

Times

OF OMAN

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50

YEARS OF
LEGACY



Founded 1975 · Volume 50 No. 131 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



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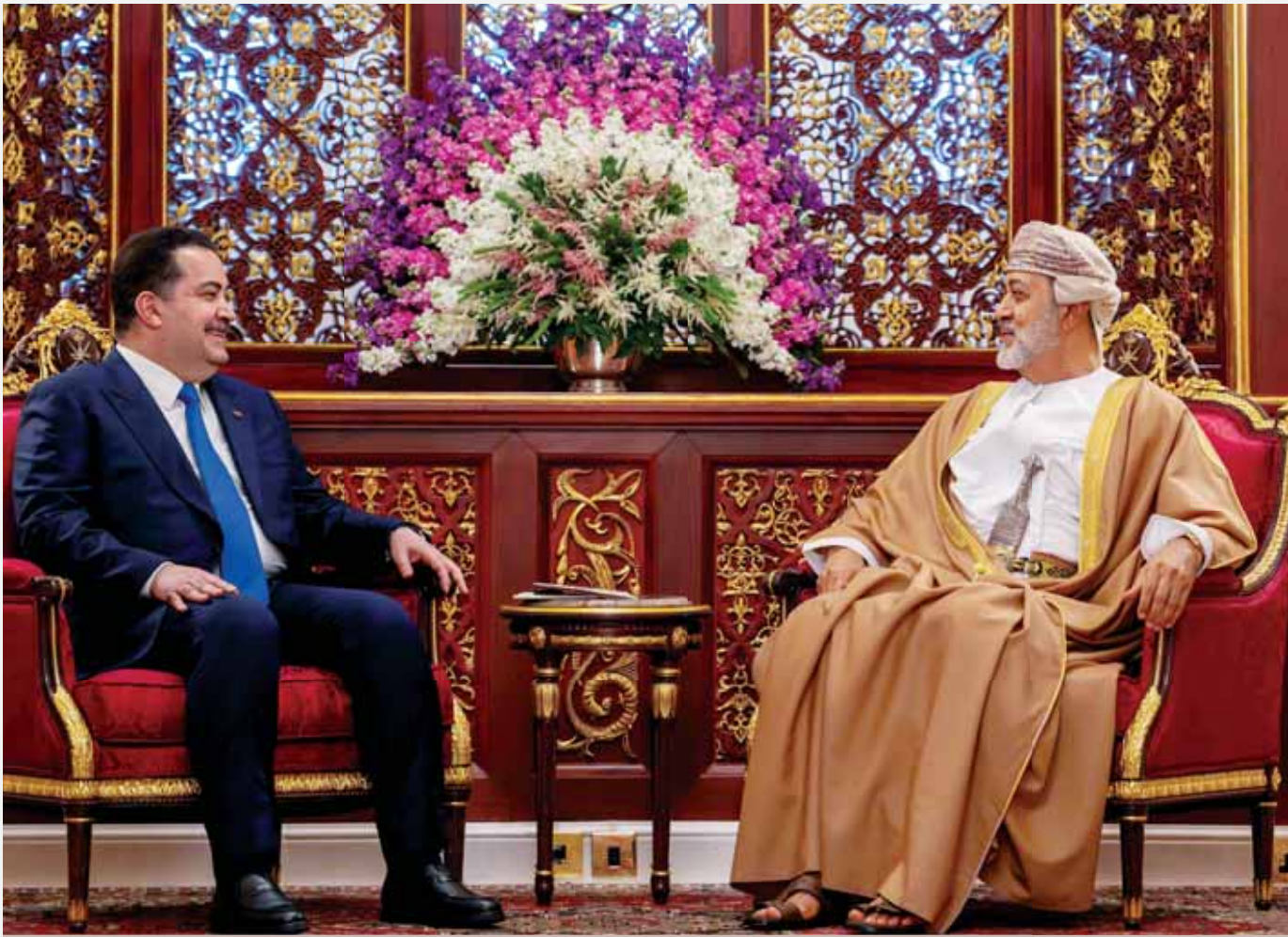
ROYAL DIRECTIVES ALLOCATE OMR1 MILLION TO HEALTH MINISTRY FOR TREATMENT OF ZAKAT-ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

The initiative seeks to bridge healthcare gaps and expedite access to medical services across all segments of society

MUSCAT: Within the context of the Royal attention to reinforcing social solidarity, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik gave his Royal directives to allocate OMR1 million to the Ministry of Health through the Waqf Health Foundation "Athar" to facilitate treatment for Zakat-eligible individuals in private healthcare institutions. These directives aim to support those eligible for Zakat, strengthen the spirit of communal participation—a deeply rooted value in Omani society—and emphasise the importance of solidarity, generosity, and enhancing quality of life. The initiative also seeks to bridge healthcare gaps and expedite access to medical services across all segments of society. Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, expressed gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for the unwavering support and care accorded to the healthcare sector in the Sultanate of Oman. He emphasised that these wise directives reflect His Majesty's insightful vision and steadfast dedication to achieving sustainable development across all fields, particularly in health. He noted that the Royal directives will enable Zakat-eligible individuals to receive guaranteed treatment in private healthcare facilities, opening doors to medical care and offering them hope and reassurance for recovery. He stressed the commitment to ensuring that this aid reaches its beneficiaries with fairness and transparency, restoring health, re-

newing hope, and fostering family well-being. He described the initiative as a humanitarian message that embodies the true essence of Zakat—a support system for people, an extended hand of mercy, and a bridge between generosity and healing. Dr. Mohammed Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, praised the Royal directives, stating that the "Treatment for Zakat-Eligible Individuals" initiative—providing healthcare to Zakat-eligible groups through the private sector in coordination between the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Health—represents a noble gesture embodying His Majesty's continuous care and generosity toward the citizens of Oman. This initiative elevates social solidarity and prioritises citizen health as a key focus of development and community building. He said that safeguarding human dignity is among the greatest objectives of Islam, and the duty of Zakat is intrinsically linked to this noble purpose. Zakat, he said, has always been and will remain a bridge of solidarity, a source of care, and an embodiment of compassion and mercy among people. The minister called on society, including institutions and individuals, to support these blessed efforts and contribute to their sustainability, ensuring that the "Zakat-Eligible Initiative" remains a renewed source of giving in the community and a pillar of social solidarity. Meanwhile, Dr. Sami Sulaiman Al Farsi, Director General of the National Center for Women and Children's Health, stated that the Royal directives reflect a forward-looking vision that impacts family stability by supporting Zakat-eligible individuals in accessing appropriate treatment. This initiative, he affirmed, enhances societal welfare, improves quality of life, provides necessary healthcare, and builds bridges of trust between community members and institutions committed to service delivery. **>A7**

HM gives audience to Prime Minister of Iraq



SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik gave an audience at Al Hosn Palace in Salalah yesterday to Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq. The audience took place within the context of the Iraqi PM's current two-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. His Majesty the Sultan and the guest also held an official session of talks. The session reviewed aspects

of cooperation and partnership between the two countries in various spheres, particularly in the fields of energy and investment. It also touched on means of promoting cooperation in a manner that serves interests of the Omani and Iraqi peoples. The talks session was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister

of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Eng. Said bin

Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (Head of the Mission of Honour), Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Sheikh Mahmoud bin Muhanna Al Kharousi, Charge d'Affaires of the Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in the Republic of Iraq. **>A3**

Oman committed to protection of children

GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman has reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to supporting children's issues and strengthening its partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In its statement during the opening session of the Executive Board of UNICEF, Oman emphasised the importance of continuing close cooperation to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and enhancing the protection and well-being of children worldwide. Oman clarified that this co-operation is embodied in the implementation of the Country Programme for the period (2026–2030), which reflects the priorities of the upcoming phase within the framework of "Oman Vision 2040" and the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan. The programme is grounded in



Oman's commitments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The programme places special emphasis on expanding early childhood services and education, supporting adolescents and youth by enhancing their skills and

broadening opportunities for their active participation in society, as well as focusing on social inclusion and the protection of vulnerable groups, particularly children with disabilities. Additionally, it aims to improve the quality of health and educational services and entrench the

principles of justice and equality. Oman also welcomed UNICEF's Strategic Plan for the period (2026–2029), which places children at the heart of the United Nations' work. Oman stressed the importance of enhancing their protection in conflict zones and expanding the scope of effective partnerships to contribute to sustainable development and ensure a fairer and safer future for children worldwide. In conclusion, Oman expressed deep concern regarding the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the severe famine and acute shortage of basic needs faced by children. It called on the international community to take urgent measures to ensure the protection of civilians, especially children, and to uphold the principles of international law. **>A1**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman's seas host 18 unique species

1 A research study conducted by Sultan Qaboos University has identified more than 400 species of seaweed in Oman's seas, 18 of which are unique to the country. Most of these species are found in the Dhofar Governorate. **>A4**

WORLD 40 Palestinians killed in Gaza bombing

2 The death toll from the Israeli bombing on the Gaza Strip since yesterday dawn has risen to 40. **>B5**

SPORTS Alcaraz, Djokovic into US Open semi-finals

3 Novak Djokovic has set up a semi-final clash with Carlos Alcaraz at the US Open. **>A8**

Holiday

There will be no edition of *Times of Oman* on Sunday on account of Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) birth anniversary.

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:11pm

Asr.....3:38pm

Maghrib.....6:27pm

Isha.....7:39pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:33am

Ministry inks pact with IRONMAN Group to promote heritage sites

The partnership will also promote heritage and tourist sites in all advertising and promotional materials



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Wednesday signed a partnership agreement with the IRONMAN Group, a leader in organising global sports events and races, to support Ironman championships for five years, starting in 2026.

The announcement was made during a press conference held in Muscat under the auspices of Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism. The Ministry affirmed that this support will include featuring Oman's promotional identity in all global championships, on the group's official website, and in all promotional content and messag-

es related to Ironman events.

The partnership will also promote heritage and tourist sites in all advertising and promotional materials.

Through this agreement, the Ministry aims to highlight Oman's diverse tourism assets and enhance their promotion via global Ironman championships. This will stimulate sports and cultural tourism, attract more international visitors from various global markets, and strengthen Oman's position as a distinguished tourist destination on the world stage.

The Ministry also seeks to present Oman as a leading global destination for adventure tourism. Oman's unique natural trails,

varied terrain, geological diversity, and wide range of activities are perfect for hosting multi-level and multi-stage sports challenges, all while meeting safety and security requirements. Oman also has licensed and specialised institutions to provide adventure tourism experiences.

The Ministry will also work to maximise the benefits of these championships to make Oman an important international hub in the Middle East for hosting global sports tourism events.

This will contribute to enhancing local content, stimulating the job market, empowering local businesses, and generating direct economic returns.

Under this partnership, the first full-distance Ironman race will be held annually in Muscat in November, featuring challenges such as swimming in the sea, a world-class cycling race through major tourist landmarks, and a multi-stage running race.

The Ministry, represented by its promotional platform "Experience Oman," has also been granted the naming rights for all Ironman races to be held in Oman.

This includes the "Experience Oman Ironman 70.3" in Muscat, scheduled for February 2026, which will be certified as the official Middle East championship for 70.3-mile triathlons.

This will offer professional athletes a regional title and additional opportunities to qualify for the annual World Championship. The partnership also includes the "Experience Oman Ironman 70.3" in Salalah, scheduled for 25 October 2025.

Azzan Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, explained that the Ministry places great importance on global Ironman championships as part of its ongoing plans and efforts to promote Oman's unique offerings.

He stated that hosting such glob-

al championships reflects Oman's readiness to host international events and contributes to enhancing its image on the global sports and tourism map.

Furthermore, it undertakes a role in diversifying tourism types and opening up new horizons for sports tourism, which is experiencing increasing global interest. He added that this partnership represents a major step towards strengthening Oman's position as a leading destination for adventures and endurance sports.

Al Busaidi also mentioned that the five-year partnership with the IRONMAN Group allows the Ministry to leverage this official collaboration to develop the tourism sector and achieve record levels of sustainability.

This affirms the Ministry's commitment to making Oman a global tourist destination that attracts visitors with various interests and preferences.

He noted that the championship includes diverse races encompassing swimming, cycling, and running, and that Oman's environment—which blends geological and natural diversity with authentic Arab culture and modern life—is the optimal destination for hosting Ironman races.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism stated that this championship is a significant opportunity to promote the tourist products, services, and experiences that Oman offers. It will also help attract more tourists, especially from European markets, and promote investment opportunities in the tourism sector, facilitating the signing of partnerships and agreements in tourism-related fields.

This will, in turn, stimulate other sectors linked to tourism, such as transport, aviation, hotels, and restaurants.

