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FTA between Oman and the USA helps in enhancing bilateral ties

Omani exports to the US amounted to over OMR463mn in 2024 against US imports of over OMR506mn

MUSCAT: The free trade agreement (FTA) between Oman and the United States, the implementation of which commenced since 2009, contributes to boosting trade and investment cooperation between the two countries and opens the door for Omani products to enter the US market.

A number of officials at the government and the private sectors in both Oman and US, reaffirmed that the impact of the customs fees imposed on the Omani products under implementation of the FTA signed between the two sides is under discussions with the US side for re-consideration of the fees imposed on exports of Oman.

Pankaj Khimji, Advisor of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion said that the two sides are keen for boosting bilateral trade between Oman and the United States to ensure continued progress between the two sides which dates back to over 200 years.

He urged US businessmen and investors to work along with their Omani counterparts on exploring trade and investment opportunities



ties and to establish joint projects and ventures.

He also stressed the significance of dialogue between the two sides on differences, if any, as Oman hopes for stable bilateral trade that supports its economy and contributes to creation of opportunities for growth in the interest of both the countries.

tween Oman and USA, is not just a trade mechanism but a strategic asset that should be consistently renewed and expanded.

She also pointed to that direct US investments in Oman exceeded \$16 billion by the end of third quarter of 2024, which makes the USA the second largest investor in Oman.

Khalid Al Shuaibi, Head of the National Programme for Private Sector and Foreign Trade Development (Nazdaher) said that the FTA between Oman and the US, has not been much affected with the decision on imposing customs tariffs at 10% as Oman access to the US market is better than that of any other countries having no trade agreements with the US.

There are negotiations with the US for re-consideration of these tariffs as Oman has no trade sur-

plus with the US and that US products can easily enter Oman with no tariffs.

Saud bin Ahmed Al Nahari, Member of the Board of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) said that the joint committee of the FTA between Oman and the US has focused in its meeting on the review of the free trade agreement between the two sides and on the impact on the private sector with the customs fees imposed the Omani exports.

He further pointed out that a delegation from OCCI would participate next month in an expo on the US Market Selection to acquaint with the trade and investment opportunities available in the US market and also for showcasing investment opportunities available in the Sultanate of Oman.

— ONA



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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Russia take steps to boost economic cooperation

MUSCAT: Oman and the Russian Federation have taken significant strides toward strengthening economic cooperation through the signing of several agreements, memorandums of understanding, and cooperation protocols across various fields. These developments occurred during the state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to Russia on April 21 and 22.

The visit witnessed the signing of agreements, including an economic and technical cooperation protocol, a mutual visa exemption agreement, a project to establish a joint economic committee, and memorandums of understanding in areas such as transport and transit, combating money laundering and terrorism financing, fisheries cooperation, and enhancing institutional frameworks to provide platforms for the private sector to capitalise on investment opportunities in both countries.

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, emphasised the importance of building on the shared historical legacy between Oman and Russia by translating the directives of His Majesty into advanced economic, trade, and investment partnerships based on mutual interests and Oman Vision 2040.

He stated that the visit culminated in continuous efforts at both governmental and private sector levels, highlighting the exemplary bilateral relations between Oman and Russia. These relations aim to enhance economic integration, develop supply chains, and explore new areas of cooperation, such as digital transformation and the green economy, in line with the sustainable development aspirations of both nations.

He reaffirmed Oman's commitment to creating an attractive and secure investment environment that supports entrepreneurship, promotes trade exchange, and achieves balanced economic development. He expressed confidence that His Majesty's state visit to Russia marks the beginning



ning of a new phase of close cooperation, enhancing Oman's position as a promising investment destination and a reliable international partner.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighted the memorandum of understanding signed between the Chamber and the Russian Roscongress Foundation during His Majesty's visit. This memorandum represents a significant step toward strengthening trade relations between the public and private sectors of both countries, expanding the scope of partnership, and opening new horizons for trade and investment cooperation.

He noted that the memorandum provides a valuable opportunity

nity for exchanging expertise and organising joint activities, thereby enhancing trade relations, attracting mutual investments, and accelerating economic cooperation. It also lays the foundation for a new phase of economic partnerships based on mutual interests, fostering collaboration in various fields, including trade exchange, knowledge sharing, and joint investment projects.

Regarding the mutual visa exemption agreement, Haitham bin Mohammed Al Ghassani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, stated that the agreement would boost the tourism sector between the two countries. He noted that the Ministry has contracted a tourism representation office in the Russian market, which has begun its promotional plan for Oman and engaged with Russian tourism companies.

He added that the agreement would increase tourist flow from Russia to Oman, allowing Russian tourists longer stays and greater flexibility in planning their visits without the need for visas. According to the Ministry's statistics, over 44,000 Russian tourists visited Oman in 2024, and the upcoming period is expected to see increased visitor numbers due to these facilitation measures and Oman Air's announcement of direct flights to Moscow throughout the year. — ONA

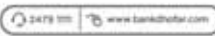
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Muscat to organise global business leaders at Advantage Oman Forum

The two-day event is being hosted under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Global investors, policymakers, and business leaders are set to converge in Muscat on 27–28 April 2025 for the inaugural Advantage Oman Forum, a two-day international platform focused on the future of investment, economic resilience, and strategic collaboration.

The event will take place at the St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort and will open under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs.

Organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Invest-

ment Promotion, the forum is delivered through its investment arm, Invest OMAN. The gathering is expected to bring together more than 250 senior figures representing government agencies, multilateral organisations, and global media outlets. Its objective is to foster deeper dialogue around shifting capital flows, climate finance, regional integration, and long-term investment strategy, positioning Oman as a stable and constructive partner in an evolving global investment landscape.

The Advantage Oman Forum takes place at a time when govern-

ments and institutions around the world are reassessing their role in a more competitive global economy. Incentives and infrastructure alone are no longer sufficient to attract meaningful capital. Investors are increasingly prioritizing countries that offer consistent policy direction, institutional trust, and clear development frameworks. Oman's model—grounded in political neutrality, regulatory reform, and purposeful diversification—reflects a strategic response to these demands. Vision 2040, the Sultanate's national development agenda, aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development



Goals and emphasizes resilience across key sectors such as clean energy, advanced manufacturing, logistics, agri-tech, and sustainable tourism.

The forum is structured around discussions that address the practical and policy-oriented dimensions of global investment.

Topics include the integration of ESG metrics, the rise of green hydrogen, digital infrastructure development, and the reconfigura-

tion of supply chains in response to geopolitical realignments. Oman's regulatory updates, free zone models, and digital investor services are expected to feature as case studies in facilitating cross-border capital.

Among the keynote speakers is Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf Region, who will speak on the growing strategic alignment between Europe and the Gulf, as well as the rising role

of mid-sized economies in diverse global interests.

The forum will open with a strategic exchange moderated by CNN Editor-at-Large Richard Quest, joined by Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and Abdul-salam Al Murshidi, President of the Oman Investment Authority. Their session, titled The Shape of Things to Come, will examine how megatrends such as climate transition, technological disruption, and global capital shifts are redefining investor expectations and reconfiguring economic diplomacy.

The discussion will also explore Oman's positioning as a partner that offers reliability, long-term clarity, and strategic access in a region of growing global importance.

The speaker lineup includes a broad range of international voices alongside national leaders. These include Michelle Karavias, Managing Director at Fitch Solutions; Diana Mangalagiu of Said Business School at the University of Oxford; and Creon Butler, Director of the Global Economy and Finance Programme at Chatham House; Dushyant Thakor, Deputy Executive Director at the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA); Jonathan McClory, nation branding specialist and Research Associate at Hertford College, University of Oxford.

GROUP'S FIFTH BRANCH

Collaboration between Al-Fanar Group and Grohe: Towards Oman Vision 2040

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al-Fanar Group is one of the leading companies in the industrial and project sectors in the Sultanate of Oman, striving to achieve Oman Vision 2040. Through continuous innovation and development, Al-Fanar aims to enhance its position in both local and global markets. Its collaboration with Grohe Germany, a leader in sanitary fittings, marks a strategic step towards realising this ambitious vision.

Under the leadership of CEO Ahmed Al-Hakam, Al-Fanar Group is committed to consistent advancement and success. Ahmed Al-

Hakam emphasises that the group's fifth branch is "just the beginning," which will open new horizons towards global expansion, indicating that this branch represents a new chapter for Al-Fanar in achieving its ambitious goals. In this context, Saud Al-Hakam, the General Manager of Al-Fanar Group, states that his vision revolves around leaving a distinct mark in the luxury sanitary materials sector.

This approach reflects Al-Fanar's desire to offer high-quality products that meet market demands and fulfill customer aspirations. The partnership with Grohe enhances this vision, as Grohe is a symbol of quality and innovation

in the sanitary fittings industry.

Collaboration

Oman Vision 2040 encompasses numerous strategic objectives focused on sustainable development and enhancing the national economy.

Through this collaboration, Al-Fanar aims to play an active role in this vision by providing products that contribute to the country's infrastructure development and enhance the quality of life for citizens and residents alike.

By partnering with Grohe, Al-Fanar is not only seeking to improve the quality of its products but also to enhance its competi-

tive capabilities in the global market. This collaboration represents a significant step towards achieving sustainable success and reflects the group's commitment to delivering the best solutions and innovations in the sanitary fittings sector.

The collaboration between Al-Fanar Group and Grohe serves as a model in the business world, combining local and international expertise to achieve shared objectives. As Al-Fanar continues its journey towards global expansion, there is hope that it will be part of a bright future for Oman, contributing to the realisation of Vision 2040.



AL DHAHIRAH

Third scout camp kicks off in Ibri

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The activities of the third scout camp in Al Dhahirah Governorate commenced on Friday at the Youth Complex in Ibri, organised by the General Directorate of Scouts and Guides at the Ministry of Education. The camp will continue until next Sunday.

A total of 85 scouts and 15 scout leaders from various scouting units across the governorate are participating in the event, which aims to enhance scouting activities and training programs in the region.

The opening ceremony included an overview of the scouting programme, traditions to be followed during the camp, and the distribution of participants into groups while introducing them to their leaders.

The first day's activities featured administrative and organisational tasks, including dividing delegations into sub-camps based on regions and schools, assigning responsibilities to scout leaders, preparing camp supplies, and distributing necessary tools for upcoming events.

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His Excellency Ahmed bin Jaafar Al-Musalmi, Governor, Central Bank of Oman



His Excellency Sheikh Faisal bin Abdullah Al-Rawas, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry



DLive Awards 2025 Winners



Ali Abdul Hossain Al-Lawati, QPay



Ayman Al Hasani, Muscat Media Group



Muadh Al Omairi, Infoline



Saud Al Zakwani, Petroleum Development Oman



Nameer Khan, MENA Fintech Association & Fils

MUSCAT: The DLive Conference & Awards 2025, held on 23rd April under the theme 'The Next in Digital Innovation', successfully concluded with powerful insights, inspiring keynotes and recognition of digital excellence that is shaping Oman's innovation landscape. The prestigious event was organised by Muscat Media Group in collaboration with Gulf Leaders Circle, with Times of Oman and Shabiba as media partners.

The conference was graced by His Excellency Ahmed bin Jaafar Al-Musalmi, Governor of the Central Bank of Oman, as Chief Guest. Delivering the keynote address, His Excellency stated, "Oman has achieved extraordinary progress—digitizing over 80 per cent of government services, facilitating millions of digital banking transactions annually—where over 95 per cent of retail transactions now occur online—redefining how we serve our society and strengthening our digital economy. Our fintech ecosystem is thriving, with local startups leading the way, supported by the Central Bank's forward-thinking initiatives."

His Excellency Sheikh Faisal bin Abdullah Al-Rawas, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, attended the event as Guest of Honour and also delivered a keynote address, reinforcing the business community's commitment to embracing technological change and fostering a vibrant digital ecosystem.

