is, carbs, fats, and proteins.

Oats are a single-ingredient, whole food with no added sugars or preservatives, which gives them a clean nutritional profile. They are ideal for people with diabetes and those managing high blood pressure, owing to its slow-digesting complex carbohydrates and blood sugar-lowering fibre.

Muesli comes with variety of nutrients, owing to the addition of nuts (healthy fats and protein), seeds (omega-3s and minerals), and dried fruits (antioxidants and natural sugars). However, many packaged versions are sweetened and may contain certain preservatives.

Which is better nutritionally?

If one is looking for a pure, whole grain base, then oats win. They give a complete control over what one wishes to add and are therefore, free of hidden sugars or additives. One can customise oats with fresh fruit, nuts, seeds, or yogurt, making them suitable for various dietary needs.

However, if one is looking for convenience and variety, then Muesli shines. A carefully selected pack of unsweetened muesli can provide a balanced mix of carbs, protein, healthy fats, and fibre, all in one bowl. It requires minimal preparation and can be enjoyed in multiple ways.

- Tips for using oats/ muesli**
- Oats**
- Classic porridge - top with fruits, seeds, and a pinch of cinnamon
 - Overnight oats - soak with chia seeds, berries, or nuts, for a quick breakfast
 - Savoury oats - cook with vegetables and spices, for a warm, savoury breakfast
 - Oat smoothies - a quick easy healthy breakfast
 - Oat flour - Ground oats can be used for pancakes, cakes, or muffins
- Muesli**
- Quick bowl - mixed with milk or yogurt and fresh fruit for a balanced breakfast
 - Overnight soak - for a soft, ready-to-eat morning meal
 - Snack mix - use dry muesli as a base for trail mix with added seed
 - Baked toppings - sprinkle over fruit crumbles or muffins before baking
- Always check for added sugars, preservatives, and sodium when buying packaged muesli. Alternatively, make your own mix at home using oats, chopped nuts, seeds, and dried fruits in your desired proportions.
- Both, oats and muesli, have their place in a healthy diet. For those managing weight, diabetes or high BP, plain oats are a safer option having low GI.
- (Vandana Chawla is an Online Nutrition Expert and a Registered Nutritionist-UKVRN)

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SMART CITIES

A SMART CITY USES INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE PUBLIC AND PROVIDE A BETTER QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND CITIZEN WELFARE

The trend of setting up smart cities that are well-planned, sustainable and aligned with growing needs of the future, has been picking up worldwide and Oman is not quite left behind. Ambitious residential projects over the past two decades have been set up with key aspects of smart cities in mind to provide the upcoming generations a new way of life.

The main goal of a smart city is to optimise city functions and promote economic growth while also improving the quality of life for citizens by using smart technologies and data analysis. The value lies in how this technology is used rather than simply how much technology is available.

A city's smartness is determined using a set of characteristics, including infrastructure based around technology, environmental initiatives, effective and highly functional public transportation, confident and progressive city



Living

SMART

Set across 14.8sqkm, the upcoming Sultan Haitham City will have 'smart infrastructure' for monitoring environmental factors such as air quality and water management

plans, and the ability of people to live and work within the city, using its resources.

The success of a smart city relies on the relationship between the public and private sectors as much of the work to create and maintain a data-driven environment falls outside the local government remit. For example, smart surveillance cameras may need input and technology from several companies.

Aside from the technology used by a smart city, there is also the need for data analysts to assess the information provided by the smart city systems so that any problems can be addressed and improvements found.

Key features

Combining automation, machine learning and the IoT is allowing for the adoption of smart city technologies for a variety of applications. For example, smart parking can help drivers find a parking space and also allow for digital payment.

Another example would be smart traffic management to monitor traffic flows and optimise traffic lights to reduce congestion, while ride-sharing services can also be managed by a smart city infrastructure.

Smart city features can also include energy conservation and environmental efficiencies, such as streetlights that dim when the roads are empty. Such smart grid technologies can improve everything from operations to maintenance and planning to power supplies.

Smart city initiatives can also be used to combat climate change and air pollution as well as waste management and sanitation via internet-enabled

Al Mouj Muscat: Shaping the future of urban living in Oman



In this exclusive interview, Nasser al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, reflects on the remarkable evolution of Oman's first Integrated Tourism Complex since its establishment in 2006. He discusses how Al Mouj has transformed into a thriving, sustainable, and internationally recognised lifestyle destination, playing a key role in shaping Oman's tourism landscape and contributing to national goals under Vision 2040. From major real estate developments and sustainability initiatives to its growing influence in tourism, employment, and investment, Al Mouj Muscat stands at the forefront of urban innovation in the sultanate.

Al Mouj Muscat was established in Oman 18 years ago. How has the Al Mouj brand evolved over these years? How do you view its current position in the Omani market and its role in promoting tourism in the country?

Since its inception as Oman's first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC) in 2006, Al Mouj Muscat has evolved significantly from a pioneering waterfront project into a bustling, world-class community. Over the past 18 years, we've become a benchmark for luxury lifestyle and urban living in Oman, now home to over 8,000 residents from more than 85 nationalities. Today, Al Mouj is a major contributor to Oman's tourism, attracting nearly 5mn visitors annually. With facilities such as a 400-berth marina, a championship golf course, premium hotels, and vibrant retail and dining options, Al Mouj Muscat continues to be a cornerstone in promoting Oman globally as a premier tourist destination.