He clarified that these events encourage the local community to participate and engage in the agenda, which contributes to enhancing and developing a sports culture and maintaining public health.

For his part, Scott DeRue, CEO of the IRONMAN Group, explained that by signing the partnership with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the group will be able to deliver world-class race experiences and series to the region, and showcase Oman's unique beauty, culture, and rich history. He added that Oman is already a distinguished adventure destination that aligns with the global endurance sports community. -**OMA**

JOINT DISCUSSION

STRENGTHEN RELATIONS

Oman, Türkiye hold discussion



ANKARA: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Türkiye held a joint discussion session in Ankara.

The Omani side was headed by Maj. General Idris Abdulrahman Al Kindi, Secretary-General of the National Security Council at the Diwan of Royal Court. Meanwhile, the Turkish side was headed by Okay Memiş, Secretary-General of the National Security Council.

During the discussion session, both sides affirmed their commitment to the close strategic partnership between the two coun-

tries. They also highlighted the emphasis placed by their respective leaderships on strengthening bilateral relations, which are based on trust and mutual respect.

Discussions also touched upon a range of issues of mutual interest, with an emphasis on the importance of maintaining security and stability in the region.

Maj. General Idris Abdulrahman Al Kindi, Secretary-General of the National Security Council, also held several bilateral meetings with officials in the Republic of Türkiye. -**OMA**

Shura chief meets ASEAN Heads of Mission accredited to the Sultanate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council, received on Wednesday at the Council headquarters the Heads of Mission of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, emphasis was placed on Oman's efforts to strengthen its relations with ASEAN countries and its genuine desire to build bridges of cooperation with the Association, with which it shares a long-standing maritime and commercial history.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of fostering effective partnerships that enhance economic, cultural, and developmental integration between the two sides, particularly through joint agreements in free trade and strategic cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Ahmed Mohammed Al Nad-



habi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council.

It is noteworthy that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), established on 8 August 1967, is a regional organization that seeks to promote economic, political, security, social, and cultural cooperation among Southeast Asian countries. Its goals include fostering economic development, establishing a free trade area, maintaining regional peace and stability, preventing conflicts, and promoting cooperation in cultural, educational, and social fields.

Al Maawali meets UAE envoy

Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Shura Council met at the Council headquarters His Excellency Mohammed Maktoum Rashid Al Maktoum, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting was also attended by Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadhabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council.

At the outset of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed the Ambassador and wished him success in his new duties, highlighting the

deep fraternal ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The meeting discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation at the legislative level between the two countries' representative bodies, in addition to exchanging cordial views on areas of common cooperation and prospects for their development.

For his part, the UAE Ambassador expressed his eagerness to strengthen the existing bilateral relations and expand joint cooperation in all fields in the interest of both brotherly nations.

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IN SOUTH AL BATINAH

Livestock vaccination project launched

A'RUSTAQ: The National Livestock Vaccination Campaign for the 2025-2026 season has been launched in South Al Batinah Governorate.

The campaign, implemented by the Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources, will run for eight consecutive months across all wilayats of the governorate.

The campaign aims to vaccinate various animals against priority epidemic and infectious diseases. This will contribute to prevention, reduce infection rates, and curb their spread.



Combat animal epidemics

It is a fundamental pillar of the national strategy to combat animal epidemics and a key support for enhancing biosecurity and maintaining the health of animal herds.

The vaccinations will cover goats, sheep, and cattle against diseases such as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), pox, enterotoxemia, foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, and rabies.

Eng. Younis Khamis Al Saadi, Director of the Animal Wealth Department in South Al Batinah, stated that the campaign is a continuation of efforts from previous seasons.

He noted that in 2024, approximately 315,804 goats, sheep, and cattle were vaccinated, with a total of 518,187 vaccine doses.

He added that through these campaigns, the directorate seeks to increase the number of vaccinated animals annually, limit the spread of animal diseases, and enhance diagnostic and treatment programs.

This will ensure the health of the herd and achieve sustainable development for the agriculture sector.

Al Saadi appealed to livestock breeders to cooperate with the field veterinary teams and take the initiative to vaccinate their animals.

This, he emphasised, is crucial for protecting the animal population, ensuring the sustainability of livestock production, and enhancing its contribution to food security. -**OMA**

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His Majesty holds talks with Iraqi PM



ENHANCE COOPERATION

Oman, Iraq sign 2 agreements, 24 MoUs in various sectors

SALALAH: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Iraq on Wednesday signed 2 agreements and 24 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation between the two countries across various sectors.

The signing ceremony took place at Al Hosn Palace in the Wilayat of Salalah, Dhofar Governorate, in the presence of Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq and HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs.

The two agreements signed by both parties pertain to the mutual visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, special, and service passports, as well as the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion on income and capital.

The MoUs cover a wide range of areas, including youth and sports; judicial and legal affairs; tourism; historical documentation and records management; information exchange and cooperation in the capital market sector; communications; radio and television broad-



casting; implementation of training programs in management and leadership development; banking oversight and financial stability; housing and urban planning; higher education and research; educational fields; exchange of expertise and promotion of competition and anti-monopoly measures; development of trade exchanges and export promotion.

Additionally, the MoUs encompass intellectual property, indus-

try, energy, localization of defence industries, transport and logistics, stock exchange, oil storage, marketing of Iraqi crude oil, and chambers of commerce, as well as an MoU in the field of planning, development, and implementation of smart cities.

The agreements and MoUs were signed on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister (Head of the Omani side in the Omani-Iraqi Joint Commit-

tee), Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Rear Admiral Ali bin Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the National Defence College, Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Eng. Abdulrahman Salim Al Hatmi, CEO of ASYAD Group, Wail bin Zuhair Al Jamali, Chief Executive Officer of OQ Trading, Eng. Salem bin Marhoon Al Hashmi, Managing Director of Oman Tank Terminal Company, Mohsin bin Abdulredha Al Lawati, Senior Director of Systems and Development Department at Muscat Stock Exchange, Ali bin Hassan Al Lawati, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Badr Group (Sultanate of Oman) and Sadiq bin Salem Al Firroz, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Refineries and Storage Company.

On the Iraqi side, the signatories included Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (Head of the Iraqi side in the Omani-Iraqi Joint Committee),

Ali Mohsen Al-Alaq, Governor of the Central Bank, Eng. Hayan Abdul Ghani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Atheer Dawood Al Ghurairi, Minister of Trade, Mustafa Ati, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Military Industries, Dr. Farhan Muhaisen Al-Fartoosi, Director General of the General Company for Ports of Iraq, Ali Nizar Fayeq, Director General of SOMO Oil Company, Riyadh Fakher, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations at the Ministry of Trade, Abdul Razzaq Al-Zuhairi, Chairman of the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Nassif Jassim Al-Khattabi, Governor of Karbala.

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister expressed his pride in the distinguished historical Omani-Iraqi relations across various levels and domains. He added that the Iraqi Prime Minister's visit to the Sultanate of Oman is the first of its kind during the prosperous reign of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and marks the beginning of a new phase of strategic relations be-

tween the two countries.

He noted that Oman looks forward to implementing the outcomes achieved today through the valuable discussions held at the leadership level and through the signing of two agreements and a large number of memoranda of understanding across various fields. These agreements and memoranda, he affirmed, will be followed up by both countries through existing frameworks, most importantly the Omani-Iraqi Joint Committee, as well as through the embassies of both countries in Baghdad and Muscat and the various relevant entities responsible for their implementation.

In his turn, Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister stated that this visit is historic by all standards, culminating in the signing of two agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two sides across various fields. He emphasized that Omani-Iraqi relations are evolving toward a strategic partnership between the two countries. **-ONA**

WARM RECEPTION

Sayyid Shihab receives Iraqi Prime Minister in Salalah

< FROM A1 Meanwhile, it was attended from the Iraqi side by Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Eng. Hayan Abdul Ghani, Minister of Oil, Atheer Dawood Al Ghurairi, Minister of Trade, Ali Mohsen Al-Alaq, Governor of the Central Bank, Hamid Al Shatri, Head of the National Intelligence Service, Qais Saad Al Amri, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Sultanate of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Al-Najjar, CEO of Iraq Fund

for Development and Eng. Nassif Jassim Al-Khattabi, Governor of Karbala.

It is worth mentioning that the Prime Minister of Iraq arrived in Oman earlier on Wednesday. He and his accompanying delegation were received at the private airport in Salalah by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs.

Upon his arrival, the guest was escorted by HH Sayyid Shihab to the dais of honour, where the na-

tional anthem of Iraq was played.

The guest and his accompanying delegation were also received by His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (Head of the Mission

of Honour), Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Qais Saad Al Amri, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Sultanate of Oman, Sheikh Mahmoud bin Muhanna Al Kharousi, Charge d'Affaires of the Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in the Republic of Iraq, senior military officers in the Governorate of Iraq and members of the mission of honour. **-ONA**



OMAN

HM THE SULTAN HOSTS DINNER IN HONOUR OF IRAQI PRIME MINISTER

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik hosted a dinner at Al Hosn Palace in the Wilayat of Salalah on Wednesday, in honour of Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, marking his official visit to Oman. The banquet was attended by some officials from both sides. Prior to the dinner, His Majesty and the Prime Minister exchanged commemorative gifts, in a manifestation of the fraternal relations binding Oman and Iraq. -ONA



Dhofar Governorate

Oman’s seas possess 18 unique species of seaweed, reveals study

MUSCAT: A research study conducted by Sultan Qaboos University has identified more than 400 species of seaweed in Oman’s seas, 18 of which are unique to the country. Most of these species are found in the Dhofar Governorate. The study highlighted the significant potential of Omani seaweed for commercial exploitation, particularly since it does not require fresh water or arable land. It also documented the composition and characteristics of these marine plants by monitoring their various growth stages. Species were selected based on comparisons with previous studies conducted in other regions and under different conditions, especially in cases where research on certain plant families was scarce. Dr. Ahmed Ali Al Alawi, Associate Professor at the College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University, explained that seaweeds are typically

classified by color (pigmentation) into three main groups: brown algae, green algae, and red algae. Seaweeds are large aquatic algae also known as sea plants or sea vegetables. The study has provided crucial information for better assessment and management of this natural resource and its economic potential in Oman. **Protein production** He added that the study revealed vast potential for the use of Omani seaweed in various fields. For instance, certain species have been identified as suitable for protein and colloid production, while others show promise for highly efficient pharmaceutical applications and possess a significant capacity for carbon dioxide absorption. Dr. Al Alawi noted that seaweed is not traditionally used in Omani culture, and published data on locally growing species has been limited. -ONA

Meeting

RNO Acting Commander receives Indian official

MUSCAT: Commodore Jasil Mohammed Al Balushi, Acting Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) received in Al Murtafa’a Camp on Wednesday Rear Admiral Rahul Vilas Gokhale, Commander of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed several matters of mutual interest, especially in naval fields. -ONA



116th Regular Session

Oman participates in meeting of Arab Economic, Social Council

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday took part in the 116th regular session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, held in Cairo at the ministerial level. Oman’s delegation at the meeting was headed by Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy. The meeting discussed the report of the Secretary General of the Arab League on joint Arab economic and social action, in addition to preparations related to the “economic and social file” that will be submitted to the 35th Arab summit due to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The agenda of the 116th regular session of the Arab Economic and Social Council covers various issues, including the discussion of developments in the Greater



Arab Free Trade Area and the Arab Customs Union; means to expand the scope of investment among Arab countries; and issues raised by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development with respect to a report on the status of food security in Arab countries. The session’s agenda also deals with the follow-up of implemen-

tation of different programmes and strategies. These include the “Arab Programme for Sustainable Food Security”, the “Arab Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy 2020-2030”, the “Arab Strategy for Sustainable Management of Pastoral Resources 2020-2040” and the “Arab Strategy for Aquaculture 2018-2037”. The meeting also looked into proposals to establish a “Council of Arab Ministers of Commerce”, an “Arab Ministerial Council for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies” and an “Arab Council for Customs Affairs”. The ministers also exchanged views about the functioning of specialised Arab organisations and institutions affiliated to the Secretariat General of the Arab League. -ONA

Tender Announcement

Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company SAOG invites Bidders to submit their proposal for the below detailed tenders:



Tender No.	Description	Tender Fee (Non refundable) OMR	Tender Purchase deadline	Clarification deadline	Tender Submission Date
TENDER/2025/ 01/ENG/003	(Re-Tender) Construction of New Filling Station at Adam Awaifah in Al Dhakhiliya Governorate	150/-	09.09.2025	14.09.2025	16.09.2025
TENDER/2025/ 09/ENG/018	Supply of LED Light Fittings for Two Years	50/-			
TENDER/2025/ 09/ENG/019	Fabrication and Supply of Fuel Storage Tanks for Two Years	100/-			
Bank Name & Account Number		Bank Muscat (0423005687760617)			