The day began with a warm welcome address by Ayman Al Hasani, Board Advisor, Muscat Media Group, who stated, "As digital disruption reshapes global industries, Oman stands at the cusp of an exciting new era. From artificial intelligence and fintech to smart manufacturing and data-driven



Panel discussion on Digital Innovation: Advancing Oman's Vision 2040



Panel discussion on AI - Shaping the Future of Work, Life and Beyond



governance, digital transformation is no longer a future concept — it is today's reality."

The speaker sessions commenced with Saud Al Zakwani, Head of Digital Transformation at Petroleum Development Oman, who presented on "The Rise of Thinking Machines: AI's Role in Redefining Our Future".

Following him, Ali Abdul Hossain Al-Lawati, Co-founder & Chief Technology Officer of Qpay, shared valuable insights into the company's 'Buy Now, Pay Later' (BNPL) services offering a seamless, secure and inclusive platform that empowers both merchants and consumers.

His session was followed by a presentation from Muadh Al Omairi, Vice President - Commercial at Infoline, who spoke on "Actionable Private Gen AI".

A key highlight of the event was the DLive Awards 2025, which celebrated excellence and innovation across the digital landscape. The awards recognised 15 remarkable individuals, companies, and initiatives. Talabat was awarded 'On Demand Delivery Platform of the Year', Al Tasmim Enterprises received the award for 'Safety Through Innovation'. The 'Excellence for AI in Auto' award went to Changan

Uni-K, while Dreamlab Technologies Oman was named 'Cybersecurity Company of the Year'. Infoline received the award for 'Excellence in AI-Powered Business Process Solutions'. Securado was honoured as the 'Innovative Cybersecurity Company of the Year', and Datamount took home the title of 'Cloud Services & Data Center Company of the Year'. The award for 'Financial

Services Company of the Year' went to United Securities. Qpay was recognised as the 'Startup Innovation of the Year', while Khedmah received the 'Fintech of the Year' accolade. Bank Muscat was honoured with the award for 'Mobile Banking App of the Year', and Sohar International was named 'Bank of the Year in Digital Innovation'. Among individual honours, Nameer Khan was



WINNERS OF DLive Awards 2025

On Demand Delivery
Platform of the Year
TALABAT

Safety Through Innovation
AL TASNIM ENTERPRISES

Excellence for AI in Auto
CHANGAN UNI-K

Cybersecurity Company
of the Year
DREAMLAB TECHNOLOGIES OMAN

Innovative Cyber Security Company
of the Year
SECURADO

Cloud Services & Data Center
Company of the Year
DATAMOUNT

Excellence in AI-Powered Business
Process Solutions
INFOLINE

Financial Services Company
of the Year
UNITED SECURITIES

Startup Innovation of the Year
QPAY

Fintech of the Year
KHEDMAH

Mobile Banking App of the Year
BANK MUSCAT

Bank of the Year in Digital
Innovation
SOHAR INTERNATIONAL

Chief Information Security Officer
(CISO) of the Year
DR. HAITHAM AL HAJRI

MENA Fintech Leader of the Year
NAMEER KHAN

AI Leader of the Year
SAUD AL ZAKWANI
PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT OMAN

showcasing real-world examples of how public and private sectors can collaboratively unlock value through digital transformation.

Later, Nameer Khan, Chairman of the MENA Fintech Association and Founder & CEO of Fils, took the stage to speak on "Embedding Sustainability into Transactions through Innovative Fintech and Blockchain Technologies", emphasizing the powerful convergence of financial innovation and ESG principles.

The second panel discussion, titled "AI - Shaping the Future of Work, Life and Beyond", was equally impactful. The panel included Ali Hassan Moosa, Financial Expert & Advisor - National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development, Ministry of Finance; Dr. Kamal Al-Sabahi, Director of the Centre for Excellence in FinTech at the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS); Dr. Haider Al-Lawati, Head - AI at Oman Data Park; and Hamza Adil Mohamed Al Sabri, Security Operations Center Lead at Securado. The discussion was moderated by Sanjeev Madavi, Digital Transformation Expert, and delved into the social and industrial shifts being driven by AI, including talent transformation, governance and ethical considerations.

The DLive Conference & Awards 2025 was a resounding success, drawing participation from across government, corporate and technology sectors. Infoline, Talabat, Khedmah, Qpay, United Securities, Al Tasmim, Securado, Changan and MENA Fintech Association supported the event. The event reinforced Oman's position as a growing hub of digital excellence, charting the course for a tech-enabled future in line with Vision 2040.



Bank of the Year in Digital Innovation
SOHAR INTERNATIONAL



Safety Through Innovation
AL TASNIM ENTERPRISES



Mobile Banking App of the Year
BANK MUSCAT



Excellence for AI in Auto
CHANGAN UNI-K



Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) of the Year
DR. HAITHAM AL HAJRI



Cloud Services & Data Center Company of the Year
DATAMOUNT



Cybersecurity Company of the Year
DREAMLAB TECHNOLOGIES OMAN



Excellence in AI-Powered Business Process Solutions
INFOLINE



Fintech of the Year
KHEDMAH



MENA Fintech Leader of the Year
NAMEER KHAN



Startup Innovation of the Year
QPAY



Innovative Cyber Security Company of the Year
SECURADO



AI Leader of the Year
SAUD AL ZAKWANI



On Demand Delivery Platform of the Year
TALABAT



Financial Services Company of the Year
UNITED SECURITIES





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CABLES

His Majesty congratulates Presidents of Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo and the King of the Netherlands

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulation to Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone on his country's Independence Day anniversary.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes to the president, wishing him success in leading his country's people for maintaining further development achievements.

His Majesty the Sultan has sent

a cable of congratulation to President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa on his country's National Day.

In his cable His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt wishes to the president for leading his country for achievement of all aspirations of his country's people, wishing cooperation relations and partnerships between the two countries continued development in all spheres.

His Majesty the Sultan has sent

a cable of congratulation to President Faure Gnassingbe of the Republic of Togo on his country's National Day.

Sincere congratulations

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere congratulations and wishes to the president and his country's people.

His Majesty the Sultan has also congratulated His Majesty King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands on his country's

National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of success to the king in leading his country's people and for achievement of aspirations of development and progress. His Majesty the Sultan has also stressed the strong ties between the two countries and the keenness for boosting the relations with further partnerships and investments.

— ONA

CARBON REMOVAL COMPETITION

Omani startup 44.01 wins \$1mn XFACTOR award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani startup 44.01 was on Thursday announced as the winner of the Air category of the XPRIZE's carbon removal competition and awarded a \$1 million XFACTOR prize. 44.01's project, based in Fujairah, UAE, uses Direct Air Capture technology to capture CO2 from the air, which 44.01 then mineralises, ensuring it can never escape back into the atmosphere.

The four-year global XPRIZE

competition challenged teams around the world to develop high-quality carbon dioxide removal solutions that are scalable to gigatonne level. More than 1,300 teams from nearly 80 countries competed. 20 finalists were selected in May 2024, with the winners announced in New York today.

44.01's project is one of the world's first in the world to capture CO2 from the atmosphere and store it durably underground. The XPRIZE Judges felt the project represents a compelling example

of a safe, high-quality, scalable carbon removal solutions with potential to make a meaningful difference in the fight against climate change.

Talal Hasan, Founder and CEO of 44.01, said "The success of Project Hajar is testament to the leading role our region can play in decarbonising our atmosphere, providing new jobs and opportunities as we navigate the energy transition. Our climate needs decarbonisation solutions that can be deployed at scale, and we are

working hard to scale up our technology in the Middle East and export it around the world."

44.01 has demonstrated its mineralisation technology in Oman and the UAE and is now working to scale its technology and expand internationally.

Mineralisation can be deployed on every continent and can play a significant role in helping remove CO2 from the atmosphere, decarbonise heavy industries and help countries reach their Net Zero ambitions.

631 job vacancies announced in govt units

Times News Service

Muscat: The Ministry of Labour on Thursday announced 631 job vacancies across various government units, available for different educational qualifications.

The vacancies include 403

positions requiring bachelor's degrees or post-secondary diplomas, and 228 positions for general education diplomas or lower qualifications.

The Ministry stated that registration for these job opportunities will open on 4 May 2025.

**AL SUWADI POWER COMPANY SAOG**
P.O. Box: 39, P.C. 103, Bareeq Al Shatti, Sultanate of Oman, alsuwadipower.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Suwadi Power Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure to present the Directors' Report of the Company for the three months ended March 2025.

Operational Results:

The operational performance of the plant during the quarter was excellent. The consistently high plant's reliability and technologically superior fuel-efficient operations of the plant continues to place it at the higher end of the merit order list for dispatch.

The plant achieved an excellent reliability of 99.75%. The plant delivered 1113 GWh to the Omani grid as compared to 1079 GWh delivered in Q1 2024.

The plant successfully conducted the Annual Plant Performance test on 7 April 2025.

All operating equipment and the balance of plant equipment were serviced as per the agreed annual maintenance program. Consistent level of high plant availability is a testament of efficient and timely plant upkeep and periodic maintenance as per the equipment suppliers' manual and 'condition-based' monitoring.

The Plant's good operational performance was achieved with no Lost Time Accidents to any of our staff, thereby clocking 5,020 Lost Time Accident-free days since inception and is reflective of our continued internal focus on Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Management.

Financial Results:

	3-month-2025 RO'000s Unaudited	3-month-2024 RO'000s Unaudited	Percentage change
Revenues	15,817	15,050	5.1%
Direct costs	(15,076)	(14,251)	(5.8%)
Gross profit	741	799	(7.2%)
Profit before interest and tax	643	651	(1.2%)
Finance costs	(1,055)	(1,326)	20.5%
Profit (loss) before tax	(409)	(644)	36.5%
Net profit (loss) for the period	(1,107)	(1,280)	13.5%

It is to be noted that contractually, the winter tariff is lower and the Q1 net loss will be largely recouped during summer period when the agreed tariff within the Power Purchase Agreement is substantially scaled up. The net financial results for Q1 2025 was 13.5% higher than Q1 2024 mainly due to higher indexation, lower insurance and advisory costs, and lower interest cost due to scheduled repayment of loans.

Consistent with earlier announcements, as a result of refinancing, the Company will be able to make future dividend distributions subject to the availability of cash and fulfillment of other covenants agreed within the Finance Documents which include making adequate provisions for forecasted loan repayments and operating expenses.

Corporate Social Responsibility:

Within its CSR initiative, the Company has decided to contribute 20% of its CSR budget to Oman Charitable Organisation. The remaining budget will be utilized to implement Student Cybersecurity Initiative by training school students in basic cybersecurity skills, Installing Solar Panels in schools to create awareness amongst the students for clean energy, and various other initiatives which have high impact on the community and in line with our vision and policy. The earmarked funds are expected to be spent in Q2 to Q4 of the current year.

Medium term Outlook:

During Q1 2025, routine maintenance of all plant equipment have been accomplished. No major maintenance programme is scheduled for the next 6 months. This is in view of the peak power demand during the ensuing summer period when the full availability of the plant is a dire requirement for maintaining the stability of Oman's power grid.

All reasonable measures are being taken by the management to maintain high reliability level. Consequently, we expect a steady progress in the Company's financial performance.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all personnel associated with the operation of the power plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, as well as to those others such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I heartily extend our best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimur Al Said. We thank the Government of Oman for creating an environment that allows us to participate effectively in the growth of the Sultanate's economy. We commit our efforts to the building of a strong Oman.