How do you see Al Mouj Muscat contributing to the broader Vision 2040 goals for Oman, particularly in terms of urbanisation and sustainable development?

Al Mouj Muscat closely aligns with Oman's Vision 2040 by embodying principles of sustainable urbanisation and economic diversification. Our developments focus on environmental stewardship, including expansive green spaces totalling over 260,000 square meters and infrastructure adhering to international sustainability standards like BREEAM certification. Economically, we've attracted substantial foreign direct investment, exceeding US\$1bn, and created over 2,200 jobs, predominantly held by Omani nationals. These efforts significantly advance the Vision 2040's goals, reinforcing sustainable living, boosting local employment, and stimulating the national economy.

Several new real estate projects were launched within Al Mouj Muscat over the past few years, including Golf Beach Residences, Al Mouj Business Park, Sarai, and Jinan Island. How would you assess the performance of these projects?

Each of our recent projects has surpassed expectations, reflecting market confidence and demand for premium properties. Golf Beach Residences garnered accolades for its sustainability-focused luxury homes, achieving rapid sales. Al Mouj Business Park was fully subscribed shortly after launch, underscoring strong commercial appeal. Jinan Island villas saw over 50% sold within days, affirming our expertise in unique waterfront living. Sarai, offering bespoke, ultra-luxurious residences, set new standards in the high-end segment, resonating strongly with discerning investors. Collectively, these successes reaffirm our strategic direction and ability to deliver exceptional value.



Al Mouj Muscat has become a benchmark for luxury lifestyle and urban living in Oman, now home to over 8,000 residents from more than 85 nationalities. Today, Al Mouj is a major contributor to Oman's tourism, attracting 5mn visitors annually

Nasser Al Sheibani
CEO Al Mouj Muscat

What upcoming projects can we expect from Al Mouj Muscat this year and next year? How would these new projects align with the long-term vision of Al Mouj Muscat?

Our upcoming projects for 2024 and 2025 include the second phase of Al Mouj Business Park, introducing additional premium office spaces, and Meral Park Apartments, offering contemporary urban living options. Additionally, we will release the final canal-front villas on Jinan Island.

These projects are aligned with our long-term vision of delivering diverse lifestyle options and bolstering Al Mouj as a complete, integrated community. New leisure and hospitality amenities, such as an advanced golf clubhouse and additional hotel developments, further solidify our position as Oman's leading lifestyle destination.

How does Al Mouj Muscat integrate sustainability into its developments and operations? What steps are

being taken to reduce the carbon footprint of Al Mouj Muscat's developments?

Sustainability is integral at Al Mouj Muscat, encompassing eco-friendly construction, resource management, and community initiatives. Our developments meet stringent international sustainability standards, notably BREEAM. We implemented innovative solutions such as the biodiesel initiative, transforming used cooking oil into fuel, significantly reducing waste and emissions. Our marine conservation projects, including the installation of seabins in Al Mouj Marina and the creation of artificial reefs, enhance marine biodiversity. These efforts collectively help minimize our environmental impact and demonstrate leadership in sustainable urban living.

Al Mouj Muscat has been positioned as a premier lifestyle destination in Oman. How do you ensure that this status is maintained as the development expands and evolves?

We maintain our premier status through strategic placemaking, customer-centric innovation, and consistent operational excellence. Al Mouj Muscat continuously invests in new amenities, ensuring a vibrant, engaging environment. We actively listen to resident and visitor feedback, refining services and introducing fresh experiences that meet evolving expectations. By emphasising community engagement and quality across all aspects, we ensure that expansion enhances rather than dilutes our lifestyle offerings, reinforcing Al Mouj's position as Oman's leading lifestyle destination.

Can you share recent statistics on the annual number of visitors and footfalls at Al Mouj Muscat? What role do events play in attracting visitors? Which types of events have been most successful in bringing

rubish collection, bins and fleet management systems.

Aside from services, smart cities allow for the provision of safety measures such as monitoring areas of high crime or using sensors to enable an early warning for incidents like floods, landslides, hurricanes or droughts.

Smart buildings can also offer real-time space management or structural health monitoring and feedback to determine when repairs are necessary. Citizens can also access this system to notify officials of any problems, such as potholes, while sensors can also monitor infrastructure problems such as leaks in water pipes.

In addition, smart city technology can improve the efficiency of manufacturing, urban farming, energy use, and more.

Challenges

For all of the benefits offered by smart cities, there are also challenges to overcome. These include government officials allowing widespread participation from citizens. There is also a need for the private and public sectors to align with residents so that everyone can positively contribute to the community.

Smart city projects need to be transparent and available to citizens via an open data portal or mobile app. This allows residents to engage with the data and complete personal tasks like paying bills, finding efficient transportation options and assessing energy consumption in the home.

This all requires a solid and secure system of data collection and storage to prevent hacking or misuse. Smart city data also needs to be anonymised to prevent privacy issues from arising.

The largest challenge is quite probably that of connectivity, with thousands or even millions of IoT devices needing to connect and work in unison.

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