- The Conditions:**
- Collection of Tenders:** Interested, specialized companies and establishments registered under grade 3 and above (in C.R) with minimum of 3 years’ experience in the same field. Bidders can collect the tender documents from the procurement department by sending a copy of the payment slip to procurement@almaha.com.om
 - Offer Submission:** Tender bid should be submitted a sealed envelope and addressed to the **Chairman of Tender Committee**, Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing SAOG marked with tender number and subject. Other marks or any reference must not be printed outside the envelope. The exterior of the envelope containing the tender document must not reveal the identity of the bidder.
 - Submission Location:** The bid should be deposited in the tender box at Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing SAOG head office located in Ghala before 01:00 PM on the submission date.
 - Any bid received after the specified date or if it does not meet the conditions will not be considered.
 - Each bid shall be signed and stamped with the signature of the authorized person.
 - Each bid shall be signed and stamped with the signature of the authorized person.
 - Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co SAOG reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel the tender without giving any reasons.
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Indian expats gear up for Onam celebrations

Onam, celebrated in the Malayalam month of Chingam, marks the homecoming of King Mahabali, during whose reign Kerala is said to have seen a golden era

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expatriates from Kerala, one of the largest Indian communities in Oman, are preparing to celebrate their harvest festival, Onam, which falls on Friday. Onam, celebrated in the Malayalam month of Chingam, marks the homecoming of King Mahabali, during whose reign Kerala is said to have witnessed a golden era. The festival is observed by all members of the community, regardless of religion. A private firm, TECS celebrated Onam with its employees in a grand and festive manner, emphasising unity and harmony within the organisation. Managing Director, Mustafa Bakir along with management leads including Shibu Mathew, Venugopal Boora, Lakshminarian Giri, and Ali Asgar Khericha along with Ashuma Sachdeva ac-



tively participated in the celebrations. The event was meticulously organised, beginning with a warm welcome speech, followed by traditional Onam festivities such as the traditional welcoming of king Mahabali, songs, and a lively group song, Onam feast in banana leaves served to over 180 employees, which added to the joyful atmosphere, truly capturing the spirit of Onam. Departmental stores and hypermarkets across Muscat are bustling with last-minute shoppers, while restaurants, jewellery shops,

and other outlets catering to the Indian community have rolled out Onam offers and promotions. "The shopping malls are all crowded as people make their last-minute purchases and throng the hypermarkets," said Madhu B Nambiar, a long-time resident of Oman. Expatriates adorn traditional attire during the festival, including kasavu sarees and mundu (dhoti), while family members and friends exchange gifts such as new clothes. Unique festive dishes are prepared at home and shared with

neighbours, with the highlight being Onasadya, a special vegetarian feast. The 10-day Onam celebrations in Kerala begin with Atham and honour both King Mahabali and the Vamana avatar. Communities recreate the golden-era joy with flower carpets (pookalam), traditional dances, and games. Women in traditional saris assemble to make floral carpets and sing songs in celebration. This year, Thiruonam coincides with Friday, already a public holiday in Oman, allowing Malayalis to celebrate without work interruptions. "We managed to pick up most of the vegetables, though bananas and banana leaves are best bought the day before. We stocked up on jaggery, condensed milk, ghee, cashews, and raisins — all essentials for payasam," said Mustafa Bekir. While Onam in Muscat may look slightly different, the spirit remains alive in every home attempting to recreate the aromas of a Kerala kitchen, in every child learning to lay flowers, and in every shared laugh over payasam.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Qatari delegation to boost relations

MUSCAT: A delegation from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Qatar visited the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion as part of efforts to enhance bilateral co-operation and exchange expertise between the two countries. During the visit, the Qatari delegation was briefed on the "Oman Business" platform and its role in digital transformation, streamlining services, and facilitating intergovernmental coordination. The delegation was also introduced to company establishment procedures and mechanisms for monitoring commercial activities. Additionally, the delegation visited the "Invest Oman" hall,



where they learned about its functions in investment promotion and services offered to investors, as well as the operational mechanisms of the Investment Services Center and efforts to en-

hance the investor journey. The Ministry emphasised that this visit reflects the mutual commitment to expanding economic cooperation, underscoring that strengthening trade and indus-

trial partnerships with Qatar represents a significant step toward regional integration and supports the objectives of "Oman Vision 2040" and "Qatar National Vision 2030." -ONA

ARMED FORCES OF MEMBER STATES

GCC Defence Industries Committee meets

MUSCAT: The Defence Industries Committee of the GCC held its third meeting in Muscat. The meeting was attended by delegations of defence industry specialists from the armed forces of member states. The meeting was chaired by Brigadier Khalid Sulaiman Al Shubaibi, Director General of Research and Military Industries at the Ministry of

Defense. Air Vice Marshal Issa Rashid Al Mohammadi, Assistant GCC Secretary General for Military Affairs, was also in attendance. Participants discussed several topics on the agenda aimed at developing integrated strategies and initiatives for coordination among the armed forces of the member states in the field of defence industries. -ONA



EA

Four held for hunting Arabian gazelle in Dhofar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority's wildlife rangers, in co-operation with the Royal Oman Police (ROP), have arrested four citizens for illegally hunting an Arabian gazelle in Dhofar Governorate. The individuals have been referred to the competent authorities to complete the necessary legal procedures. The Environment Authority reiterated its call to the public to respect wildlife protection laws and refrain from activities that harm or disturb Oman's natural environment. It also warned that violators will face strict legal accountability.



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Ref : ISML/TA/2025-26/002

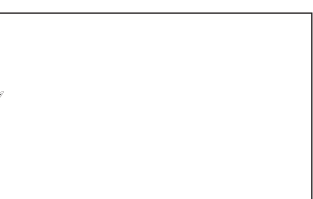
Sl.No	Description
1	Assembly Hall - Renovation
2	Innovation Lab – Civil work
3	Innovation Lab - Furniture
4	Digital Bell and PA system
5	Library - Renovation
6	Printing - Exam materials
7	Medals & Trophies

- For details, contact School Office during working days between 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
- Sealed quotations may be submitted to School office or emailed to purchase@isml-oman.com or accounts@isml-oman.com
- Last date of tender submission – 15th September 2025, before 3.00 p.m.

The School reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



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



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

CLOSING CEREMONY

Strategic Foresight Programme concludes



MUSCAT: The Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies, represented by the Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies and in collaboration with various civilian entities, concluded its Strategic Foresight Programme. The programme, which began on 24 August, saw the participation of specialists from military, security, and civilian agencies. The closing ceremony, held at the Royal Academy of Management (RAM), was presided over by Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Maawali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy. The programme included a series of lectures and workshops that covered multiple related top-

ics and objectives. Participants also received training on strategic foresight tools and engaged in practical applications of future foresight and strategic analysis. The programme's key objectives were to embed strategic foresight into national policies, enhance decision-making capabilities through proactive governance methodologies, and develop skills in scenario planning and risk preparedness. It also aimed to prepare strategic papers that align with global and regional priorities and to anticipate emerging trends and opportunities to strengthen national resilience and competitive advantage. -ONA



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOTIFICATION
Hiring of Jack-Up Accommodation Units for offshore deployment
Expression of interest is invited from concerned agencies for hiring of Jack-Up Accommodation Units for offshore deployment, with a contract duration of three years, extendable by an additional two years with the purpose of providing accommodation for carrying out various offshore project activities for new upcoming facilities as well as at existing facilities in Western Offshore.
The EOI details are available on ONGC Website: <https://tenders.ongc.co.in> and <https://ongcindia.com>. Interested Parties / bidders can submit their EOI through E-mail to patowary_pankaj@ongc.co.in, kanth_ravi@ongc.co.in within 15 days from publication of this notification.
For further details, please visit ONGC e-portal: <https://tenders.ongc.co.in>



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Awareness Campaign



Royal Oman Police
NOTICE

The Directorate of Relations and Security Information at Royal Oman Police announces an Online Public Auction via the auctions platform of ROP , which can be reached through (www.rop.mazadcom.om) . The auction is on the sale of vehicles retained at the police stations at ROP headquarters in the governorates of South Al Sharqiyah and North Al Sharqiyah. The auction shall be on **Sunday 14 September 2025** and for one day.
The vehicles' inspection shall be from **9 to 11 September 2025 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon** at the yard designated for retain of vehicles at Sur Police Station, Jalan Bani Bu Ali Police Station and Masirah Police Station at the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah Police Headquarters and Ibra Police Station at the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah Police Headquarters.
The following terms shall apply to the auction: -

- Registration shall be via the website (www.rop.mazadcom.om)
- To comply with payment of a security deposit amount of OMR (500), payable through the same website and is non-refundable in case of non-payment of the value of the vehicle purchased or that the procedures for registration and transport of the vehicle are not taken within the prescribed period.
- Payment of the auction's fee of 2% from the value of the vehicle in addition to 5% as Value Added Tax (VAT).
- Payment of the value of the vehicle by e. transfer within (48) .working hours.
- Registration and transport of the vehicle within (3) days following payment of its value as to avoid any fine for delay at OMR 5 a day following expiry of the prescribed period, with no responsibility on the part of Royal Oman Police in relation to the loss or damage of the vehicle.
- Neither Royal Oman Police nor the website of the auctions shall bear the responsibility in case the image or the description of the vehicle offered for sale does not match with the actual condition or guarantee the technical safety or validity of the vehicle.
- For further details, kindly visit the website (www.rop.mazadcom.om) or contact (**Mob. No. 98886154**)

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

< FROM A1 Royal directives represent innovative model for utilising Zakat resources

Abeer Abdullah Al Ma'amari, Director of the Treatment for Zakat-Eligible Individuals Project, emphasised that the Royal directives reinforce the core principles of “Oman Vision 2040”, safeguarding human dignity and expanding service distribution while addressing the needs of Zakat-eligible individuals.

This aligns with the profound humanitarian values in Omani culture and religious teachings, where Zakat serves as a vital tool for achieving societal balance.

OMR1 million allocated

She added that allocating OMR1 million to this humanitarian initiative represents an innovative model for utilising Zakat resources to build an integrated healthcare system through a strategic partnership between the public and private sectors, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of

The initiative focuses on providing specialised healthcare in private institutions for Zakat-eligible cases

Environments and Religious Affairs. The initiative focuses on providing specialised healthcare in private institutions for Zakat-eligible cases requiring surgeries or radiological services, thereby reducing waiting lists.

As for regulations and registration procedures, she clarified that applicants must be registered in Zakat-eligible records and possess a medical report from a govern-

ment healthcare institution recommending the required medical procedure.

Registration will begin on 10 September through Zakat committees in the governorates and will continue for two weeks to ensure the highest standards of transparency and accuracy in selecting beneficiaries and directing resources to achieve the desired positive impact.

Hilal Hamad Al Sarimi, Executive Director of the Waqf Health Foundation “Athar,” stated that the Royal directives reflect the wise leadership's dedication to fulfilling the highest requirements of social development and enhancing partnerships between the public and private sectors and Zakat institutions, including “Athar.” This, he said, contributes to achieving developmental sustainability, ensuring the continuity of healthcare services, and guaranteeing their reach to all segments, particularly

those eligible for humanitarian support. It also stimulates growth in the private healthcare sector by directing certain cases to it, ensuring complementarity between public and private health institutions.

Dr. Mohammed Salim Al Kharusi, Director of the Zakat Department at the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, highlighted that the Royal directives embody His Majesty's care for Omani citizens, especially Zakat-eligible groups.

He described the initiative as a pioneering step in cementing the principles of social solidarity and promoting the religious and humanitarian values underpinning the Zakat system in Oman.

He added that it will cover treatment costs for many needy patients who meet Zakat eligibility criteria, alleviating their financial burdens and health struggles, as well as those of their families. — **ONA**

GCC ENDOWMENT WEEK

Leveraging AI in Islamic activities highlighted

KUWAIT: Represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, the Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday took part in the 10th meeting of assistants to ministers of Islamic/religious affairs in GCC states.

At the meeting, held in Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman was represented by Ahmed Saleh Al Rashdi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The meeting discussed the exchange of research and experiences in the field of endowments, the accomplishments made during the “GCC Endowment Week”, proposals to leverage artificial intelligence in Islamic affairs and activities of the “GCC week for the protection of religious and moral values of the family”.

The meeting discussed the significance of exchanging research in the field of endowments and Islamic/religious affairs and the need to share expertise in a man-



ner that would advance relations among GCC states in all fields.