Julien Diaz
Chairperson

UNAUDITED CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH

	2025 RO'000s	2025 USD'000s	2024 RO'000s	2024 USD'000s
Revenues	15,817	41,137	15,050	39,141
Direct costs	(15,076)	(39,209)	(14,251)	(37,064)
Gross profit	741	1,928	799	2,077
Other income	149	387	127	331
General and administrative expenses	(247)	(643)	(275)	(716)
Profit before interest and tax	643	1,672	651	1,692
Finance costs	(1,055)	(2,743)	(1,326)	(3,449)
Finance income	3	8	31	82
Profit (loss) before tax	(409)	(1,063)	(644)	(1,675)
Tax expense	(698)	(1,817)	(636)	(1,653)
Net profit (loss) for the period	(1,107)	(2,880)	(1,280)	(3,328)
Earnings per share				
Basic earnings per share (Baizas / cents)	(1.55)	(4.03)	(1.79)	(4.66)

UNAUDITED CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT

	31 March 2025 RO'000s	31 March 2025 USD'000s	31 Dec 2024 RO'000s	31 Dec 2024 USD'000s
Assets				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	223,604	581,547	225,535	586,568
Right-of-use assets	467	1,210	503	1,304
Derivative instruments	538	1,399	764	1,988
Total non-current assets	224,609	584,156	226,802	589,860
Current assets				
Inventories	2,642	6,871	2,644	6,877
Trade and other receivables	6,627	17,236	6,564	17,072
Cash and cash equivalents	1,017	2,643	1,385	3,601
Total current assets	13,000	33,811	11,827	30,760
Total assets	237,609	617,967	238,629	620,620
Equity and liabilities				
Equity				
Share capital	71,441	185,801	71,441	185,801
Legal reserve	12,791	33,265	12,791	33,265
Retained earnings	50,247	130,681	51,354	133,561
Equity before hedging reserve	134,479	349,747	135,586	352,627
Hedging reserve	(408)	(1,057)	(528)	(1,371)
Equity	134,071	348,690	135,058	351,256
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	42,403	110,280	42,298	110,008
Lease liabilities	415	1,080	499	1,299
Derivative instruments	1,017	2,643	1,385	3,601
Deferred tax liability	26,834	69,789	26,857	69,851
Asset retirement obligation	352	915	346	900
Total non-current liabilities	71,021	184,707	71,385	185,659
Current liabilities				
Current tax liabilities	3,315	8,622	2,572	6,689
Trade and other payables	10,038	26,105	8,222	21,380
Lease liabilities	166	433	164	426
Short term borrowings	-	-	2,230	5,800
Term loans	18,998	49,410	18,998	49,410
Total current liabilities	32,517	84,570	32,186	83,705
Total liabilities	103,538	269,277	103,571	269,364
Total equity and liabilities	237,609	617,967	238,629	620,620
Net assets per share (Baizas / cents) - adjusted	188.24	489.56	189.79	493.59

**AL BATINAH POWER COMPANY SAOG**
P.O. Box 39, P.C 103, Bareeq Al Shatti, Sultanate of Oman, albatinahpower.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Batinah Power Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure of presenting the Company's Directors' Report for 3-months period ended 31 March 2025.

Operational Highlights:

The plant crossed 5,016 lost time accident-free days since inception, maintaining its excellent track record of zero lost time accidents and zero environmental incidents, which reflects our continued focus on health, safety, security, and environment.

The plant's operation was excellent during the period, achieving a reliability of 99.91%. The plant delivered 679.8 GWh to the grid, translating to a load factor of 42.73% compared to 46.02% for the corresponding period of 2024.

Financial Results

	3-month-2025 RO'000s Unaudited	3-month-2024 RO'000s Unaudited	Percentage change
Revenues	11,318	11,751	-3.7%
Direct costs	(11,024)	(11,196)	
Gross profit	294	555	-47.1%
Other income	134	115	
General and administrative expenses	(192)	(222)	
Profit before interest and tax	236	448	-47.3%
Finance costs	(974)	(1,248)	
Finance income	3	43	
Loss before tax	(735)	(757)	2.9%
Tax	(629)	(573)	
Net loss for the period	(1,364)	(1,330)	-2.6%

Lower revenue is mainly due to higher scheduled outage exceeding 15% winter allowance. Additionally, lower revenues and direct costs, as compared to the previous year, were attributed mainly to a lower plant load factor. The variability of the plant load factor influences the fuel and energy charges received from Nama Power & Water Procurement Company SAOC ("PWP"). However, these charges are passed through to the gas supplier and the O&M service provider hence there is no material impact on the Company's profitability. In addition, the steady reduction in the finance costs positively contributed to higher profit before tax. As a result, the net profit was 2.6% lower than the corresponding period of the previous year.

The share price was 68 Baizas at the end of March 2025.

Corporate Social Responsibility:

In alignment with the Company's commitment to positively impacting society and contributing to national development, the Company has allocated OMR 50,000 for CSR initiatives for the year 2025. The planned activities reflect the Company's dedication to fostering social well-being, sustainability, and community engagement. Planned CSR Activities:

- Contribution to Oman Charitable Organization:** 20% of the CSR budget will be allocated to the Oman Charitable Organization, in adherence to Decision No. 205/2021 issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.
- Student Cybersecurity Initiative:** The company will sponsor a cybersecurity awareness program in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. This program will target 8 schools, aiming to educate approximately 6,500 students on essential cybersecurity practices.
- Solar Energy Project:** In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Company will fund the installation of a solar energy project at Sonrah School in Samail. This initiative supports sustainability goals and encourages the adoption of clean energy solutions.
- Physical Health Activities:** The company plans to support physical health activities, including football, basketball, handball, and chess, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth and the Ministry of Education. These programs will be conducted across all schools in Manah and Adam, with an estimated reach of 10,000 students, facilitated through Albashaer Club.
- Inclusive Classrooms Initiative:** In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Company will fund the installation of Inclusive Classrooms project at any School in Sohar or Liwa.
- Employee Volunteering Programs:** Throughout the year, the Company aims to identify and participate in various community support initiatives that involve staff volunteering their time and expertise like beach cleaning.

Medium term Outlook:

All reasonable measures are taken by the management to maintain high availability and reliability levels. Any change in the power supply and demand landscape in the Sultanate has substantially no impact on the financial performance of the Company since its profitability is mainly derived from its plant availability.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all personnel associated with the operation of the power plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, as well as to those others, such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and His Government for their continued support and encouragement to the private sector by creating an environment that allows us to participate effectively in the growth of the Sultanate's economy and to dedicate our achievements to the building of a strong nation.

Boris Smondack
Chairperson of the Board

UNAUDITED CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH

	2025 RO'000s	2025 USD'000s	2024 RO'000s	2024 USD'000s
Revenues	11,318	29,434	11,751	30,562
Direct costs	(11,024)	(28,668)	(11,196)	(29,118)
Gross profit	294	766	555	1,444
Other income	134	348	115	297
General and administrative expenses	(192)	(498)	(222)	(576)
Profit before interest and tax	236	616	448	1,165
Finance costs	(974)	(2,535)	(1,248)	(3,246)
Finance income	3	7	43	112
Loss before tax	(735)	(1,912)	(757)	(1,969)
Tax expense	(629)	(1,636)	(573)	(1,490)
Net loss for the period	(1,364)	(3,548)	(1,330)	(3,459)
Earnings per share				
Basic earnings per share (Baizas / cents)	(2.02)	(5.26)	(1.97)	(5.13)

UNAUDITED CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT

	31 March 2025 RO'000s	31 March 2025 USD'000s	31 Dec 2024 RO'000s	31 Dec 2024 USD'000s
Assets				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	207,324	539,209	209,182	544,040
Right-of-use assets	3,028	7,872	3,084	8,018
Derivative instruments	458	1,191	652	1,696
Total non-current assets	210,810	548,272	212,918	553,754
Current assets				
Inventory	2,709	7,047	2,710	7,049
Trade and other receivables	7,166	18,638	7,144	18,580
Cash and cash equivalents	3,365	8,751	4,661	12,123
Total current assets	13,240	34,436	14,515	37,752
Total assets	224,050	582,708	227,433	591,506
Equity and liabilities				
Equity				
Share capital	67,489	175,523	67,489	175,523
Legal reserve	11,540	30,013	11,540	30,013
Retained earnings	48,744	126,774	50,108	130,322
Equity before hedging reserve	127,773	332,310	129,137	335,858
Hedging reserve	(455)	(1,182)	(572)	(1,487)
Equity	127,318	331,128	128,565	334,371
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	37,848	98,433	37,739	98,149
Lease liabilities	3,548	9,227	3,626	9,431
Derivative instruments	993	2,583	1,325	3,446
Deferred tax liability	24,638	64,077	24,657	64,127
Asset retirement obligation	318	828	314	816
End of service benefits	13	35	12	32
Total non-current liabilities	67,358	175,183	67,673	176,001
Current liabilities				
Current tax liabilities	3,141	8,169	2,472	6,429
Trade and other payables	8,349	21,714	8,802	22,895
Lease liabilities - current	100	261	147	381
Short term borrowings	-	-	1,990	5,176
Term loans - current	17,784	46,253	17,784	46,253
Total current liabilities	29,374	76,397	31,195	81,134
Total liabilities	96,732	251,580	98,868	257,135
Total equity and liabilities	224,050	582,708	227,433	591,506
Net assets per share (Baizas / cents) - adjusted	189.32	492.39	191.35	497.65

SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Muscat witnessing execution of major development projects

< FROM A1 Commenting on the announcement, Ahmed Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, said: “Muscat Governorate is witnessing the execution of a package of major development projects that strengthen its economic and tourism position, contributing to comprehensive and sustainable development that embodies its ambitious vision.

“The Ruwi Commercial District Development Project falls within Muscat Governorate’s strategy to develop commercial areas in line with the highest approved standards. These development projects align with the Greater Muscat



Structural Plan, which is a key output of the National Urban Development Strategy under Oman Vision 2040, aiming to balance economic growth and quality of life, and to build an integrated, sustainable urban environment that meets the needs of current and future generations.”

The Ruwi Commercial District

initiative is a pivotal part of the Greater Muscat Structural Plan, designed to modernise Muscat’s urban framework while supporting tourism, sustainable transport, and livability goals under Oman Vision 2040.

Officials noted that once complete, the area is expected to emerge as one of Muscat’s most dynamic commercial and public spaces.

Muscat Municipality said it continues to collaborate with stakeholders to deliver integrated urban projects that enhance quality of life, strengthen Muscat’s economic standing, and reinforce the Sultanate’s position as a sustainable and tourist-friendly city.

MEETING IN KUWAIT

Oman participates in forum on combating human trafficking

KUWAIT: Oman participated in the 6th session of the Governmental Forum to Combat Human Trafficking in Middle East. Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs and Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, headed Oman’s delegation in Kuwait. — **ONA**

AYN PLATFORM

Platform features materials that help develop thinking

< FROM A1 He further said that the platform features illustrated stories, simple educational programmes, and engaging audiovisual materials that help develop thinking, language, and communication skills in an age-appropriate and appealing way.”

“We believe that building a strong society starts in childhood. The interface offers a safe, enjoyable alternative that connects children to their heritage, their identity, and life in Oman. Looking ahead, we plan to expand its features by adding interactive educational games that support creative and innovative learning,” pointed out Dr. Abdullah. He concluded: “We are committed to continuously developing the platform in collaboration with experts in childhood, education, digital media, and pedagogy. Our goal is to make it a national initiative that brings together families, educators, and communities. — **ONA**



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
MUSCAT**

TENDER NO. MUS/ADM/885/01/2025

**Supply and installation of furniture items
for refurbishing kitchen at Embassy Residence**

Embassy of India in Muscat invites sealed tenders in 2 (two) Bid Envelope System from eligible Bidders located and based in Oman for supply and installation of furniture items for refurbishing kitchen at Embassy Residence, as per terms and conditions mentioned in Tender Document. The tender document may be downloaded from <https://www.indemb-oman.gov.in/tenders.php> or from CPP Portal – <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>.

Sl. No	Events	Date
1.	Publishing of tender	24 April 2025
2.	Site visit	27-28 April 2025 (with prior intimation)
3.	Bid submission start date	24 April 2025
4.	Last date for submission of bids	14 May 2025
5.	Opening of Technical bids	15 May 2025 at 1500 hrs
6.	Opening of Financial bids	To be intimated later

2. Interested companies may submit their sealed tenders in two bid system i.e. Technical bid and Financial Bid as per Terms and Conditions of the Tender Document to Embassy of India, Muscat at Diplomatic Area, Al Khuwair on or before the bid submission end date i.e. **14 May 2025 (1600 hrs)**.

3. Further clarifications, if any, can be sought during working days **from 0700 hrs to 1530 hrs** over telephone no. **+968-24684527** or through email addressed to **admin.muscat@mea.gov.in**.

Sd/-
(Pardeep Kumar)
Head of Chancery
Embassy of India, Muscat
Email: hoc.muscat@mea.gov.in



سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

**إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice**

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Date of Publishing	Last date to Purchase Tender Document	Submission Date	Companies who should participate in this Tender	Document Price
MTCIT/69/2025	Purchasing 3 New Switches And Renewal Of Existing 30 Devices Licenses	23-4-2025	01-5-2025	28-5-2025	Experienced companies and registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board (All Class)	(25/-) Twenty-five Omani Rial (Local, Regional) (10/-) Ten Omani Rial (for Sme) Non-refundable

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website.

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:

Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

 @mtcitoman www.mtcit.gov.om Internal Tenders Committee



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Born in Oman, Heard Everywhere

SPORTS

THREE-MATCH SERIES TO CONCLUDE ON APRIL 28

Omani Development Team hosts Bahrain in historic all-nationals T20 series

MUSCAT: With youth cricket steadily gaining momentum across the Sultanate, Omani Development Team has taken centre stage this week in a historic bilateral T20 series against the visiting Bahrain national team.

The three-match contest, which got underway on Friday, April 25, at the Oman Cricket Academy Grounds in Al Amerat, marks the first official series between two GCC nations featuring all-national players—an unprecedented milestone for the region's cricketing landscape.

Led by experienced all-rounder Sufyan Mehmood, the Omani Development Team represents the country's growing pool of home-grown talent. The series is more than just a competitive fixture—it's a celebration of national representation and regional camaraderie.

"It's an absolute honour to lead this talented group of Omani nationals," said Mehmood ahead of the opener. "Many of these players have been involved in the sport for several years, and their commit-



ment and hunger for growth is truly inspiring. We've been working hard for nearly an entire season, preparing ourselves for key opportunities ahead—particularly global multi-sport events like the Asian Games, which is a major milestone for us," he added.

Mehmood, who has been a member of the national senior team, said: "This bilateral series against the Bahraini Nationals is not just

another contest—it's a historic moment. It marks the first-ever official series between two GCC nations featuring all-national players, and that is a proud occasion for both countries and for cricket in the region. Our preparations have been intense and focused, and I can genuinely see a lot of promise in this squad. The energy, the talent, and the passion among the boys is exactly what you want as a



captain. We're looking forward to putting in our best efforts, competing with pride, and hopefully bringing home a memorable series win for Oman."

Two of the three games were played on the weekend with the final match on April 28 at 2pm.

Busy times for Oman Cricket
The Bahrain series comes amid a particularly hectic stretch for

Oman Cricket, underscoring the board's deep commitment to nurturing talent across all age groups and genders. The senior national team hosted a high-profile four-match series against Kerala, India's Ranji Trophy runners-up, offering intense competition and valuable match exposure.

On the age-group front, the U19 squad took part in the ICC Asia U19 Qualifier in Nepal, while the

U16 team is competing in an ACC tournament hosted in Qatar. The women's national side also completed a promising tour to Dubai, continuing to build depth and experience within their ranks.

Adding to the packed calendar, the Karnataka state team from India is set to arrive this week for another eagerly anticipated series. These matches will form a key part of the senior team's preparations for the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup League 2 tri-series in the United States this May.

Omani Development Team: Sufyan Mehmood (Captain), Waheed Khalid Al Balushi, Issa Abdulrahim Al Balushi, Shoaib Ismail Al Balushi, Mohammed Ali Akbar Al Balushi, Majid Hussein Al Balushi, Rashad Mohammed Al Balushi, Sameer Othman Al Balushi, Ahmed Mukhtar Al Zadjali, Faris Khalid Al Balushi, Arif Majeed Al Balushi, Abbas Abdulaziz Al Balushi, Muzaffar Nasir Hasan Shiralkar, Waleed Rahim Baksh Al Balushi. Coach: Prasanth Chandran, manager: Said Haider Al Balushi

PREMIER LEAGUE



Slot: To win the title in front of Liverpool fans is a big responsibility

LONDON: Liverpool manager Arne Slot said that his team have a "big responsibility" to secure the club's 20th top-flight title by getting a point against Tottenham at Anfield on Sunday. The match kicks off at 7.30pm, Oman time.

Arsenal's draw with Crystal Palace on Wednesday means the Reds need just a point against Spurs to win the Premier League with four games remaining.

Liverpool last secured the title in 2019-20 under former manager Jurgen Klopp during a time when fans were not allowed into stadiums because of the Covid pandemic.

The Reds lifted the trophy in an empty Anfield as they claimed their first top-flight win in 30 years.

"First of all, that's a big responsibility because we are aware that the last time this club won the league it was Covid time so everybody is looking forward to Sunday but we know that there is still a job to be done and that's at least one point," said Slot.

"That's what we know and, hopefully, our fans know as well and they support us in the best possible way they can - like they have all season - and are aware of the fact that we still need a point.

"We are definitely aware of that. It's a nice game to look forward to but it's also a responsibility we have for Sunday."

Tottenham are without a win at Anfield since 2011 and come into the game having lost 18 league games this season and with their primary focus on a Europa League

semi-final first-leg against Bodo/Glimt on Thursday.

Liverpool have been beaten just twice in the league this season - once at Anfield - and have the best home record in the top flight, having earned 41 points from 16 games. Slot, who has previously won the Dutch title with Feyenoord, is in his first season as Liverpool manager after replacing Klopp last summer.

His side have a 12-point advantage over second-placed Arsenal.

There have been suggestions that the top flight has not been as competitive as in recent seasons but Slot believes it is a "difficult league" to win.

"I've only been here for a year so I can only tell you what I've experienced this season," he said.

"I think it's never been as exciting for top-four, top-five finish. In all the years before, it was quite clear which clubs will probably get the top three or four positions.

"In my opinion, it's a really difficult league because that's what I've experienced over here, there's never been an easy game. It's always been very hard to win a game of football.

"We are not the only team in this league who find it difficult to win a game by three or four goals. That was maybe easier two, three, four or five years ago.

"Either the teams are not so good any more - the Liverpools, the Manchester Citys and the Arsenal - or we are still very good but the other teams have the funds to spend just as much or, in some situations, even more." - Agencies

Chelsea edge Everton to seize fourth spot

Nicolas Jackson slams winner as Blues get back into Champions League

LONDON: Chelsea edged back into the Champions League places with a one-goal victory over Everton in their Premier League match at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

The win moves the Blues up to fourth in the Premier League, level on points with Nottingham Forest and a point ahead of Newcastle, who play Ipswich later on Saturday.

With Forest and Aston Villa in FA Cup semi-final action this weekend, Chelsea will hold on to a top-five spot at least until Thursday, when Forest host Brentford.

The crucial three points were sealed by striker Nicolas Jackson, who ended a 13-match goalless run stretching back to December.

He drilled an instinctive 20-yard effort beyond Jordan Pickford and into the bottom corner in the 27th minute.

Despite being the better side, Chelsea were unable to kill the game off and, given the tight nature of the race for Champions League football and the Blues' difficult league fixtures before the end of the season, there were uncomfortable moments when Everton improved in the final quarter. Goalkeeper Robert Sanchez saved well from both Beto and Dwight McNeil low to his right when needed.

Enzo Maresca's Chelsea now play leaders Liverpool at Stamford Bridge next Sunday, then visit fellow Champions League chasers Newcastle, before hosting Manchester United, and travelling to Forest on the final day.

Everton have only won one of their past nine matches and remain 13th.

Chelsea's last home league game, a damaging 2-2 draw



against Ipswich, was notable for the unrest among Chelsea's supporters over their side's ponderous play and manager Maresca's future.

Maresca watched this game from the stands as he served a touchline ban and although Chelsea were far from free-flowing there was no such discontent from those around him this time.

Ultimately, the result was all

that mattered for Chelsea.

They lacked creativity from open play - Cole Palmer's goalless run stretching to 17 games - but to their credit were sharp in their pressing, particularly in the first half.

Their goal came from one such moment from centre-back Trevor Chalobah, who robbed Everton striker Beto in the centre circle, which allowed Enzo Fernandez to

feed Jackson to score the winner.

Goalkeeper Sanchez has often been criticised during his time at Chelsea but his saves on Saturday could yet prove crucial.

Beto's strike came from distance, with McNeil's flicked towards the bottom left corner from close range with three minutes to play, but on both occasions the Spain international got down well to save. - Agencies

IPL 2025

Dhoni rues CSK collapse against SRH: 'Not a justifiable score'

CHENNAI: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni felt his side had been "short by 15-20 runs" after they were bowled out for 154 on their way to a five-wicket loss against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Friday. It was CSK's seventh defeat in nine games in IPL 2025, and their first-ever home defeat to SRH. CSK were at one stage poised for a better total, but lost their last six wickets for 40 runs after they were 114 for 4 in the 13th over.

"I think we kept losing wickets and another thing is I felt, in the first innings, the wicket was slightly better, and 155 [154] is not a justifiable score because it wasn't turning a lot," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation.

"Yes, after the eighth, ninth, [or] tenth over, it became slightly two-

paced when it comes to the fast bowlers. But nothing that was out of the ordinary. So I feel we could have run slightly better and put a few more runs on the board.

"Yes, [in the] second innings, there was a bit of help. Our spinners, the quality is there. So they were bowling in the right areas, and they got a bit of bounce. It was stopping a bit, but yeah, we were short by 15-20 runs."

Amid the batting collapse, one positive for CSK was the performance of the 21-year-old Dewald Brevis. Playing his first game of the season after being picked as an injury replacement for Gurjapneet Singh, Brevis walked out to bat at 47 for 3 in the final over of the powerplay. He went on to top-score for CSK on Friday, smashing four



sixes in his 42 from 25 balls.

Three of Brevis' four sixes came in one over off spinner Kamindu Mendis. While praising Brevis, Dhoni pointed out that CSK otherwise needed to improve against that type of bowling.

"I think he batted really well, and we need something like that in the middle order," Dhoni said of Brevis. "Where we have slightly struggled is when the spinners come in, that's the time we need to either do it by batsmanship - pick up your areas where you're scoring - or try to play the big shot once in your area. So, I feel that's where we have been lacking.

"We have not been able to dominate or get runs against the spinners at a good pace in the middle. So that's one area where we want to

improve because middle overs are very crucial - you have to get those extra five, ten or 15 runs, especially if you get off to a good start."

The loss against SRH has kept CSK at the bottom of the table, with just four points from nine games. CSK have lost four out of their five home games so far this season, and their next match is also at Chepauk. They host Punjab Kings on April 30, having lost to them by 18 runs earlier in the season in Mullanpur.