The meeting also looked into a proposal to initiate a national index to assess the impact of endowments on society, a contest titled “Mafaz” for raising awareness about endowments and charitable action and a working paper about measures to address deviant concepts.

The participants discussed the World Endowment Day and the progress made in applying standards for highlighting the true image of Islam and confronting campaigns of hatred, fanaticism, extremism and sectarianism. — **ONA**

NCSI-GASTAT



Oman and Saudi Arabia ink MoU to enhance statistical cooperation

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the fields of statistics and information. The MoU, signed at the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), was aimed to consolidate the existing partnership between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Khalifa Abdullah Al Barwani, CEO of the NCSI, and Dr. Fahd Abdullah Al Dosari, President of the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) in Saudi Arabia.

The MoU seeks to upgrade the statistical system through the exchange of expertise, conduct programmes to spread awareness about the statistical culture, facilitate access to data, regulate visits between experts and specialists from the two countries, organise the holding of joint conferences and workshops and explore new areas of future cooperation.

Al Barwani said that the MoU constitutes a step forward to-

wards the establishment of an integrated GCC statistical system that produces reliable data supports decision-makers. He added that cooperation with GASTAT will open broader channels for exchanging expertise and developing national competencies to serve the two countries' common interests.

Al Dosari said, “The MoU is in pursuance of bilateral partnership to enhance joint action and exchange expertise in the field of statistics.”

During the signing ceremony, the NCSI gave a presentation in which it showcased its prominent projects that, it said, form part of an integrated vision for developing the national statistical system in line with the best international standards and practices.

The signing of the MoU reflected the two countries' commitment to enhance cooperation and encourage integration among vital sectors—including the statistics and information sector, which plays a key role in supporting decision-making and guiding development policies. — **ONA**

THE FIA INTERCONTINENTAL

Ahmed Al Amri to represent Oman at Drifting Cup in Latvia

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ahmed Al Amri to Represent the Sultanate of Oman at the FIA Intercontinental Drifting Cup in Latvia Omani champion Ahmed Al Amri continues his remarkable journey in the world of drifting, as he prepares to represent the Sultanate of Oman at the FIA Intercontinental Drifting Cup, which will be held at the Riga Bikernieki Circuit in the Latvian capital, Riga.

This marks the first official Omani participation in this major international event under the umbrella of the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile).

Al Amri is considered one of the leading drifting stars in the region, having managed during

the 2024–2025 season to reach the podium 19 times, in addition to being crowned champion at the 2024 Red Bull Car Park Drift Finals. He has also achieved a series of other notable accomplishments that have strengthened his position among the elite competitors at both the regional and international levels.

Drifting enjoys wide popularity in the Sultanate of Oman, which proudly hosts the Oman International Drift Championship (OIDC)—one of the strongest and most renowned championships in the world. The event attracts top international drifting champions as well as extensive participation from local drivers, making Oman a leading destination for motorsport and drifting enthusiasts.

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17th September 2025
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- Financial Inclusion Initiative
- SMEs Development Initiative
- Community Development & Empowerment Initiative
- Public-Private Partnership for Community Development
- Public Engagement Initiative
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative
- In Country Value (ICV) Initiative
- Outstanding Omanisation Achievement
- Skills Development Initiative
- Social Entrepreneurship Initiative
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- Leadership in CSR
- Social Impact Leader of the Year

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Al Horthy relishing racing return as FIA WEC resumes stateside

Al Horthy is very much looking forward to only his second ever visit to the Texan track where he has unfinished business from last year in the six-hour ‘Lone Star Le Mans’

MUSCAT: Almost two months since he was last in race action in the FIA World Endurance Championship, Oman’s Ahmad Al Horthy is raring to go for the assumption of the season this weekend, 6th/7th September, at the Circuit of the Americas in the USA.

Criss-crossing the globe once more, the previous round having been at Interlagos in Brazil, Al Horthy is very much looking forward to only his second ever visit to the Texan track where he has unfinished business from last year in the six-hour ‘Lone Star Le Mans’.

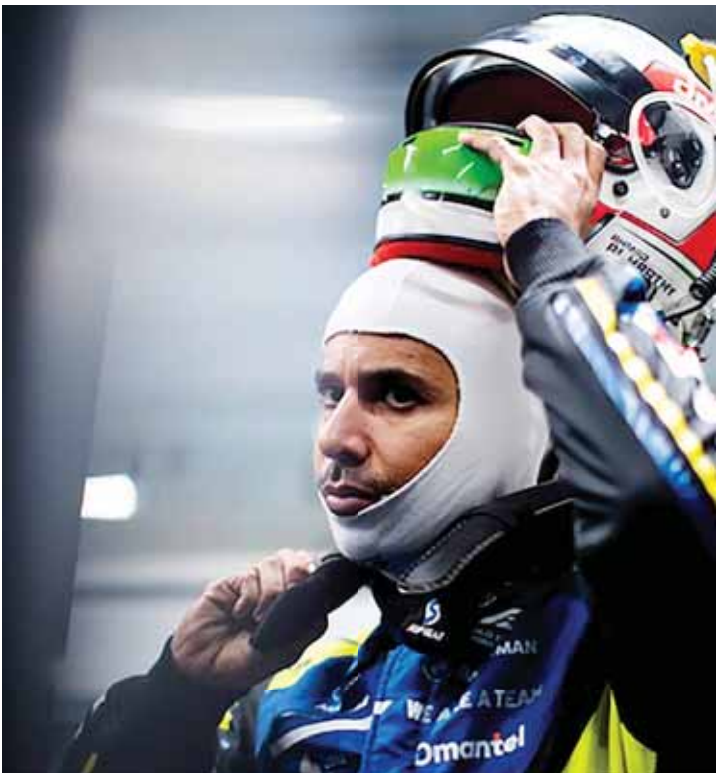
On his maiden visit to COTA in 2024, the Omani and fellow Team WRT racer Valentino Rossi – plus then team-mate Maxime Martin – were cruelly denied a possible po-

dium, and certain top four finish in LMGT3, just a quarter of an hour before the checkered flag. After battling through into contention for deserved silverware from 15th on the grid, power steering failure ended the bid.

Knowing how strong the squad’s competitiveness and team performance was last season in the USA, the current No.46 BMW M4 LMGT3 line-up of Al Horthy, Rossi and Kelvin van der Linde is taking a good level of optimism into round six of the FIA WEC campaign.

The trio is more determined than ever to get back to podium ways after a challenging run of late, with difficulties out of the squad’s control impacting recent races.

At the blue riband Le Mans 24



Hours in June, where the team had run inside the LMGT3 top two for the first half of the race, an electrical fault ultimately led to retirement to steal the chance of possi-

ness not being as desired. Nevertheless, perfect teamwork and excellent stints from Al Horthy, Rossi and van der Linde helped bring some reward – a result the Omani said was the most they could realistically have achieved.

Now the focus is on this weekend’s race in Austin, Texas, where Al Horthy – supported as always by key partners OQ Group, Sohar International, Omantel, Oman LNG, BMW Oman, Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and Experience Oman – hopes the team can begin on the front foot and ultimately produce the goods. One thing is for sure, there is certainly no lack of determination.

Ahmad Al Horthy said: “It’s great to be back in America and we’ve come here with a positive frame of mind. We’ve had some disappointments recently and a few things out of our control so we are all very determined to get back in among the fight for the podium at COTA. Last year’s race went incredibly well, up until the steering issue right at the end, so we’re focused on trying to fight for the podium once again.

“From a personal perspective, I was very happy with my driving, pace and performance on my de-

but at COTA last season. All things being equal, I think we have a very good chance to do well in Sunday’s race and I know all of the guys at WRT will do everything they can to give us the package we need. It’s a great track, very unique, and I hope we can deliver a result for everyone back home in Oman.”

Opening free practice takes place on Friday, 5th September, with two 90-minute sessions ahead of a further practice hour on Saturday, 6th September. Qualifying then follows on Saturday afternoon, Central time in America, at 15.00 with Hyperpole straight after. The race itself, the six-hour Lone Star Le Mans, will begin at 13.00 local time on Sunday, 7th September.

The action can be followed through www.fiawec.com

2025 FIA WEC LMGT3 Driver Standings (after Rd5):

- 1st Riccardo Pera / Richard Lietz / Ryan Hardwick, 89pts
- 2nd Alessio Rovera / Francois Heriau / Simon Mann, 76pts
- 3rd Ben Keating / Daniel Juncadella / Jonny Edgar, 66pts
- 14th Ahmed Al Horthy / Valentino Rossi / Kelvin van der Linde, 22pts

MEMORABLE 2024-25 SEASON

Being there at 18 is something to be valued, says Yamal

BARCELONA: Following a memorable 2024-25 season with Barcelona, teenage football sensation Lamine Yamal opened up on his dream to win the Ballon d’Or award, the highest individual honour in the sport, saying that being there at the age of 18 is “something to be valued” and he hopes of fulfilling his dream.

Yamal was sensational for Barca in the 2024-25 season, delivering 18 goals and 25 assists across 55 matches across all competitions, playing a massive role in their domestic treble of La Liga, Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup. He also took the Spain Euro Championship title last year.

He emerged as the ‘Best Young Player’ in the competition. The only setback was the club’s UEFA Champions League dreams being crushed in the semifinal against Inter Milan.

Yamal joined stars like Ousmane Dembele, Jude Bellingham, Erling Haaland, Harry Kane and Kylian



Mbappe, among others, as one of the nominees for the football’s top individual prize, which is a Golden Ball.

Currently on international duty with Spain, Yamal admitted that he dreams of securing the coveted prize and expressed how delighted he was to be nominated for the award. The ceremony for the 2025 Ballon d’Or will take place on September 22 at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris.

Speaking to RTVE, the teenage attacker said, as quoted by Goal.com: “As a team, winning the Champions League with Barca would be incredible, and individually, every player wants to win the Ballon d’Or, and anyone who tells you otherwise is lying. Being there at 18 is something to be valued, and I hope it happens.”

Yamal will be in action next against Bulgaria for Spain in the World Cup Qualifiers. -Agencies

EXCITING CLASH

Alcaraz and Djokovic storm into US Open semifinals

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic sets up a semi-final clash with Carlos Alcaraz at the US Open, defeating Taylor Fritz 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 to extend his perfect ATP Head2Head record against Fritz to 11-0.

With 14 semi-final appearances, Djokovic is currently tied with Jimmy Connors for the most in tournament history. In their ATP Head2Head series, Djokovic holds a 5-3 lead over Alcaraz, with wins in their previous two fixtures.

The four-time US Open champion Djokovic has reached the semi-finals at all four majors this season, marking the seventh time in his career that he has achieved that feat, as per the ATP tour website.

Now, the 38-year-old Serbian will be looking to go even better as he eyes more records in New York - including the elusive 25th major.

Djokovic continued his relentless quest for history at the 2025 US Open, defeating Germany’s



Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals. The 38-year-old Serbian became the oldest man to reach the last eight at all four Grand Slams in a single season and now sets his sights on a record-extending 25th major.

Earlier in the day, Spanish superstar Carlos Alcaraz stormed into the US Open semi-finals with an ultra-clean quarter-final win on Wednesday, dismissing Jiri Lehecka in style. The 22-year-old

Spaniard hustled for a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 victory to reach the semi-finals in New York without dropping a set.

During the second set, Alcaraz, who lost to Lehecka at their Doha clash in February earlier this year, only gave up six points on his serve.

This is the third time Alcaraz has advanced to the semifinals in New York; he won the US Open in 2022. -ANI

TENNIS

US Open: Sabalenka set for semifinals showdown with Pegula



NEW YORK : Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the semifinals of the US Open on Wednesday via a walkover as 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova withdrew ahead of her quarterfinal fixture against Sabalenka, citing a knee injury.

Sabalenka is set to face Jessica Pegula in the semis, a rematch of last year’s final.

“I am sorry to announce that I have to withdraw from my quarterfinal match this evening due

to a knee injury. I tried my best to take the court today, but during the warm-up, I felt pain in my knee, and after consultation with the tournament doctor, I decided not to risk aggravating the injury. I appreciate all the support for this tournament and apologise to the fans who were looking forward to the match. I had an amazing time here in NY and can’t wait to be back next year,” Vondrousova said as quoted from the US Open website.

Sabalenka posted a message on her Instagram story for Vondrousova, “So sorry for Marketa after all she’s been through. She has been playing amazing tennis, and I know how badly this must hurt for her. Take care of yourself, and I hope you can recover quickly.”

Pegula advanced to the semifinals of the US Open, defeating Barbora Krejickova 6-3, 6-3 on Tuesday to get in the final four at a Grand Slam tournament for just the second time in her career. Peg-

ula possesses just two wins in nine encounters over Sabalenka.