Brief scores: Sunrisers Hyderabad 155/5 (Ishan Kishan 44, Kamindu Mendis 32; Noor 2-42) beat Chennai Super Kings 154 in 19.5 overs (Dewald Brevis 42, Ayush Mhatre 30; Harshal Patel 4-28, Pat Cummins 2-21, Jaydev Unadkat 2-21) by five wickets. - Agencies

DHAMANI PLATFORM

Dhamani electronic platform qualified to compete in the final phase of World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Prize. Dhamani is a national integrated platform for exchange of data, information and claims related to health insurance between insurance companies and private healthcare institutions. >A2

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



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SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025



MUSCAT GASES SIGNS MOU

Muscat Gases Company, a leading player in the gas and energy sector in Oman, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IonClear, a US-based technology company headquartered in Silicon Valley, California. >A2

Asset portfolio of Sezad reaches over OMR1.2bn

Tatweer Duqm is the executive and investment arm of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones and works to enhance the investment environment in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

Times News Service

DUQM: The Oman Company for the Development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer Duqm) has announced that the asset portfolio it manages in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) rose to around OMR1.2 billion by the end of last year.

Eng Abdullah bin Sulaiman Al Wahaibi, CEO of Tatweer Duqm, stated that the company, as the executive and investment arm of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz), is working to enhance the investment environment in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm by leading strategic and high-quality infrastructure projects that have been implemented in recent years.

He noted that Tatweer, established in 2014, focuses on stimulating the business and investment environment in Duqm through various initiatives, guided by Oman Vision 2040 and the Sezad strategy for the period 2025–2030. This strategy is built around five main objectives: localising investments, efficient operation and management, developing a balanced lifestyle, attracting tourists and partners, and achieving institutional excellence.

In a press statement, he explained that, in line with its commitment to service quality and



asset sustainability according to international technical standards, the company, through its Omani technical staff, manages a portfolio of public assets and facilities in the Sezad worth around OMR1.2 billion. These include wastewater treatment plants, major and secondary roads, public facilities, dams, water drainage channels, parks, and administrative buildings. The company's asset management scope includes operation and maintenance, as well as oversight of sustainability and coordination with operators of key projects such as Port of Duqm, Duqm Airport, the dry dock, the government berth, and other developments. He affirmed that the company has adopted an integrated asset management methodology aligned with global best practices, supported by modern technologies to ensure readiness, continuity, increased efficiency, cost reduction, and prolonged asset lifespan.

Al Wahaibi stated that over the past years, the company has overseen the execution of numerous strategic projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, most notably the completion of various packages for Duqm Port, the implementation of utility facilities and water and wastewater networks, as well as the management of both main and secondary road infrastructure projects in the zone.

He explained that Tatweer has successfully implemented more than 46 projects over the past five years. In addition, its internal management of seven projects has saved over OMR12 million, reflecting the company's technical expertise, the competency of its Omani workforce, operational efficiency, and adherence to robust governance standards.

Al Wahaibi noted that the total cost of the road projects overseen by the company amounts to approximately OMR210.4 million.

Last year witnessed the completion of several phases of the dualisation project for National Road No. 32 (Sultan Said bin Taimur Road in Duqm). The opening of these phases provided high-standard infrastructure attractive to investment, incorporating modern technologies. Their completion has improved connectivity and facilitated traffic flow in the zone, particularly in light of growing investment activity.

He added that this year is expected to see the completion of the internal road network in the Saay Commercial District, water drainage systems, the district's wastewater network, the second phase of the dualisation of National Road No. 32, and the dualisation of the road from Duqm Airport to Ras Markaz.

Al Wahaibi also highlighted Tatweer's role in enabling investment and maximising returns in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. He said the company supports the business environment through strategic partnerships targeting companies and investment funds, focusing on minority-share joint investments in economically sustainable ventures aligned with Sezad's overarching goals.

As a local minority shareholder, Tatweer offers on-ground support for project developers across various sectors. This includes assistance in site selection based on sector needs, company registration, obtaining approvals and permits, and guiding investors in securing financing from local banks and funding institutions. He emphasised that the company is keen to attract local financing houses to contribute through equity or quasi-debt instruments.

Regarding key projects established by the company, Al Wahibi revealed that Tatweer holds a 15 per cent stake in the logistics company 'Imdad Logistics,' formed

to enhance logistics services in Duqm. This has become one of the success stories in the Special Economic Zone. Additionally, Tatweer is one of the investors, alongside a local and an international partner, in Duqm Materials Market, a commercial and logistics project supporting supply chains. The market, in which Tatweer also owns a 15 per cent stake, was inaugurated last year and has achieved a high occupancy rate by global, regional and local companies.

He praised the company's investment successes, noting that Tatweer recorded its first profitable exit through the sale of its stake in Duqm Quarries, achieving returns exceeding RO 1.8 million. He confirmed the company's intent to replicate such successes by expanding its investments in promising logistics and industrial sectors, through a business model that balances profitability with support for national development.

Tatweer plans to implement several projects this year aimed at enhancing investment in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, both by executing new developments and managing existing assets or entering new investment ventures. Key planned projects include the construction of a central fish market in Duqm and the launch of an abalone farming facility adhering to aquaculture standards. These initiatives aim to develop the fisheries sector and increase its economic returns. Additional planned developments include tourism, real estate, entertainment, retail, commercial services, and green energy projects. The company also intends to develop an integrated residential complex to enhance quality of life in Duqm, along with other projects currently under study with investors.

Al Wahibi affirmed that by adopting a project and asset management model based on performance-based service fees, the company has transitioned from a cost-recovery entity to a flexible and sustainable business model driven by outcomes and operational excellence. Tatweer aims to grow its revenues by expanding contracts and offering its services to new investors in Duqm, with a focus on building a smart and sustainable city and positioning Duqm as a regional hub for integrated investment and living, based on efficiency, innovation, and partnership.

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE



Omani bourse witnesses decline in weekly trading

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market experienced a decline this week, with the main index falling by 0.73%, according to an industry expert. "The market reversed gains from the previous week and continued its recent downtrend, contrasting with the stronger performances observed in other markets in the region," said Abdullah Mahfoodh Al Wahaibi, Coach and analyst in global financial markets.

"Globally, market sentiment saw some improvement due to easing trade tensions between the US and China. However, the impact was more limited on the Omani stock market, although local sentiment could improve if trade risks subside," he added.

Simultaneously, oil prices retreated this week following some gains. Uncertainty lingered due to persistent oversupply concerns and ongoing US-China trade tensions. Additionally, potential progress towards peace in Ukraine and anticipated Opec+ output increases scheduled for May contributed to market caution. "This decline in oil prices weighed on the Omani market, particularly given the relatively low price levels at which oil is currently trading," said Abdullah Mahfoodh Al Wahaibi.

"Within the Omani market, the value and volume of shares traded decreased significantly, roughly halving compared to the previous week. While several companies released earnings last week, anticipation is building for further earnings reports next week. Strong results could potentially provide support and boost the market," he further added.

Sector performance within



the Omani market was mixed during the week. The Financial sector faced the most significant decline, retreating by 0.95%. The sector index was affected by losses in major constituents, including Bank Muscat, which decreased by 0.79%, Sohar International Bank, which fell 1.52%, and Ominvest, which saw a steeper decline of 4.35%.

Similarly, the Services sector also ended the week in negative territory, registering a loss of 0.71%. Several key companies within the sector contributed to this performance, with Abraj Energy Services down 0.44%, OQ Gas Networks lower by 0.78%, and Oman Telecom shedding 0.25%.

In contrast to the declines in the financial and services sectors, the Industrial sector managed a marginal gain, edging up by 0.05%. This slight positive performance was supported by gains in stocks such as Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles, which rose 3.25%, and Oman Flour Mills, advancing 4.10%. However, not all industrial stocks gained, as exemplified by Voltamp Energy, which declined by 1.04%.

OMANTEL ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Omantel Innovation Labs unveils seven startups for Cohort 5

MUSCAT: Omantel Innovation Labs unveiled the seven Omani startups chosen to join the fifth cohort of its prestigious Omantel Accelerator programme. This announcement marks a significant milestone in the Labs' ongoing mission to drive technological innovation and entrepreneurship within the Sultanate of Oman.

The selected startups underwent rigorous evaluation through bootcamps and in-depth interviews with industry experts, resulting in the selection of seven standout ventures. Each of these startups is pioneering innovation in cutting-edge fields, including AI, cybersecurity, and sustainability, and will receive tailored support to fast-track their success.

H.H. Ghada Al Said, Senior Manager of Omantel Innovation Labs, commented: "Congratulations to these remarkable startups for being selected as part of the Omantel Accelerator program. The selection process was intensive, and each of these startups has demonstrated the strength of their foundation by making it through. We are looking forward to working closely with them over the next few months to accelerate their solutions and provide them with some of the best international and local mentorship and support."

The seven selected startups are:

- AB Energy: AB Energy powers a greener future with advanced thermal sand storage and mobile solar innovations.



- EGAIEF: EGAIEF is an AI-powered platform that unifies communication channels and automates customer services to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and enable seamless digital experiences.
- Homam AI: Homam uses AI to help businesses find and win public tenders in the GCC with tools for opportunity matching, compliance tracking, market insights and competitor analysis.
- Massarah: Massarah platform connects guests with the best chalets and vacation rentals in Oman, offering secure and easy bookings for unforgettable stays.
- Octopus Cybersecurity: Octopus Cybersecurity is an advanced cybersecurity solution that automates configuration validation, analyzes operational changes in real time, remediate any deviation and generates security reports.

- Shift: A smart platform that seamlessly connects individuals with part-time work and helps businesses quickly and efficiently fill staffing gaps.
 - Walaa: Walaa supports businesses to create and manage their own loyalty programs effortlessly, allowing them to attract and retain customers through flexible and efficient digital solutions.
- Omantel Innovation Labs continues to serve as a dynamic hub for fostering startup growth and technological breakthroughs. By providing mentorship from local and international experts, strategic networking opportunities, and invaluable resources, the Labs strive to enrich the local startup ecosystem and create a pipeline of investments for the joint fund managed by Omantel Innovation Labs for Omantel and Future Fund Oman.

ADFIAP ANNUAL MEETING

Development Bank wins governance and social responsibility awards

MUSCAT: The 48th Annual Meeting of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), hosted by Oman, represented by the Development Bank (DB), from 23 to 25 April 2025 at the Mandarin Oriental Muscat, under the theme 'Economic Gardening and Development Impact,' stressed the importance of technological and community economic empowerment for development finance, with particular emphasis on economic gardening as a key driver of economic growth and a catalyst for enabling local businesses and innovations to thrive.

The Development Bank won two prestigious awards for governance and social responsibility as part of the ADFIAP Awards, among the most prominent regional and international awards that recognise outstanding financial institutions. The final day discussed several topics, such as empowering development finance institutions through technology for a sustainable future, highlighted by a main session on the Digital Clinic for the ADFIAPNET electronic platform. Discussions also addressed measuring success and the development impact of economic gardening, with emphasis placed on job creation, economic resilience, and increased local investment as key benchmarks for economic gardening initiatives.

Another panel discussion, titled 'Green Finance & Sustainability,' explored the role of green finance in addressing global sus-



tainability challenges. Several pioneering initiatives in green banking and sustainable banking practices were presented, showcasing the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into financial decision-making processes.

A separate session titled 'The People Factor: Building Entrepreneurial Communities' discussed the extent to which thriving business ecosystems depend on strong community networks, mentorship circles, and partnerships that connect private ventures with academic and governmental sectors. Business centres, such as the Special Economic Zone at Duqm were cited as potential catalysts for enhancing collaboration and innovation, with an emphasis that building and strengthening communities involves investing not only in companies but also in the individuals behind them.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Development Bank signed

a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the ADFIAP to explore and implement an initiative aimed at strengthening agricultural value chains through the 'SEED2MARKET' platform. The project, launched as a pilot in Oman, seeks to link farmers directly to markets, thereby contributing to improved food security and rural development.

The platform focuses on digitising agricultural supply chains to facilitate buying and selling transactions between farmers and consumers or traders, improving market access by enabling farmers to reach new markets, increasing opportunities to market their products, and providing accurate information on prices and demand to support informed decision-making.

It also contributes to sustainable development by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving livelihoods in rural communities.