Sabalenka stormed into the quarter finals with a dominant victory over Cristina Bucsa 6-1, 6-4 in the night session without dropping a set and assured herself of retaining the No. 1 ranking after the tournament.

Earlier, Sabalenka showed why she is the World No. 1 and the defending champion, as she battled past Leylah Fernandez to secure a straight-sets victory 6-3, 7-6(2) .

Serena, you need to show up: Venus Williams

Veteran American tennis star Venus Williams has rolled back the years at the US Open 2025, storming into the women’s doubles quarter-finals alongside Canada’s Leylah Fernandez but amidst the celebrations, the 45-year-old had a special message for her sister and fellow legend Serena Williams, as per the official website of Olympics.com.

-ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2025 reaching \$71.48, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 16 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$71.64. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 5,158.54 points, up by 0.75% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.57% at 478.68 points. Majan College, up 0.09%, was the top gainer while, Ahli Bank, down 0.02%, was the top loser.

PREMIER ANNUAL PLATFORM

Oman’s technology exhibition Comex to begin on September 8



MUSCAT: The 34th edition of the Global Technology Exhibition Comex 2025 will commence on September 8 at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, under the patronage of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs.

The four-day event is organised by the Arab House for Data Analysis in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

Comex is a premier annual platform that brings together the latest

global innovations in technology, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and cloud technologies. It also showcases leading national projects in Oman, reflecting the strategic approach toward building a sustainable digital economy.

The exhibition attracts a select group of international, regional, and local companies, entrepreneurs, innovators, and technology enthusiasts to exchange expertise and present smart solutions that enhance Oman’s position as a re-

gional hub for digital innovation.

Key sections

Key sections of the exhibition include the E-Government Pavilion, Business Pavilion, Tech Startups Pavilion, Banking and FinTech Pavilion, Electronic Sports and Gaming Section, and International Delegations Pavilion.

The event will also feature a range of accompanying activities, most notably the Comex Awards, Comex Summit, specialised workshops, a high-level

council, interactive experiences, e-gaming competitions, and the Comex Hackathon. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the latest technological products and services.

Comex 2025 represents a key milestone for those interested in investing in the technology sector, as it facilitates connections between tech startups and investment opportunities while attracting international partnerships that advance Oman’s digital transformation journey. -**ONA**

‘View’ projects in Yanqul and Dhank integrate tourism infrastructure

The governorate has witnessed a qualitative leap in the development of public spaces through the establishment of two modern recreational destinations, providing an attractive environment for residents and visitors while balancing urban growth with the preservation of natural resources

MUSCAT: In line with the national approach to promote sustainable development and enhance quality of life across governorates, the “View” projects in the wilayats of Yanqul and Dhank in Al Dhahirah Governorate stand out as promising models integrating tourism infrastructure, public services, and a comprehensive environmental vision.

The governorate has witnessed a qualitative leap in the development of public spaces through the establishment of two modern recreational destinations, providing an attractive environment for residents and visitors while balancing urban growth with the preservation of natural resources.

These development views represent not only architectural projects but also a practical commitment to sustainability principles. The designs respect the geographical character of the region and offer integrated service facilities that enhance local investment opportunities and support domestic tourism.

The total cost of the two projects amounts to nearly OMR4 million, encompassing a range of facilities catering to all age groups. These include green spaces, an open-air theatre, cafés, sports fields, water fountains, walking and barbecue



areas, prayer facilities, and other amenities.

Eng. Nasser Ali Al Siyabi, Director General of Al Dhahirah Municipality, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the governorate aims, through these view projects, to provide advanced municipal services and modern infrastructure leveraging technology and smart applications. This contributes to enhancing quality of life, promoting community well-being, and supporting economic growth and local investment.

He added that these projects align

with the government’s approach to improve service efficiency and enhance competitiveness at local, regional, and international levels.

The municipality is also preparing to implement a new project aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and encouraging productive families by providing a stimulating environment and integrated facilities. This will empower these groups and strengthen their role in the economic and social development of Al Dhahirah Governorate.

On her turn, Eng. Shaikha

Ahmed Al Wahshi, Supervisor of the Dank View Project, stated that the project is one of the pioneering tourism and development initiatives being implemented by Al Dhahirah Municipality.

She added that the project’s location was chosen adjacent to the main road linking Ibri and Hafeet, offering a distinctive viewpoint that enhances the governorate’s tourism and economic appeal. It provides an integrated environment meeting the aspirations of residents and visitors from within and outside Oman.

The project spans an area of 65,000 square meters and includes diverse service and recreational facilities such as a public promenade, an open amphitheater, children’s play areas, a swimming pool, water fountains, food kiosks, parking spaces, a reception building, and pedestrian walkways.

The total cost of the project is OMR2,128,790, with a completion rate of approximately 40%. It is expected to be finalized within one year of the start of implementation.

This project will stimulate commercial activity, increase property values in the area, and boost the local economy by supporting SMEs and generate direct and indirect job opportunities, thereby enhancing the foundations of sustainable development in the Wilayat of Dank.

On his turn, Eng. Badr Khalifa Al Shukeili, Supervisor of Yanqul View Project, stated that the project, implemented by Al Dhahirah Municipality, is located on the road linking Yanqul and Sohar, with a completion rate of 35%. It is expected to be completed by early next year.

He told ONA that the total area of the project is 65,000 square meters, situated in the Nahda area on the Sohar-Yanqul road, with a total cost of OMR1.86 million. -**ONA**

TRUSTED LOGISTICS PARTNER

Asyad executes major breakbulk shipment from China to UAE

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, Oman’s global integrated logistics provider, successfully executed the end-to-end transport of 2,570 packages of large-diameter seamless line pipes from Tianjin, China, to Khalifa Port, UAE, for a major ADNOC EPC contractor.

Weighing over 2,400 metric tonnes and spanning more than 5,000 cubic meters, the cargo was handled with precision, safety, and efficiency, reinforcing Asyad’s capabilities in delivering technically demanding project cargo for the energy sector.

Juma Al Maskari, Asyad Logistics Director, commented: “This achievement is a testament to the exceptional collaboration and deep expertise of our UAE-based team. Their meticulous planning and seamless execution were essential in delivering this complex project, further reinforcing our Group’s commitment to being a key enabler of reliable, efficient solutions for the region’s strategic projects.”

The shipment included high-spec steel line pipes extending to a total length of 47 meters. Underscoring Asyad’s readiness and expertise in managing specialized cargo and executing complex operations with exceptional operational efficiency.

Precision and seamless coordination defined the entire process, from structured loading at Tianjin Port and rigorous technical oversight throughout the transit, to safe discharge at Khalifa Port. This success reflects close collaboration between Asyad Group’s Project Logistics teams and ADNOC’s EPC contractors, ensuring adherence to the highest international



standards of quality and safety.

This achievement aligns with Asyad’s global expansion strategy, extending its network to over 90 destinations across key markets including China, India, the United States, and the GCC. This footprint strengthens Asyad’s capacity to support regional megaprojects with high efficiency and reliability.

The successful delivery of

this shipment reaffirms Asyad’s operational readiness to manage high-volume, technically demanding, cross-border logistics. It reflects the Group’s role as a regional enabler of critical infrastructure, energy, and industrial projects, supporting Oman’s positioning in global supply chains and contributing to the goals of Vision 2040.

MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX

Musandam Center for Culture and Innovation in Khasab reaches 78% completion



MUSCAT: The completion rate of the Musandam Center for Culture and Innovation project in the Wilayat of Khasab has reached 78%. The project is being constructed on an area of 10,500 square meters, with a built-up area of 2,733 square meters.

Abdullah Ahmed Al Shehi, Assistant Head of the Musandam Governor’s Office, stated that the project aims to establish an integrated, multipurpose complex serving the local community in the fields of education, culture, environment, sports, tourism, and entrepreneurship.

He affirmed that upon completion, the centre will become one of the prominent landmarks in Musandam Governorate and a distinguished tourist destination that contributes to supporting and enhancing various activities in the governorate.

He added that the centre includes a building dedicated to



education and innovation under the Ministry of Education, as well as a cultural building affiliated to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth. It also features commercial units supervised by Musandam Municipality, various water sports facilities managed by Oman Sail, an open-air theater, and a dedicated children’s play area.

Al Shehi affirmed that the project represents a qualitative leap in the development jour-

ney of Musandam Governorate, combining education, culture, innovation, tourism, and sports activities into an integrated system. This makes it one of the most prominent projects supporting “Oman Vision 2040” towards building an innovative society and a knowledge-based economy.

He noted that the establishment of Musandam Center for Culture and Innovation is part of national efforts to achieve sustainable development and enhance cultural and educational infrastructure in the governorate.

The centre is funded through contributions from several oil and gas companies, including OQ Group, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Occidental Oman, BP Oman, Daleel Petroleum, CC Energy Development, and ARA Petroleum. OQ Exploration and Production is responsible for supervising and monitoring the implementation phase. -**ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Majan College, up 0.09%, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 0.02%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,158.54 points, up by 0.75% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.57% at 478.68 points. Majan College, up 0.09%, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 0.02%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while OQEP were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 4724 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 25.71 million, with more than 121.47 million shares changing hands. Out of 67 traded securities, 28 advanced, 14 declined, and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 1013K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 562K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 451K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,423.43 points, up 0.19%. Prices of Global Financial Investments,

Muscat Finance, United Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Ominvest were up by 2.69%, 1.85%, 1.54%, 1.43%, 1.31% respectively. Prices of Ahli Bank, National Finance, Oman United Insurance, Al Madina Takaful, Al Sharqia Investment were down by 2.01%, 1.49%, 1.25%, 1.16%, 1.14% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,037.97 points, up 0.86%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry, Oman Refreshment, Gulf International Chemicals, Voltamp Energy were up by 3.43%, 2.33%, 2.00%, 1.43%, 1.19% respectively. Prices of Salalah Mills, Oman Cement were down by 1.25%, 0.21% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.33% before closing at 2,052.62 points. Prices of Majan College, Al Batinah Power, Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power, Sharqiyah Desalination were up by 8.55%, 7.14%, 6.54%, 6.20%, 2.07% respectively. Prices of Ooredoo were down by 0.77% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

MSX 30 INDEX

FINANCIAL INDEX

Industry Index

Services Index

MSX Shariah Index

MSX TR INDEX

FINANCIAL TRIDX

INDUSTRIAL TRIDX

SERVICES TR IDX

FIXED INCOME INDEX

Trading Summary

Volume

Turnover

Trades

Market Cap

Up

Down

Equal

Sec. Traded

121,477,741

25,714,378

4,724

30,174,803,408

28

14

25

67

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

ISIN

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR.

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF

DIFF %

LAST PR.

LAST BID

LAST OFFER

PREV. VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000004925

ALBATINAH POWER

1,350,042

161,490

88

0.122

0.122

0.116

0.120

0.112

0.008

7.143

0.119

0.119

0.119

0.100

80,986,492

OM0000004933

AL SUWADI POWER

1,322,627

168,124

84

0.113

0.122

0.113

0.120

0.103

0.007

6.185

0.118

0.120

0.123

0.100

85,728,761

OM0000002188

AL ANWAR CERAMIC

282,310

46,556

51

0.179

0.181

0.175

0.181

0.175

0.006

3.429

0.181

0.178

0.180

0.100

39,850,000

OM0000003125

GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO

69,796

8,720

8

0.148

0.153

0.149

0.153

0.149

0.004

2.685

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.100

30,900,000

OM0000001707

OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY

10,972

23,650

12

2.150

2.200

2.135

2.200

2.150

0.050

2.326

2.200

2.200

2.350

0.100

19,734,000

OM0000002674

UNITED FINANCE

25,400

1,660

4

0.085

0.086

0.085

0.086

0.085

0.001

1.538

0.086

0.085

0.087

0.100

25,344,402

OM0000001533

OMINVEST

348,430

79,553

36

0.229

0.232

0.228

0.232

0.229

0.003

1.310

0.232

0.231

0.232

0.100

217,085,090

OM0000003681

VOLTAMP ENERGY

15,018

12,739

18

0.840

0.850

0.840

0.850

0.840

0.010

1.190

0.849

0.849

0.850

0.100

79,571,188

OM0000002239

AL JAZERA SERVICES

27,657

5,072

10

0.184

0.186

0.183

0.186

0.184

0.002

1.087

0.186

0.185

0.186

0.100

7,988,796

OM0000003026

OMAN TELECOM

1,245,274

1,301,406

96

1.040

1.050

1.040

1.050

1.041

0.009

0.865

1.050

1.050

1.050

0.100

787,500,000

OM0000009072

OQ GAS NETWORKS

19,839,678

3,152,321

673

0.159

0.161

0.159

0.160

0.159

0.001

0.289

0.160

0.160

0.160

0.100

892,899,927

OM0000002796

BANK MUSCAT

10,083,346

3,236,747

532

0.320

0.324

0.318

0.322

0.320

0.002

0.625

0.322

0.323

0.322

0.100

2,417,059,584

OM0000001483

NATIONAL BANK OMAN

2,043,810

677,838

288

0.335

0.336

0.330

0.336

0.335

0.001

0.289

0.336

0.337

0.336

0.100

546,317,975

OM0000002178

JAZZERA STEEL PRODUCTS

40,736

19,002

6

0.470

0.470

0.466

0.466

0.466

0.000

0.000

0.466

0.460

0.479

0.100

58,202,448

OM0000003224

RENAISSANCE SERVICES

380,829

106,876

32

0.280

0.284

0.280

0.280

0.280

0.000

0.000

0.280

0.278

0.280

0.100

66,194,800

OM0000003386

SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK

13,852,344

2,008,691

270

0.146

0.146

0.144

0.145

0.145

0.000

0.000

0.145

0.146

0.145

0.100

989,500,709

OM0000008834

ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES

1,706,757

487,218

296

0.277

0.277

0.274

0.277

0.277

0.000

0.000

0.277

0.278

0.277

0.100

213,345,400

OM0000003968

OOREDOO

194,400

50,527

19

0.260

0.261

0.252

0.258

0.260

-0.002

-0.769

0.258

0.256

0.260

0.100

167,943,611

OM0000004420

BANK NUZWA

375,403

40,665

35

0.109

0.109

0.107

0.108

0.109

-0.001

-0.917

0.108

0.107

0.108

0.100

241,580,527

OM0000002440

AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO

3,366

293

2

0.087

0.087

0.087

0.088

0.088

0.001

1.136

0.087

0.087

0.088

0.100

7,530,000

OM0000004788

MADINA TAKAFUL

460,234

38,120

28

0.086

0.086

0.085

0.085

0.086

-0.001

-1.163

0.085

0.084

0.085

0.100

14,875,000

OM0000001087

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE

798,665

180,184

14

0.240

0.240

0.237

0.237

0.240

-0.003

-1.290

0.237

0.237

0.239

0.100

237,100,000

Total

22

54,502,200

11,809,494

2,603

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE	MANAGER	ARCHITECT	ENGINEER	PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT	MEDICAL
Sudanese Accountant with 11 yrs experiences in Oman seeks job. Contact 97849429 Accounts asst with 4 yrs of exp in Gulf (accounts) looking for a job. Contact 76253948. Email: jafar-ali2016m@gmail.com Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277 Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+ yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279 B COM, ICWA (Inter), SAPB1, 16 yrs experience Oman ,accounts payable,receivable, product costing, financial planning & analysis, budgeting, MIS,audit, payroll with D/L, looking job. Contact: +968 93876169. Email: bikashoman@gmail.com Indian male, Asst Finance manager (Mcom&MBA Finance), having 10 yrs of Oman experience, valid D/L.Contact 97524285. Email bobykkj@gmail.com Indian male accountant with 4+ yrs of experience, pursuing CMA US. Seeking new opportunities. Contact: +968 76226098 Indian male B.Com graduate having 2+ yrs of experience in India accounts, sales looking for suitable placement, Ready to join immediately. Contact: +968 76324360	Indian professional(M), MBA pursuing, 7 yrs Oman exp (5 yrs managerial roles). Ops, BD, management. D/L. Contact 96722110, Email yasiny007@gmail.com Indian male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch Manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact : 98132055 Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203	Diploma in Electrical Engineering looking for Fire Fighting site supervisor/suitable job. Contact: 95933453, Email: haquefaizan3786@gmail.com Experienced Biomedical Engineers seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvl@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225 Project Manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience ,valid D/L and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786 Sr. Project Engineer MEP 18 yrs experience in MEP GCC Construction Contact 97135658 Indian M (35) MBA in Oman, 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma with D/L. Contact: 79755795 Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading, whatsapp: +96895839964 Civil engineer diploma, total 20 yrs above experience in construction projects with 15 yrs in Oman, valid D/L.looking for job. Contact: 91227974. Email mohammadtoslim@gmail.com	Looking for suitable job (driving) 10 yrs experience, knows Arabic, English Hindi. Contact: 97133246 Looking light driving job. Contact: 96091045 Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job . Contact 99116288 Looking for driving job. Contact: 78137708 Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801 Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920	Indian male, certified international procurement professional,manager by IPSCMI USA and have 13+ yrs of procurement, supply chain and projects experience in oil & gas &financial services of UAE. Presently in Oman. Contact. 9943900. Email: s_k_azeemuddin@rediff.com	Indian female Pharmacist with 2 yrs experience in Oman,passed Oman prometric and licensed. Seeking suitable job opportunities. Contact : 96126261, 951376651



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40 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza since Tuesday night



Since October 7, 2023, the occupying forces have launched an offensive on the Gaza Strip, resulting in the killing of 63,557 Palestinians

GAZA: At least 40 Palestinian civilians were killed in Israeli airstrikes targeting different areas across the Gaza Strip from midnight until Wednesday afternoon, according to the Ministry of Health. It affirmed that that hospitals



across the enclave received dozens of victims: 17 at Al-Shifa Hospital, seven at Sheikh Radwan Clinic, three at Al-Ma'amoud Hospital, 1 at Al-Quds Hospital-Tel al-Hawa, and 1 at Al-Awda Hospital. 4 at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, and 7 at Nasser Hospital.

Since October 7, 2023, the occupying forces have launched an

offensive on the Gaza Strip, resulting in the killing of 63,557 Palestinians, the majority of whom were children and women, with nearly 160,660 reported wounded.

Hundreds of victims remain under the rubble or in the streets, where ambulance and rescue teams face difficulties in reaching them due to the ongoing shelling

and massive destruction.

Number of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails surpasses 11,000, says prisoners' institutions

Palestinian prisoner advocacy groups confirmed on Wednesday that the total number of detainees held inside Israeli custody has risen to more than 11,000, the highest figure since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000.

According to the statement, the total does not include detainees held in Israeli military camps. The majority of those imprisoned are administrative detainees and individuals awaiting trial.

The report highlighted that among the detainees are 94 female detainees, including two female detainees from Gaza, and more than 400 children. The number of administrative detainees reached 3,577, which is the highest per-

centage compared to the number of detained, convicted, and unlawful combatants detainees.

The organisations stressed that the number of detainees classified as "illegal combatants" reached 2,662 detainees, noting that this number does not include all the detainees from Gaza who are being held in camps affiliated with the occupation army and classified as (illegal combatants), noting that this classification also includes Arab detainees from Lebanon and Syria.

Hebron's municipality slams Israeli colonists' seizure of Palestinian homes

The Hebron Municipality condemned on Wednesday Israeli colonists' seizure of a house adjacent to the old municipality building in the heart of the Old City of Hebron, under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces, and them holding a provocative party in the mu-

nicipality square.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the municipality considered this crime part of a systematic policy to Judaize the Old City and impose a new reality on the ground by attacking citizens' property and closing main streets in the Al-Zahida and Al-Shalala areas, among others, adding that this is "a flagrant violation of international laws and norms."

The municipality affirmed that it is proceeding with its legal measures to protect the city's cultural and historical heritage, stressing that these practices will not deter the city's residents from clinging to their land and homes. It called on international and human rights organizations to intervene immediately to put an end to these escalating attacks and ensure the protection of the residents of the Old City and their historical properties. — **Wafa**

80TH ANNIVERSARY

China holds massive V-Day parade and pledges peaceful development

BEIJING: China held a massive military parade in central Beijing on Wednesday to mark the 80th anniversary of its victory in World War II, pledging the country's commitment to peaceful development in a world still fraught with turbulence and uncertainties.

Towering structures shaped like the Great Wall, crowned with giant numerals "1945" and "2025," stood in Tian'anmen Square, symbolising the Chinese nation's courage and solidarity in resisting foreign aggression.

Wearing a dark grey, high-collar suit, President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, oversaw the parade and reviewed the troops.

Standing beside Xi on Tian'anmen Rostrum were Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, along with more than 20 other foreign leaders, some of whom attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in the city of Tianjin earlier this week.

Representatives of people who had supported China's resistance endeavors, or their family members -- from countries such as Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Canada -- were invited to the event.



This was the second time since 2015 that China has held a military parade to mark the hard-won victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Commemorative event

The commemorative event began at 9 a.m. with an 80-gun salute, followed by a solemn flag-raising ceremony, and a chorus of the national anthem.

Helicopters flew over the square carrying banners that read "Justice Prevails," "Peace Prevails," and "The People Prevail." The high-morale, well-equipped soldiers marched along the

Chang'an (Eternal Peace) Avenue in tight, powerful formations, their faces lit with confidence and pride. Columns of new tanks, artillery and other military equipment rumbled through the square.

Xi delivered a speech before the parade. Highlighting the significance of the victory 80 years ago, Xi said it marks China's first complete victory against foreign aggression in modern times.

Xi noted that the Chinese people made a major contribution to the salvation of human civilization and the defense of world peace with immense sacrifice in the war. He called on nations to "eliminate the root cause of war and prevent historical tragedies

from recurring."

Xi attended a military parade held in Moscow in May to mark the WWII victory in Europe. China and the Soviet Union served as the mainstay of resistance against Japanese militarism and German Nazism, making pivotal contribution to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War.

China was the first country to rise against fascist aggression with the longest-lasting resistance that began in 1931. The country tied down and struck over half of Japan's overseas forces, at the cost of 35 million military and civilian casualties -- accounting for around one-third of all WWII casualties worldwide. — **Xinhua**

POLITICAL CHAOS

Thailand ruling party moves to dissolve parliament

BANGKOK: Thailand's ruling party has sought royal approval to dissolve the parliament for a new election moments after the largest opposition party backed a rival candidate on Wednesday to lead the Southeast Asian nation, which has been plunged into political chaos. A race between rival factions to clinch power in the Thai parliament ensued after now-former Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra was dismissed by the Constitutional Court last week over her handling of a border dispute with Cambodia.

Her Pheu Thai party — currently governing in a caretaker capacity — was trying to court the country's biggest People's Party to bolster a fragile coalition.

Pheu Thai's former alliance partner, Bhumjaithai, looked to form its own government led by conservative tycoon Anutin Charnvirakul. The People's Party — which controls nearly a third of lower house seats — said on Wednesday that it was backing Anutin. Anutin told the media that he has the support of 146 lawmakers from seven groups and parties in his attempt to become prime minister. Anutin — heir to a major construction company fortune — previously served as deputy prime minister and interior minister. He championed cannabis legalization during his stint as health minister



in 2022. The People's Party said its support for Anutin was conditional on Anutin dissolving the House of Representatives within four months, meaning his elevation to office would lead to fresh elections.

Under the Thai constitution, if the king gives his assent to the dissolution of parliament, an election must take place within 45 to 60 days. The Bhumjaithai leader said on Wednesday that he was committed to the conditions laid out by the People's Party, including house dissolution.

Meanwhile, People's Party leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut said a parliamentary vote on a new prime minister could take place on Friday. "There is a risk that there would be a return of the old coalition which has failed to run the country in the last two years, and a risk of the return of the coup maker as prime minister," he said at a briefing as he referred to Prayuth Chan-ocha, a general who seized power in 2014 and remains eligible to become the country's leader despite retiring. — **DW**

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

WFP rushes food aid to quake-hit Afghanistan

KABUL: The World Food Programme (WFP) has sent emergency aid to Afghanistan's quake-stricken Kunar and Nangarhar provinces, where more than 1400 people have been killed and over 3000 people injured, Khaama Press reported.

Initial aid shipments include food supplies and high-energy biscuits, with additional flights scheduled to deliver further assistance and personnel.

Khaama Press, citing WFP in its report, noted that many of the communities hit by the earthquake were already struggling after recent flash floods, and worsening weather conditions now threaten to deepen the humanitarian crisis.

Describing the devastation, WFP's regional director Harald Mannhardt said, "Homes reduced to rubble, roads destroyed, landslides everywhere, and tragically, lives lost." He noted that teams are working alongside rescue efforts and are prepared to expand operations as needs grow.

The 6.0-magnitude quake has left at least 1400 people dead and nearly 3000 injured, with the toll expected to rise as search and recovery missions continue. Rescue operations remain hindered by



blocked roads, rugged terrain, and repeated aftershocks.

Despite funding shortages and logistical hurdles, WFP's rapid food distribution has become a crucial lifeline for affected families. However, damaged infrastructure and severe weather underline the urgent requirement for long-term, coordinated international support, Khaama Press reported.