MARKET

MoU signed to establish advanced water treatment facility in Oman

The first-of-its-kind facility in Oman in Al Rusayl Industrial City for manufacturing advanced water treatment and desalination membranes, which will cover 3,000 sqm area, represents a strategic move that supports the Oman's commitment to water security and environmental sustainability

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Gases Company, a leading player in the gas and energy sector in the Sultanate, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IonClear, a US-based technology company headquartered in Silicon Valley, California.

Signed under the auspices of Eng. Dawood bin Salim Al Hadabi,

CEO of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), the MoU aims to establish the first-of-its-kind facility in Oman in Al Rusayl Industrial City for manufacturing advanced water treatment and desalination membranes.

The plant, which will cover 3,000 sqm area, represents a strategic move that supports the Oman's commitment to water security and



environmental sustainability.

The partnership with IonClear, which is specialised in the production of Reverse Osmosis and Nanofiltration membranes, will introduce innovative technologies used in seawater and brackish water desalination. These membranes are also employed in key sectors such as power plants, chemical indus-

tries, and industrial water treatment, thereby enhancing Oman's capabilities in this key sector.

The MoU also aims to bring advanced technology to the Omani market and localise strategic industries that contribute to increasing the In-Country Value, hence aligning with Oman Vision 2040 and generating quality employ-

ment opportunities for the Omani youth, while positioning Oman as an ideal investment hub in the field of environmental manufacturing.

This project also comes along the lines of Oman's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality, by supporting clean energy and water industries and investing in advanced environmental solutions.

Established in 1983, Muscat Gases stands as a model of Omani industrial growth, having expanded its core activities to include clean energy projects such as LPG generators, gas recovery technologies, composite gas cylinders, self-service systems, and its new venture into water and environmental treatment industries.

ELECTRONIC PLATFORM

Dhamani qualified to compete for WSIS Prize

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dhamani electronic platform qualified to compete in the final phase of World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Prize.

Dhamani is a national integrated platform for exchange of data, information and claims related to health insurance between insurance companies and private healthcare institutions as well as linking private healthcare institutions. Dhamani platform is one of the key electronic projects of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) within its endeavors to achieve the objects of its strategic plan to upgrade the insurance

Dhamani was launched to ease access to health insurance services and enhance the principle of insurance inclusion

market in line with the national priorities of Oman Vision 2040 in digital transformation.

FSA calls on the citizens and residents to vote for Dhamani via the website www.itu.int/net4/wsis

isthe platform participates in the competition under the category (C7. E-government). Voting ends on April 30.

FSA emphasizes that its participation in the completion comes to highlight the key e-initiatives that aims to facilitate access to information and attracting investments besides representing the Sultanate of Oman in the international arena.

Dhamani was launched to ease access to health insurance services and enhance the principle of insurance inclusion. The platform proved its digital efficiency and efficacy during the trial phase as approximately 3 million transaction were conducted by insurance

MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

MEPs advocate gas storage refill flexibility to bring down prices

BRUSSELS: Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted a draft law that seeks to address speculation on the gas market and bring down prices, by introducing greater flexibility in rules on gas storage refilling.

The Industry, Research and Energy Committee has backed the European Commission proposal to extend the EU's 2022 gas storage scheme until 31 December 2027; it was otherwise set to end in 2025. The provision is designed to ensure security of gas supply ahead of the winter season.

This legislative proposal also provided MEPs with the oppor-

tunity to introduce a number of amendments to the existing regulation. These changes are aimed at easing tensions in the gas market partly generated by market anticipations stemming from the scheme's compulsory target of a 90% fill rate by 1 November each year.

To this end, MEPs propose reducing the filling target from 90% to 83% to help balance energy security with market-based principles and bring down gas prices. The target would have to be met at any point in time between 1 October and 1 December each year. -WAM

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Trump probe raises doubts over US role in IMF: World Bank

NEW YORK: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank rarely capture headlines outside periods of significant upheaval. A Google search for debt-laden Argentina, for instance, is as likely to bring up articles about IMF loans as it is to celebrate Lionel Messi's latest football triumph.

The IMF's latest \$20 billion (€17.4 billion) debt relief for Argentina, its largest debtor nation, was announced last week to help libertarian President Javier Milei continue reforming the South American country's economy after decades of wasteful spending.

However, the World Bank's work tends to fly under the radar. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it quietly delivered \$170 billion in loans and grants to over 100 countries, according to its website, reaching some 70% of the world's population.

As the IMF and World Bank convene for their Spring Meetings in Washington, DC, from Thursday, they face significant uncertainty. First, US President Donald Trump's tariff policy is threatening to derail global economic growth. Second, the future of the United States backing of these organizations is up for question.

Project 2025's push to exit IMF, World Bank

Speculation has been rife since Project 2025, a hard-right Republican policy framework tied to Trump's second term, proposed a US withdrawal from both institutions, labeling them "expensive middlemen" that redirect US funds globally.

Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization, coupled with an order in February to review all US-funded international organizations within 180 days, has further fueled concerns about the US's future involvement in the IMF and World Bank. The White House has yet to name executive directors to both bodies, signaling a deliberate pause in engagement.



The US has, however, reaped substantial benefits from these institutions, both economically and through soft power projection. With the largest voting share in both the IMF and World Bank, the US has effective veto power over major decisions. Loans to indebted nations often come with conditions like market liberalization that align with US interests.

Robert Wade, a professor of political economy at the London School of Economics (LSE), thinks a US withdrawal would have serious implications for its global standing.

"Successive US administrations and Congress have long operated as if the World Bank and IMF were agents or arms of the US state," Wade told DW. "In one way or another, Washington exercises a great deal of influence over their policies."

Tariffs unsettle investors, but is worse to come?

Trump's century-high tariffs, announced earlier this month, created significant uncertainty in the global economy, with stock markets selling off sharply. Critics now fear an inward-looking Trump administration could unravel the entire post-Bretton Woods global financial system, which supports trade and stability through floating exchange rates, the US dollar's dominance and institutions like the IMF and World Bank.

"The Trump administration does not have a coherent position about reforms to the World Bank,

IMF, or any other international institution," Constantin Gurdgiev, an associate professor of finance at the University of Northern Colorado, told DW. "This is a transactional populist, inwardly focused agenda of scoring quick wins at the expense of the international system."

Any US withdrawal may create an immediate liquidity crisis for the IMF and World Bank, whose combined \$1.5 trillion in resources depend heavily on US contributions. Gurdgiev forecast a "significant impact" on their ability to fund effective responses to future crises and said a US pullout would be a strategic gift to China, which has already invested heavily to expand its global influence.

"Both institutions are extremely cost-effective for the US and help it to deliver on its longer-term agenda of pairing the risks from countries like China," Gurdgiev said.

How might Trump negotiate a better deal?

"Trump could argue, 'Increase your funding, and you'll gain a larger vote share,'" Wade said of the US president's possible negotiation tactic. "It's more likely that the US would make at least a serious threat to leave the World Bank [rather than the IMF]."

While regional banks like the Asian Development Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank could partially fill the World Bank's role, alternatives to the IMF are scarce. BRICS efforts to create an IMF counterpart have stalled. -DW

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Muscat International Book Fair celebrates culture and diversity

The 29th Muscat International Book Fair at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre brings together 674 publishing houses from 35 countries, showcasing more than 681,000 titles and a vibrant programme of cultural and literary events under the theme “Cultural Diversity: Enriching Civilisations”

MUSCAT: The 29th edition of the Muscat International Book Fair kicked off on Thursday at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) under the auspices of HH Sayyid Dr. Fahd Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). The opening ceremony was attended by Sheikh Dr. Sultan Mohammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, along with Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information and Chairman of the Main Committee of the Muscat International Book Fair.

Following the inauguration, the chief guest toured the exhibition pavilions, which showcase an impressive array of cultural, intellectual, and scientific works.

This year's fair features a staggering 681,041 listed publications — including 467,413 Arabic books and 213,610 foreign titles.

The Omani collection alone accounts for 27,464 books, with newly printed works from 2024–2025 numbering 52,205 titles.

The exhibition also offers vibrant spaces for children's and family activities, an events stage, workshops, an Arabic language corner, and a children's culture section.

A total of 155 events are scheduled, including interactive shows, youth initiatives, puppet performances, and several cultural cafés set up by participating pavilions.

The North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, this year's Guest of Honour, has a dedicated pavilion showcasing the governorate's culture, history, key figures, scientific achievements, tourist attractions, and modern lifestyle.

Mahmoud Yahya Al Dhahli, Governor of North Al Sharqiyah, described the participation as a significant cultural milestone.

He noted that the pavilion includes an AI-powered platform to promote the region, alongside a children's corner celebrating Omani identity.

Fifteen diverse events — covering literature, sports, education, and tourism — are being organised as part of the governorate's programme.

The Ministry of Information is participating with four pavilions representing the Oman News Agency (ONA), the General Di-

rectorate of Digital Media (Ayn Platform and Media Portal), the General Directorate of Publications and Artistic Works, and the General Directorate of External Media (Media Centre).

Ibrahim Saad Bishan, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Sultanate of Oman, highlighted the Kingdom's participation through 38 publishing houses under the Saudi Cultural Days initiative.

Several cultural events are planned to celebrate the strong Omani-Saudi relations, in line with the goals of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council.

Ahmed Saud Al Rawahi, Director of the Muscat International Book Fair, said this year's edition themed “Cultural Diversity: Enriching Civilisations,” aims to attract global cultural figures and foster international dialogue.

He praised the distinguished presence of Sheikh Dr. Sultan Mohammad Al Qasimi, who also launched his monumental book “The Portuguese in the Sea of Oman: Events in Annals from 1497 to 1757” during the fair.

Fadhil Hussein Ahmed, representing the Sharjah Pavilion, explained that the 21-volume Arabic and English work spans over 10,500 pages, offering a comprehensive political, economic, religious, and social account of the Portuguese era in Oman, serving as an essential reference for researchers.

Regional participation is strong, with Qatar represented by four publishing houses. Jassim Ahmed, Director of Libraries at Qatar's Ministry of Culture, said the participation aims to strengthen cultural ties with Oman and promote Qatari intellectual output.

Khalifa Al Rabah, Director of Book Exhibits at Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, underlined the exhibition's regional significance, particularly as Kuwait prepares to be the 2025 Arab Capital of Culture and Media.

This year, the Muscat International Book Fair hosts 674 publishing houses from 35 countries, including 640 direct participants and 34 represented by agents, solidifying its position as one of the region's most significant literary and cultural gatherings. -ONA



SAYYID BADR AL BUSAIDI ATTENDS THE EVENT

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Abbas Araghchi signs copies of his book at Muscat Book Fair

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Abbas Araghchi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, signed copies of his book “The Power of Negotiation” at the Luban Publishing House pavilion during the 29th Muscat International Book Fair.

The event was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman, and Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information and Chairman of the Book Fair's Organising Committee.

Published by Hashem Publishing House in Beirut and translated by Dr. Fatemeh Mohammadi Sijani, “The Power of Negotiation” features an introduction and six comprehensive sections. It examines the nature of negotiations, types of political negotiation, traits and skills of negotiators, as well as the stages and requirements for successful negotiations.



During his visit, Dr. Araghchi toured several pavilions across the fair, including the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate's pavilion, the Guest of Honour this year.

At the Oman's Ministry of Information's pavilion, Dr. Araghchi explored an impressive display of digital content from the

Oman News Agency, including an AI-powered virtual exhibition and archival photographs—ranging from historical images of Salalah Port and Ain Al Khasfa to the Ministry's oldest documented photo predating the 1970s.

He also reviewed the offerings of the General Directorate of Electronic Media, includ-

ing the Ain platform, Ain Kids platform, and the Media Portal, housing over 65,000 audiovisual materials and 60 audiobooks—showcasing the Ministry's digital transformation efforts.