Earlier, on Tuesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in a post on X, stated that Indian earthquake assistance has reached Kabul by air.

"Indian earthquake assistance reaches Kabul by air. 21 tonnes of relief materials, including blankets, tents, hygiene kits, water storage tanks, generators, kitchen utensils, portable water purifiers, sleeping bags, essential medicines, wheelchairs, hand sanitisers, water purification tablets, ORS solutions and medical consumables, were airlifted today," he said. — **ANI**

UNITED STATES

US judge blocks Trump's use of military to fight crime in California

WASHINGTON DC: A judge on Tuesday blocked US President Donald Trump's administration from using the military to fight crime in California.

The decision comes as Trump threatened to send troops to more cities, including Chicago.

District Judge Charles Breyer decreed that the Trump administration broke a law known as the Posse Comitatus Act with the deployment of 4,000 National Guard and 700 active duty US Marines to Los Angeles in June of this year.

The legislation limits the deployment of troops for domestic enforcement.

The ruling dealt a setback to the Trump administration's enthusiasm for deploying the military elsewhere in the US.

Likely to appeal the ruling

The White House is likely to appeal the ruling, as spokeswoman Anna Kelly called Breyer a "rogue judge" and said the military deployment had saved Los Angeles from "mass chaos."

"The president is committed to protecting law-abiding citizens, and this will not be the final say on the issue," Kelly said in a statement.

The injunction applies only to the military in California, and is



not nationwide.

But the judge said that Trump's stated desire to send troops to Chicago and other cities provided support for his ruling, noting that the US president said at an August 27 cabinet meeting that he had the right to "do anything I want to do... if I think our country is in danger."

Trump has said the troops were needed in Los Angeles to protect federal agents carrying out immigration enforcement, after immigration raids sparked

demonstrations.

"There is no question that federal personnel should be able to perform their jobs without fearing for their safety," wrote Breyer, who was nominated to the bench by Democratic President Bill Clinton.

"But to use this as a hook to send military troops alongside federal agents wherever they go proves too much and would frustrate the very purpose of the Posse Comitatus Act."

Later on Tuesday, Trump told a conservative radio host that federal intervention in Chicago will happen, without stating when.

"I don't want to mention when, but it's going to be happening there. It's going to be happening elsewhere too," Trump said on the "Scott Jennings Radio Show" over whether his administration would be sending federal resources to Chicago this week and whether it would include National Guard troops. — **DW**

Team Oman Sail begins preparation for the Star Sailors League Gold Cup

The training camp from 1-10 September will see the team use SSL47 boats to get a feel for the demands of the SSL Gold Cup

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's Star Sailors League team have begun preparations for the upcoming SSL Gold Cup Circuit 2025-2026 with a training camp in Grandson, Switzerland, on the shores of Lac de Neuchâtel. The team will train alongside sailors from Greece and Switzerland ahead of the new season, with Asian Qualifiers set for December 2025 ahead of the finals in July 2026.

The team comprises ten sailors, skippered by Nasser Al Mashari, alongside Ali Al Balushi, Yasser Al Rahbi, Raed Al Hadi, Haitham Al Wahaibi, Akram Al Wahaibi, Hussain Al Jabri, and Abdulrahman Al Mashari, in addition to two female sailors, Ibtisam Al Salmi and Marwa Al Khaifi, from the women's team. The training camp from 1-10



September will see the team use SSL47 boats to get a feel for the demands of the SSL Gold Cup through a series of technical drills

and tactical exercises. Several teams, including SSL Australia, SSL Ecuador, SSL Colombia, SSL United Arab Emirates, and many

more, have already embarked upon training camps also on Lac de Neuchâtel as part of a 60-nation event, featuring many new-

comers to the competition. The fleet will be narrowed down to 40 for the finals.

Abdulaziz Al Shidi, Acting Di-

rector of Sailing at Oman Sail, said, "Building the international presence of Oman Sail's team reflects the organisation's commitment to promoting the Sultanate of Oman on the global stage by participating in major sporting events. The event also has the potential to empower Omani youth and inspire further development of their skills in sailing to compete at the highest levels. We are delighted to join so many sailing nations in the Star Sailors League Gold Cup and have the opportunity to highlight Oman's rich maritime heritage and showcase our nation in the international sporting arena."

The Star Sailors League Gold Cup is a biennial international sailing competition where nations—rather than individual sailors—compete for sailing supremacy aboard identical one-design yachts. It's often described as the "Football World Cup in Sailing". Racing is done in fleets of four boats in windward-leeward courses using SSL47 yachts, delivering thrilling and accessible inshore racing for spectators.

The inaugural edition of the Star Sailors League Gold Cup was ultimately won by Hungary, who were crowned the first-ever sailing world champion nation at final on 3 December 2023 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

BY SEVEN WICKETS



Markram, Maharaj shine as Proteas trounce England

LEEDS: Aiden Markram's powerful 86 and Keshav Maharaj's four-wicket haul helped South Africa seal a convincing seven-wicket victory over England in the first ODI at Leeds on Tuesday.

After bundling out the hosts for 131, the Proteas chased the target in 20.5 overs, thanks to Markram's brilliant unbeaten 86 off 55 balls, studded with 13 boundaries and two sixes.

With the ball, Maharaj was the star, returning figures of 4/22, while Wiaan Mulder provided solid support with 3/33.

Markram and Ryan Rickelton set the tone with a 121-run opening stand before Markram was dismissed by Adil Rashid. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma followed soon after, scoring just six, while Tristan Stubbs was cleaned up by Rashid for a golden duck, leaving the Proteas at 131/3, needing just one run for

victory.

Dewald Brevis then joined Rickelton and finished the game in style, smashing a six off his second ball to seal the win. Rickelton remained unbeaten on 31 off 59 balls, including "four boundaries, as South Africa wrapped up the chase at 137/3.

Adil Rashid was the only wicket-taker for England, claiming all three South African wickets.

Earlier, South Africa won the toss and elected to field first. For England, Jamie Smith stood tall with a fighting 54 off 48 balls, including 10 fours, but received little support.

Jos Buttler was the next-best scorer with 15, as the rest of the batting order failed to deliver.

Apart from Maharaj and Mulder's heroics, Nandre Burger and Lungi Ngidi chipped in with a wicket each to complete a dominant performance by the Proteas. **-ANI**

MIDDLE EAST RALLY

Omani drivers to compete in Lebanon



MUSCAT: The Lebanon International Rally, the fifth round of the Middle East Rally Championship, will take place this Saturday and Sunday with Omani participation represented by drivers Zakariya Al Amri and Abdullah Al Zubair in the N-Group category.

The Lebanon International Rally is considered one of the most challenging rallies in the Middle East, held on asphalt roads navigating narrow paths and mountain alleys in Lebanon. Lebanese driver Roger Feghali has dominated this championship in recent years, winning most of the titles.

The rally will also feature Qatari driver Nasser Al Attiyah, who currently leads the championship with a significant margin over his closest competitors.

Competitor Zakariya Al Amri said: "This is my first experience in the Lebanon International Rally on asphalt roads. Our goal in participating is to strengthen our lead in the N category and seek a distinguished position in the overall category standings. We have put in place a suitable plan with the technical team so that we can finish the race without any problems or breakdowns." **-ONA**

WALKING NIGHTMARE

England quick Sonny Baker breaks unwanted record in debut against South Africa

LEEDS: Debutant Sonny Baker's dream moment turned into an absolute walking nightmare after he went at the top of an unwanted record, which ultimately headlined England's dreadful show in the first ODI against South Africa at Headingley.

Baker's rise from bowling 10 balls under the light in the Hundred to the ODI format against South Africa's proven stars proved to be too much for him. He was clobbered ruthlessly and spilt 76 runs in his seven-over spell at 10.90, the most conceded by an England bowler on his debut.

At the beginning of the day in Leeds, Baker was handed his maiden cap by Jos Buttler, a former captain and a fellow Somerset cricketer. After an impressive show in the County Championship and an eye-catching campaign in the recently concluded Hundred, Baker was fast-tracked into the England white-ball setup.

England saw him as a genuine wicket-taking threat on Australia's fast-paced grass strip in the upcoming Ashes, scheduled to begin on November 21 in Perth. However, South Africa offered a quick reality check to the Three Lions, forcing them to re-evaluate their options by unleashing a relentless onslaught on Baker.

After Baker's golden duck ended England's demolition with the bat, the 22-year-old's opening over was a complete disaster. He pitched fuller, searched for swing,



and his pace hardly troubled Aiden Markram, who hammered three boundaries in his over to start the proceedings with 14 runs in their pursuit of a paltry 132-run target.

He was constantly pumelled by South African batters, and by the end of his seven overs, he had conceded the most runs of any England bowler on debut. Along with this, he had the second-highest economy rate for a debutant of all time, with a minimum of five overs bowled.

While Baker perished, England tearaway Jofra Archer's searing deliveries were hardly touched by the Proteas. Archer's scorching spell further highlighted Baker's torrid run at Headingley.

After England met its fate and was handed a seven-wicket drubbing, captain Harry Brook defended Baker's shambolic debut and said, "The way he kept on chucking in and giving his 100 per cent was awesome to see. That's exactly what we ask for from our bowlers." **-ANI**

NOVEMBER 21 IN PERTH

Australia captain Cummins willing to take 'few risks' to be fit before Ashes

BRISBANE [AUSTRALIA]: Australia captain Pat Cummins could take "a few risks" and push his envelope in a bid to be fit for the Ashes against England, which will kick off on November 21 in Perth.

Cummins faced a massive setback after his Ashes preparations were compromised when a scan revealed lumbar bone stress in his lower back, forcing him to sit out on the white-ball series against New Zealand and India.

Since returning home after the tour of the Caribbean, the 32-year-old has been restricted to light duties in the gym and will refrain from running or bowling and hopes that his bone stress settles in time.

The nature of injury is something that Cummins is well aware of, considering it haunted him in the first six years of his international journey. If Cummins push-

es his return too early, there is a chance that it could develop into a stress fracture.

Cummins is yet to identify his return date to bowling duties, with the medics set to reassess him in one month's time. Despite the associated risks, Cummins is willing to take it to avoid the prospect of missing one of Australia's biggest sporting events.

"I'm never going to go into a Test match unless you think you can finish the Test match. But when you're 18 or 19, you're like, Let's make sure this is the perfect rehab, whether it takes an extra six months," Cummins told cricket.com.au.

"Whereas, I'm happy to be a bit like, well, it's an Ashes series, whatever it takes to play it. Then, say, at the end, if you're still not 100 per cent and you need to, then have a bit of a break next year ...



there's not another Ashes series," he added.

Cummins believes even if he misses his shot at playing a couple of games during the buildup to the

oldest rivalry in cricket, he will be able to get up to his speed quickly.

"I think you're willing to take a few risks and be a little bit aggressive to try and play as much Tests

as you can. At this stage of my career, I feel like I can probably get up to speed a bit quicker than when I was 18 or 19," Cummins said while speaking to reporters on Wednesday.

"Back then you probably feel like you need to play a few Shield games or one-dayers. I'm pretty confident even if I don't get a chance to play a Shield game, I can get up to speed pretty quickly," he added.

While it remains difficult to pinpoint what triggered his injury, Cummins hinted at the possibility of the hard yards he put in during the World Test Championship final defeat against South Africa at Lord's earlier this year.

Cummins toiled for 35.1 overs during the contest that lasted for four days. His work rate was two-thirds of the number of balls he had bowled for Sunrisers Hyderabad during the preceding In-

dian Premier League (IPL).

"Sometimes you might just get unlucky and bowl a lot of overs in, say, the World Test Championship final, and that's enough to kind of start it," he said.

"Through the West Indies, I felt like maybe it was a little bit sore, but nothing abnormal for fast bowlers, you've always got some niggles. Once you get home and everything settles down, it just hung around a little bit," he added.

During the three Tests in the Caribbean, his bowling rate was significantly lower than usual. He sat out of the five T20Is against the West Indies and both white-ball series against South Africa.

In each of the last three years, Cummins has bowled 400-plus overs. However, in nine months of 2025, he has managed 175.1 overs, indicating a significant drop in his workload. **-ANI**

ROUND-UP



Celebrating 50 Years of Customer Happiness

Saud Bahwan Automotive & Toyota Mark 50 Years Partnership with Biggest Ever Campaign



Saud Bahwan Automotive is making history in Oman's automotive market with an extraordinary celebration of its 50-year journey with Toyota. For five decades, SBA has been at the heart of Oman's roads, spreading happiness, trust and world-class mobility solutions. Now, in the biggest ever campaign, Saud Bahwan Automotive is giving customers an unmissable opportunity to be part of this golden milestone, with spectacular customer benefits, exciting rewards and the chance to win 50 brand-new Toyota Yaris cars as raffle.