At the General Directorate of Publications and Artistic Works section, Dr. Araghchi viewed the multilingual book “The Omani Presence in East Africa” (available in Arabic, English, and Swahili), which chronicles Oman's historical role along Africa's eastern coasts. The section also featured a model of the House of Wonders, built during the reign of Sultan Barghash bin Said in 1883.

Dr. Araghchi later visited the Iranian Books and Literature pavilion to explore the latest literary releases from Iran, before stopping by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's pavilion to review its collection of manuscripts and prominent works, reflecting the diverse cultural contributions at this year's fair.



HERE are evenings that feed the appetite — and then there are evenings that feed the soul.

At Shangri-La Al Husn's exquisite "Tales of Morocco," running from April 23 to May 1, the senses are transported straight to the heart of North Africa, where the air is heavy with the perfume of spices, the music is a living, breathing presence, and every dish tells a story centuries in the making.

Stepping into the warm glow of Al Husn's refined interiors, the evening began with the gentle pulse of traditional Moroccan music winding through the air — drums, ouds, and a low hum of anticipation. The restaurant transformed for the week-long pop-up, shimmered under soft lantern light, with rich fabrics and intricate patterns whispering hints of faraway souks and hidden courtyards.

The atmosphere was poised, elegant, and filled with a promise of discovery with media persons and influencers all invited for an exclusive experience.

At the centre of it all stood Chef Mansour Benali, a Casablanca native whose reputation for soulful Moroccan cuisine preceded him. Smiling warmly, he personally introduced each course to a select gathering of guests — a rare touch that immediately deepened the in-



timacy of the evening. His food was not merely served; it was narrated, layered with tales of family kitchens, bustling medinas, and festive Moroccan feasts.

The specially curated set menu, offered at OMR 29 net per person, opened with a selection of traditional starters:

Delicate Briouats — flaky pastry parcels filled with spiced meat and vegetables; refreshing Zaalouk, a smoky eggplant and tomato salad dressed with olive oil; and Maakouda, crispy Moroccan potato cakes seasoned with cumin and herbs.

Each bite was vivid and textured, building a tapestry of flavours that hinted at the complexity of the courses to come.

As we sat down at the large table, a hearty serving of Harira soup followed — a comforting blend of tomatoes, lentils, chickpeas, and fragrant spices, thick enough to satisfy yet bright with the zest of fresh

A SPELLBINDING CULINARY JOURNEY AT SHANGRI-LA AL HUSN

The spirit of Morocco has taken residence — not just on the plate, but in the air, the music, the rhythm of celebration at Shangri-La Al Husn. Tales of Morocco, a week-long culinary showcase running from April 23 to May 1, transforms the luxurious clifftop resort into a scene lifted from a Moroccan evening — rich with spices, storytelling, soulful dishes, and the graceful sway of live belly dancing.



As the courses flowed and conversation bloomed, the rhythmic cadence of drums grew stronger — heralding the arrival of a graceful belly dancer who wove through the tables with fluid elegance. Her presence was not a performance apart but a natural extension of the night's festivities — vibrant, joyful, and magnetic.

The swish of her costume, the shimmer of her movements under the light, brought an added layer of authenticity and wonder to the dining experience.

In a world often driven by speed and immediacy, Tales of Morocco offered a rare invitation to linger — to savour, to listen, to celebrate.

Every element, from the soulful food to the evocative music and celebratory dancing, came together seamlessly to craft an experience that was not just about Moroccan cuisine, but about the very spirit of Morocco itself.

Tales of Morocco continues at Shangri-La Al Husn until May 1, from 7pm to 10.30pm each evening, exclusively for guests aged 13 and above. Advance booking is highly recommended for those ready to lose themselves in an unforgettable Moroccan night — where every moment is an invitation to journey deeper into flavour, culture, and celebration.

herbs and a squeeze of lemon. A dish long associated with Ramadan evenings, Harira arrived at the table as a soulful embrace, its aroma perfuming the room even before the bowl touched the linen.

The mains were a celebration of Morocco's love affair with slow cooking and bold spices.

Guests could choose between Chef Mansour's signature lamb tagine or a chicken tagine, both prepared with reverence for traditional techniques.

The lamb tagine — my choice for the evening — arrived bubbling in a classic earthenware pot, its tender meat falling effortlessly from the bone, steeped in a rich sauce laced with saffron, apricots, and almonds. Alongside, a bed of airy, buttered couscous offered the perfect vessel for soaking up the vibrant juices, each mouthful a marriage of savoury and sweet.

Vegetarians were not left behind;

a delightful vegetable tagine option was available, bringing together seasonal produce with warming Ras el Hanout spices — a masterful blend that Chef Mansour explained was unique to every Moroccan household.

No Moroccan meal is complete without a touch of indulgence, and the evening's finale was a masterpiece. Mhencha, the traditional Moroccan pastry shaped like a coiled snake, was served — delicate layers of filo dough wrapped around a sumptuous almond and orange blossom filling, dusted lightly with powdered sugar. A freshly poured glass of Moroccan mint tea accompanied the dessert, its bright, cooling notes cutting through the richness and providing a perfect conclusion.

Throughout the evening, the experience was elevated by bursts of live entertainment that captured the spirit of Moroccan celebrations.

Russia, Ukraine ‘very close to a deal,’ says US President Trump

On Thursday, Trump issued a rare rebuke for Putin, calling on him to “STOP!” after Russian strikes on Kyiv that killed 12 people and injured 87 others



NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump has once again promised that Moscow and Kyiv were “very close” to a US-sponsored deal, a goal that has thus far eluded his administration since his inauguration in January.

“A good day in talks and meetings with Russia and Ukraine,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. “They are very close to a deal, and the two sides should now meet, at very high levels, to ‘finish it off.’”

The US president added that most of the major points had been agreed on.

Following talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Trump’s envoy Steve Witkoff earlier in Moscow, the Kremlin said

the pair discussed the possibility of “direct” talks between Russia and Ukraine. Vowing to help facilitate an end to the war, Trump also wrote: “Stop the bloodshed, NOW.”

On Thursday, Trump issued a rare rebuke for Putin, calling on him to “STOP!” after Russian overnight strikes on Kyiv that killed 12 people and injured 87 others.

Trump demands Zelenskyy ‘immediately’ sign contentious minerals deal

US President Donald Trump on Friday posted a statement to his social media platform Truth Social hammering Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for not yet signing a controversial mineral deal with the US, claiming, “it is at least three weeks late.”

Trump, who has been pressuring Ukraine to grant the US access to critical rare earths for having helped Kyiv defend itself against an ongoing Russian invasion, wrote, “Ukraine, headed by Volo-

dymyr Zelenskyy, has not signed the final papers on the very important rare earths deal with the United States.”

The statement was posted as Trump travelled to Rome for the funeral of Pope Francis.

Although both Washington and Kyiv signed a memorandum of understanding last week for a final agreement to be signed on April 26, the deal has yet to be inked.

Trump has been trying to strong arm Zelenskyy into signing the deal as repayment for past assistance as well as claiming that Ukraine’s best bet for future US security assistance would be to give the US access to the highly valuable raw materials, which are absolutely key to high-tech industries.

The White House has repeatedly claimed that a deal was imminent, despite Ukraine’s reservations.

The most vivid illustration of just how touchy negotiations on the deal are came in late February when Zelenskyy was very publicly

dressed down by Trump and US Vice President JD Vance during an Oval Office press conference that ended with Zelenskyy being ordered to leave for not acquiescing to US demands.

Putin meets US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff

Russian President Vladimir Putin, met with US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff at the Kremlin, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Russia shared on Friday.

In a post on X by the MFA, it was noted that the members on the Russian side included Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov and Kirill Dmitriev, who is President Putin’s Special Envoy for investment and economic cooperation and the CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund. Citing a senior Kremlin aide, CNN reported that the meeting between the two discussed the possibility of resuming direct negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.. -Agencies

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

UNSC strongly condemns J-K terror attack, calls for justice

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has issued a strong condemnation of the recent terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on 22 April, which left at least 26 dead and scores injured.

In a press statement released on 25 April, the Council’s President, Jerome Bonnafont of France, expressed deep solidarity with the victims’ families and the governments of India and Nepal, while also wishing a swift recovery for the injured. The attack, described as a “reprehensible act of terrorism,” has drawn global outrage, with the UNSC emphasizing the urgent need to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms remains one of the gravest threats to global peace and security. The statement highlighted the indiscriminate nature of such violence, stressing



that no ideology or motive justifies the targeting of innocent civilians. The UNSC’s unified stance reflects growing international concern over escalating terrorist activities in conflict-prone regions, with Jammu and Kashmir remaining a focal point of instability.

Emphasizing accountability, the UNSC called for decisive action against those responsible—including perpetrators, organizers, finan-

ciers, and sponsors of the attack. The statement urged all nations to cooperate under international law and existing Security Council resolutions to ensure justice is served.

This includes sharing intelligence, extraditing suspects, and cutting off financial support to terrorist networks. The Council’s demand for accountability aligns with broader counter-terrorism efforts, reinforcing the principle

that impunity for such crimes cannot be tolerated.

The statement also reiterated that terrorism is unjustifiable under any circumstances, regardless of political, ideological, or religious motivations. The UNSC stressed the importance of a comprehensive approach, urging member states to combat terrorism within the framework of international law, including human rights and humanitarian obligations.

By referencing the UN Charter, the Council underscored the necessity of lawful and coordinated measures to address security threats while safeguarding fundamental freedoms.

The attack in Jammu and Kashmir has further intensified calls for global solidarity against terrorism, with the UNSC’s response serving as a reminder of the collective responsibility to prevent such atrocities. -ANI

TERROR ATTACK

We stand in solidarity with India: Gabbard

WASHINGTON DC : US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard on Friday affirmed her support to India after the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam.

Gabbard affirmed her support to India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in hunting the perpetrators down.

In a post on X, she said, “We stand in solidarity with India in the wake of the horrific Islamist terrorist attack, targeting and killing 26 Hindus in Pahalgam. My prayers and deepest sympathies are with those who lost a loved one, PM Narendra Modi, and with all the people of India. We are with you and support you as you hunt down those responsible for this heinous attack.”

Earlier in the day, US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce shunned a Pakistani journalist’s questioning over India-Pakistan border tensions following the terrorist attack in Jammu

and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22, which claimed the lives of 26 people while several others were injured.

When asked about the border tensions between India and Pakistan during the press briefing on Thursday (local time), Bruce responded, “I am not going to be remarking on it. I appreciate this, and perhaps, we will come back to you with another subject. I will say nothing more on that situation. The President and the Secretary have said things, as have the deputy secretary; they have made their positions clear. I will not continue with something of that manner.”

On April 23, US President Donald Trump affirmed his support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the victims of terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on Tuesday. Trump said he stood with India in its fight against terrorism. -ANI

IN GAZA

FBI arrests judge for ‘obstruction’ in immigration process

WASHINGTON, DC: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on Friday arrested a Milwaukee County Circuit judge and charged her in federal court for allegedly helping an undocumented immigrant avoid arrest, CNN reported.

Judge Hannah Dugan is facing two charges for hindering and concealing the person from arrest. She appeared in court initially and was released.

The arrest on federal charges is an escalation in the Trump administration’s attention on the conduct of judges, especially as it

is connected to immigration enforcement.

The Justice Department has repeatedly said that it will carry out an investigation against local officials who do not assist federal authorities on immigration matters.

FBI Director Kash Patel said that the FBI arrested Judge Dugan as they believe that she intentionally misdirected federal agents away from the subject to be arrested in her courthouse, Eduardo Flores Ruiz, allowing the subject -- an illegal alien -- to evade arrest.” -ANI

struction caused increased danger to the public, CNN reported.

In a post on X, Patel stated, “Just NOW, the FBI arrested Judge Hannah Dugan out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on charges of obstruction -- after evidence of Judge Dugan obstructing an immigration arrest operation last week.

“We believe Judge Dugan intentionally misdirected federal agents away from the subject to be arrested in her courthouse, Eduardo Flores Ruiz, allowing the subject -- an illegal alien -- to evade arrest.” -ANI



MOSCOW

Russian general killed in car blast

MOSCOW: The Deputy Chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Yaroslav Moskalik, died in a car explosion in Balashikha near Moscow on Friday, TASS reported, citing Russian Investigative Committee Spokeswoman Svetlana Petrenko.

An improvised explosive device caused the blast, and an investigation is being conducted. The explosion occurred near building number 2 at Nesterova Boulevard in Balashikha. -ANI

PUBLIC MOURNING

Pope Francis’ funeral concludes at St Peter’s Basilica

VATICAN: The funeral mass of Pope Francis, who passed away on Monday, concluded at St. Peter’s Square on Saturday with the bells of St. Peter’s Basilica tolling to signal the end of the 2 hours and 10 minutes long service.

Large crowds lined up along Rome’s streets to pay their respects to Pope Francis as the white popemobile carrying his coffin made its way across the Vatican flanked by motorbikes on its way to the pope’s final resting place, a place of his choosing.

Pope Francis’ coffin was transported across the River Tiber to the fifth-century church in Rome, the Basilica di Santa Maria Magiore, where bells tolled ahead of the arrival of the pontiff’s body. The Basilica of Saint Mary Major in was a place that the pope visited frequently throughout his 12-year papacy.

The coffin of Pope Francis passed by the Colosseum, one of the historical sites of the Italian capital.

Earlier as the pallbearers lifted his coffin and took it back into



St Peter’s Basilica as per CNN, the crowd - mostly hushed for the two-hour service- burst into applause.

The coffin was carried in the open-topped popemobile that the pope used during his 2015 trip to the Philippines.

The Vatican said in a statement,

“The competent authority informs us that, while the funeral of Pope Francis has ended, more than 250,000 people are present.”

The service concluded with the Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Magnificat.

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my

Saviour,” the choir chanted.

Pope Francis’ coffin has been carried through the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica for a final time. The bells tolled slowly as the coffin approached the main altar of the basilica.

The funeral began on Saturday with an elaborate set of rituals at

the square, six days after where Francis made his final public appearance for Easter.

According to an earlier report by the CNN, around 2,00,000 people descended on St. Peter’s Square, the Vatican said, to mark the death of Pope Francis - the first Latin American pontiff. Among those are 130 delegations, including world leaders and reigning monarch.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, one of the most senior figures in the Catholic Church, conducted the service. The 91-year-old honored Francis’ ability to lead with “an open heart towards everyone” in his sermon, describing him as a “pope among the people.”

In his homily at the funeral the 91-year-old prelate stressed that Pope Francis during his 12-year papacy had been “attentive to the signs of the times and what the Holy Spirit was awakening in the Church”.

“Rich in human warmth and deeply sensitive to today’s challenges, Pope Francis truly shared the anxieties, sufferings and hopes of this time,” Cardinal Battista Re

said, adding that the late pontiff touched people’s hearts “in a direct and immediate way”.

He also cited a key document written by Francis a decade ago on climate change and visits by the pope to the Mediterranean islands of Lampedusa and Lesbos, where he met migrants and refugees in detention camps.

He also suggested the cardinals electing the next pope might take a lesson from the some 250,000 people who paid their final respects to Francis in St Peter’s Basilica in the three days before the funeral.

“The outpouring of affection that we have witnessed in recent days following his passing from this earth into eternity tells us how much the profound pontificate of Pope Francis touched minds and hearts,” Cardinal Battista Re said.

Pope Francis died at the age of 88 after suffering a stroke on Easter Monday, just one day after he appeared in the same square to offer a blessing to the faithful at the high point of the Christian calendar, CNN reported. -ANI

ROUND-UP

Sohar Islamic reaffirms commitment to community-centric values as main sponsor of Haj and Umrah Exhibition

This initiative reflects the bank’s steadfast dedication to supporting platforms that catalyse service innovation and foster community engagement while strengthening collaboration across the Haj and Umrah value chain

MUSCAT: In a continued demonstration of its purpose-driven banking ethos, Sohar Islamic, the Islamic banking window of Sohar International, served as the main sponsor of the Haj and Umrah Exhibition, held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

Organised by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, the three-day event brought together key stakeholders, including government entities, private sector representatives, and Haj and Umrah service providers, creating a dynamic platform for collaboration and dialogue. This initiative reflects the bank's steadfast dedication to supporting platforms that catalyse service

innovation and foster community engagement while strengthening collaboration across the Haj and Umrah value chain.

Speaking on the bank's initiative, Abdulwahid Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, “In today's financial landscape, meaningful impact arises from a purposeful alignment with the evolving aspirations of the communities we serve. Supporting the Hajj and Umrah Exhibition is not just an act of sponsorship but a strategic engagement that reflects our ongoing commitment to responsible growth, sector-wide collaboration, and sustainable value creation. The platform serves as an



important convergence point for stakeholders, enabling dialogue, fostering transparency, and accelerating innovation across the Hajj and Umrah ecosystem.”

As part of its active involvement in the exhibition, Sohar Islamic also showcased a robust portfolio of financial products and services designed to elevate the pilgrimage

experience for travelers. Among the key offerings was Murabaha Financing, a Sharia-compliant solution that enables customers to secure the necessary funding for

Hajj-related expenses through a transparent mechanism. Sohar Islamic is extending bespoke financing solutions to Omani Hajj and Umrah operators, including the financing of buses and provision of working capital. These solutions are intended to empower service providers to secure travel and accommodation arrangements in advance, thereby ensuring efficient and streamlined logistics for pilgrim groups.

The Haj and Umrah Exhibition 2025 served as a dynamic platform to unite stakeholders, foster healthy competition, and drive innovation across the sector. Through its active participation, Sohar Islamic reaffirmed its role as a strategic financial partner—facilitating transparent service delivery, enabling informed decision-making, and contributing to the ongoing evolution of services within the ecosystem. The event also witnessed the signing of key cooperation agreements and featured a range of insightful programs spanning history, culture, and knowledge-sharing. Initiatives such as these underscore Sohar Islamic's commitment to supporting platforms that inspire progress, strengthen partnerships, and create lasting value for the wider community.

EUROPCAR

SEAMLESS USER EXPERIENCE



Oman Internship Fair brings together over 60 companies, 300 interns and five NGOs

MUSCAT: The Oman Internship Fair 2025 was presented on 21 April at the Diplomatic Club by Europcar, powered by Oman American Business Council (OABC), in partnership with The Diplomatic Club, Strategic partners the British Business Forum (BBF) and the Indo Gulf and Middle East Chamber of Commerce(INMECC), and supported by Crowe, in collaboration with the Arab Open University, German University of Technology, and Majan University College.

The landmark event brought together over 60 leading companies, 300 aspiring interns, and 5 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for a day of professional networking and career exploration. In its first edition, the fair provided a dynamic platform that forged new pathways for Omani youth to engage directly with potential employers and discover internship opportunities across various industries.

Advisory board comprising distinguished leaders from industry and academia played a pivotal role in shaping the fair's program and ensuring its relevance to both students and employers. The advisory board members included:

Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europcar Oman & Bahrain

Rebecca Olson, CEO of OABC

Charm Majolica, Director of The Diplomatic Club

Maggie Jeans OBE, Founder Director of BBF

Davis Kallukaran, Director of INMECC and Managing Partner of Crowe

Dr. Kabaly Subramanian, Dean Faculty of Business Studies, Arab Open University

Dr. Fatma El Madkouri, Head of Registration & Student Affairs, GUtech

Dr. Ramalingam Dharmalingam, Asst. Professor Faculty of IT, Majan University Collage

The fair offered a rare opportunity to meet prospective employers and explore real-world career pathways. Participating businesses – spanning sectors from finance and technology to tourism and engineering – showcased structured internship programs and were able to identify promising talent early. The inclusion of five NGOs underscored the broader community's commitment to youth development, highlighting avenues for social impact careers alongside corporate opportunities. Together, the diverse participants created an energetic environment of mentorship, professional growth, and community engagement aimed at empowering Oman's next generation of leaders.



Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europcar Oman & Bahrain, underlined the company's commitment to youth empowerment and professional development. “At Europcar, we actively hire young talent and believe in their long-term value – not just for our business, but for Oman. We wanted to do something meaningful for the country, so we brought this idea forward and invited business groups to join us. Internships are a practical way for companies to give back while discovering future talent,” said Sapre.

Rebecca Olson, CEO of OABC, highlighted OABC's role in connecting students with industry. “OABC's member companies were thrilled to meet so many talented future employees at the internship fair. It was a win win for all attendees and a great chance to connect face to face with other employers as well,” Olson stated.

Charm Majolica, Director of The Diplomatic Club, reflected on the venue's mission to host transformative, community-impacting events. “We are honored to host this impactful event and support initiatives that build bridges between education and industry,” noted Majolica.

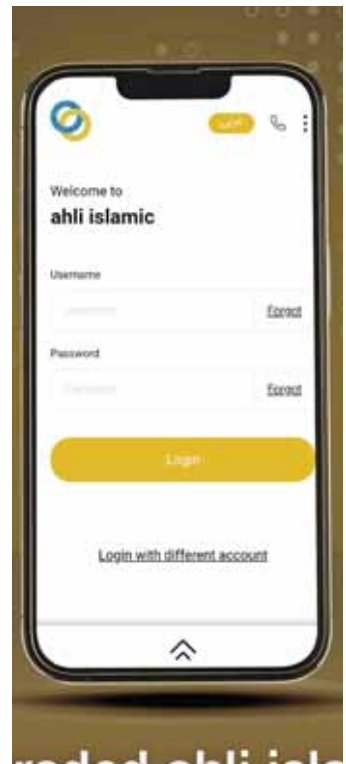
Maggie Jeans OBE, Founding Director of BBF, spoke on the importance of nurturing young tal-

ahli islamic upgrades its mobile banking app

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to provide its clients the latest, most intuitive solutions, ahli islamic, a pioneer in Islamic banking in the Sultanate of Oman, introduced its newly enhanced mobile banking app, designed to deliver an improved and seamless user experience.

Featuring a fully redesigned interface, the app offers a modern look and innate navigation, allowing customers to personalize their banking journey with customizable options.

With enhanced payment and transfer capabilities, users can now pay multiple bills at once and access recent transactions effortlessly. The revamped app reflects ahliislamic's commitment to innovation, ensuring greater convenience, efficiency, and control for its customers.



Upon the launch of the newly upgraded mobile banking app, Noora Sultan - AGM - Head of Retail Banking at ahli islamic said: “At ahli islamic, we recognize that digital transformation is integral to delivering a seamless and modern banking experience.

The newly enhanced mobile banking app, fashioned with an array of customizable options, offers a user-friendly experience tailored to individual preferences. Additionally, the enhanced payment and transfer capabilities allow customers to manage multiple transactions effortlessly, making everyday banking more efficient than ever.”

ahliislamic remains committed to redefining the digital banking experience by integrating innovation into its services. The newly enhanced app reflects this dedication, as it is hassle-free and very user-friendly. With advanced payment and transfer capabilities, customers can now manage multiple transactions in a timely manner.

“As we move forward, ahliisl-

amic remains dedicated to redefining digital Islamic banking in the Sultanate, ensuring that our customers experience convenience at every step.

“Henceforth, we aspire to deliver the best to the people of Oman, as exemplified by our technological feats and endeavors,” she added.

By continuously evolving to meet the dynamic needs of its clients, ahli islamic reinforces its role as a leader in Sharia-compliant digital banking.

The upgraded app stands as a testament to its unwavering commitment to technological advancement.

As ahli islamic moves forward, it promises to continue delivering cutting-edge services that enhance customer experiences and set new benchmarks for banking prowess in the Islamic banking scene.

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