An Offer Like Never Before – Because You Deserve It
Customers purchasing a new Toyota during this campaign will enjoy a host of remarkable benefits, including:

- **50 Yaris on Raffle** – drive home happiness with one of 50 stylish Yaris cars.
- **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service** – enjoy worry-free driving
- **50% VAT on Us** – more savings, more value.
- **50% Insurance on Us** – added peace of mind
- **RO 50 worth of Thiqah Loyalty Points** – more value with every purchase

This biggest ever offer is valid from 1st September to 29th December 2025. So head to your nearest Toyota showroom today. (Benefits may vary across model variants, model years, and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply.

Customers are advised to visit the nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom for full details.)

A Legacy of Trust & Excellence
Sharing his thoughts about this exclusive offer, a senior representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive said, "For 50 years, Saud Bahwan Automotive and Toyota have gone beyond simply offering cars. We have built journeys of quality, reliability and unmatched peace-of-mind. From our modern showrooms and expansive service centres to the easy availability of genuine spare parts across Oman and the dedication of our skilled teams, every step has been designed and implemented to ensure that owning a Toyota is a truly rewarding experience. Today, as we celebrate 50 years of happiness, we invite customers to join us in this historic moment and start their own Journey of customer happiness with a Toyota."

Speaking about Toyota's distinctive attributes he said, "Toyota is not just about driving. It is about living with confidence, safety and joy. When you choose Toyota, you choose a lifetime of quality, durability and reliability. We welcome all new buyers to visit our showrooms and discover why Toyota continues to be Oman's most trusted companion on the road."

Discover the Toyota Range – Something for Every Journey
Toyota vehicles in Oman bring together cutting-edge technology,

powerful performance and everyday comfort, ensuring there is a perfect Toyota for every lifestyle.

YARIS
Young, Stylish and Full of Energy
The Toyota Yaris is the star of this campaign and for good reason. Sleek, dynamic and efficient, the Yaris is designed for those who live life on the move. With a fuel-efficient 1.5L engine delivering 105 HP, CVT transmission for smooth performance and a stylish interior featuring an 8-inch multimedia screen, Apple CarPlay®, Android Auto™ and rear USB ports, it makes every drive fun and connected. Add in practical comfort like automatic air conditioning with rear vents and the Yaris is your perfect everyday companion.

COROLLA
The Global Icon
The Corolla has been winning hearts for generations and in Oman, it continues to inspire trust and admiration. Stylish yet practical, it is available with two engine options – a spirited 2.0L engine producing 168 HP and a 1.6L engine delivering efficient everyday performance. With Toyota's hallmark reliability and refined comfort, the Corolla is more than a car. It is a global symbol of driving confidence.

URBAN CRUISER
The Stylish Compact SUV
The Urban Cruiser brings together

the confidence of an SUV with the agility of a city car. Designed for today's urban explorers, it offers a responsive 1.5L engine that delivers smooth, efficient performance while maintaining Toyota's legendary reliability. With its elevated driving position, spacious cabin and modern connectivity features, the Urban Cruiser makes every journey effortless, whether navigating busy streets or heading out for a weekend escape.

RAIZE
Compact in Size, Big on Possibilities
The Toyota Raize is proof that great things come in small packages. Built on an advanced platform for superior handling and safety, it is powered by an efficient 1.0L turbocharged engine delivering lively performance and excellent fuel economy. Its bold SUV styling, versatile cargo space and smart technology make it perfect for those who demand flexibility without compromise. With the Raize, every drive is an opportunity to explore more.

HILUX
Built Tough, Built for Adventure
When the road gets tough, the Toyota Hilux is tougher. Whether it is the robust Hilux Adventure with its powerful 4.0L V6 engine producing 235 HP, or the dependable Hilux 4x4 with a 2.7L engine and multiple transmission choices, this pickup is engineered to thrill

while offering unmatched reliability. From city streets to rugged trails, Hilux never backs down.

FORTUNER
Power Meets Prestige
Bold, spacious and designed for adventure, the Toyota Fortuner offers a commanding presence on the road. Choose between the efficient 2.7L engine (164 HP) or the exhilarating 4.0L V6 (235 HP). With 6-speed automatic transmission and advanced engineering, the Fortuner is perfect for families and adventurers who want power with comfort.

PRADO
A Trusted Legend Reimagined
The Toyota Prado has always stood for strength and dependability. Now, it returns more stylish and capable than ever with two powerful options – a 2.4L Turbo Petrol and a 2.8L Turbo Diesel, both paired to an 8-speed automatic transmission. Strong yet refined, Prado is the perfect partner for family journeys and off-road adventures alike.

LAND CRUISER
The King of All Terrains
For decades, the Land Cruiser has defined ultimate capability and today it continues that proud legacy with powerful new V6 twin-turbo engines. The 3.5L petrol engine delivers 409 HP, while the 3.3L diesel (launching soon in the region) pushes 302 HP with exceptional torque. A 4.0L V6 variant is

also available. With 10-speed and 6-speed transmission options, the Land Cruiser blends raw strength with refined control, ready for any journey, anywhere.

Join the Celebration. Begin Your Journey of Happiness Today
This golden jubilee celebration is more than an offer. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. With 50 Toyota Yaris cars to be won, unmatched customer benefits and Toyota's legendary range waiting for you, there is never been a better time to own a Toyota.

Visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom today and take the first step towards your own journey of happiness with Toyota.

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ROUND-UP

Sohar International & Sohar Islamic unveil new housing finance product for GCC nationals and expatriates

This initiative is designed to facilitate home ownership and investment opportunities in Oman, making it easier for expatriates—whether purchasing a house to live in or as an investment—to achieve their goals with confidence

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to providing affordable and accessible financial solutions, Sohar International and its Islamic banking Window – Sohar Islamic announced a new housing finance product. This initiative is designed to facilitate home ownership and investment opportunities in Oman, making it easier for expatriates—whether purchasing a house to live

in or as an investment—to achieve their goals with confidence. The product extends housing finance services to GCC nationals and expatriates, both residents and non-residents, looking to invest in properties within Integrated Tourism Complexes (ITCs). Offering financing of up to 50% of the property, the new loan product ensures customers have access to practical, tailored solu-

tions for purchasing completed or off-plan units in ministry-approved ITC projects. With affordability and flexibility at its core, the product provides financing of up to OMR250,000 with a tenor of up to 10 years, including a grace period of 18 months for under-construction properties. Eligible applicants can choose between conventional or Sharia-compliant Islamic financing, while also benefiting from a complementary credit card facility of up to USD 10,000 during the construction phase, adding further convenience and support. they can invest with confidence in the country's dynamic real estate sector. Importantly, this initiative is also in line with Oman Vision 2040, which emphasizes economic diversification, sustainable growth, and an attractive investment climate. "By enabling more individuals to invest in housing and real estate, we are contributing to national development and helping drive long-term economic prosperity for the Sultanate of Oman." This launch underscores the bank's strategy to enhance financial inclusion, strengthen its housing finance portfolio, and contribute to Oman's broader economic growth by offering customers a diverse and flexible range of financial solutions. As an active contributor to the nation's development, this product is poised to encourage and attract investments in line with the economic diversification mandate of the 2040 vision, thereby accelerating economic growth and sustainability in Oman.

Your Window to Real Estate in Oman

- Home financing for GCC nationals and expats
- Up to 50% financing on property value
- Competitive interest rates
- Flexible repayment terms of up to 10 years

RECOGNITION



Bank Muscat named Best Investment Bank

MUSCAT: In a remarkable achievement reaffirming its leadership in delivering advisory services and innovative funding solutions tailored to the needs of businesses, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been honoured with the Best Investment Bank in Oman Award for 2025 at the globally reputed Euromoney Excellence Awards. This prestigious accolade underscores Bank Muscat's reputation as a trusted and pioneering financial services partner contributing to the advancement of the investment banking and capital markets initiatives in the country. The recognition of the Bank came post rigorous evaluation of criteria, mainly relating to the Bank's demonstrated leadership in executing complex financial advisory and investment banking mandates. Commenting on the achievement, Khalifa Abdullah Al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager, Investment Banking & Capital Markets at Bank Muscat, said: "We take pride in winning this global recognition, which stands as a testament to the quality and value proposition of the Bank's investment banking solutions offered to a wide variety of businesses in

Oman. Bank Muscat has a distinguished track record of achievements in the investment banking sector in the Sultanate, and has played a vital role in energizing the capital market through the execution of landmark investment banking deals. The Bank is also committed to offering investment banking services that support national economic growth and meet the evolving expectations of customers across various sectors. Bank Muscat, represented through its Investment Banking & Capital Markets Division, has a team of seasoned professionals delivering a comprehensive and diverse range of investment banking services in alignment with the Bank's strategic vision to be the financial partner of choice for institutional customers within the country and across international markets. The Bank will continue its concerted efforts to create sustainable value for its customers." Bank Muscat has played a pivotal role in the local investment banking landscape, having successfully led and managed numerous landmark transactions in recent years, including sukuk and bond issuances, capital raising initiatives, and syndicated financing deals targeting strategic sectors.

WOMEN'S EVOLVING ROLES

Lujaina Mohsin Haider Darwish addresses The Origin 2025 – Women Forum & Awards



MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Her Highness Sayyida Basma Al Said, The Origin 2025 – Women Forum & Awards, held at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, celebrated women leaders who continue to inspire progress and innovation across the region. The prestigious event brought together visionary women, pioneering leaders, and changemakers to share their journeys and inspire the future of empowered women in leadership. As keynote speaker, Lujaina Mohsin Haider Darwish, Chairperson of The Origin 2025, Honor Mobile underscored its commitment to supporting platforms that

(MHD-ITICS) reflected on her journey across academia, business, and public service. In her impactful address, she highlighted the critical role of women in driving Oman's development and contributing to Oman Vision 2040. Speaking on the theme "From Vision to Action – Women Shaping the Future," she stated, "Every challenge we overcome paves the way for another woman to rise. Leadership is not just a position; it is a responsibility." As a proud AI Innovation Sponsor of The Origin 2025, Honor Mobile underscored its commitment to supporting platforms that

celebrate Women leadership, technology, and progress. During the event, Lujaina Darwish presented Honor Magic V5 & Honor 400 Pro smartphones to lucky winners, reinforcing the spirit of innovation and recognition. The forum provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on women's evolving roles in shaping businesses, policies, and communities. It also highlighted the significance of collaboration between visionary leaders. The Origin concluded with a renewed commitment to empowering women leaders and building a more inclusive, progressive future for Oman and beyond.

MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

MCBS showcases global and local engagement at ISMUN 2025

MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) made its mark at the 9th Indian School Muscat Model United Nations (ISMUN 2025), with Deputy Executive Chairperson Aisha Al Kharusi serving as Chief Guest at the historic gathering. This year's event broke records as Oman's largest Model United Nations (MUN) event, bringing together over 800 student delegates across 21 committees representing major international bodies including UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, NATO, and FIFA. The timing proved especially meaningful, coinciding with Indian School Muscat's golden jubilee milestone. Aisha Al Kharusi delivered the keynote address, celebrating Indian School Muscat's five decades of shaping future leaders and commending the organizers for their ambitious vision. Along with the Deputy Executive Chairperson, the MCBS delegation added significant depth to the conference through the participation of Dr. Ayyapan Ayyappan Palanissamy,



Supervisor of the MUN Student Club, guided the team, while club leaders President Asma Barwani and Vice President Riyam Bouheni who represented the college with distinction. Also in attendance were faculty members Anitha Nair and Aswathy Pillai, both proud Indian School Muscat

alumni, symbolizing the enduring educational partnerships that continue to strengthen Oman's academic landscape. The conference immersed students in real diplomatic scenarios, where they tackled pressing global issues and built consensus across cultural divides. This hands-on

experience develops exactly what MCBS prioritizes: graduates who can navigate complex challenges with analytical skills and cross-cultural fluency. Through events like ISMUN, students don't just study international relations, they practice it, positioning them as bridge-builders who understand both local contexts and global dynamics. As MCBS celebrates 30 years since its establishment in 1995, the college has announced a landmark initiative for incoming students: a 50% tuition discount for the current academic year. This initiative eases financial barriers while upholding MCBS's longstanding reputation for academic excellence. It reflects the college's dual commitment to honouring its legacy and expanding access to quality higher education. Looking ahead, MCBS will continue to strengthen its role in both international forums and local partnerships, preparing graduates with global perspectives firmly grounded in the needs and aspirations of Oman's development.

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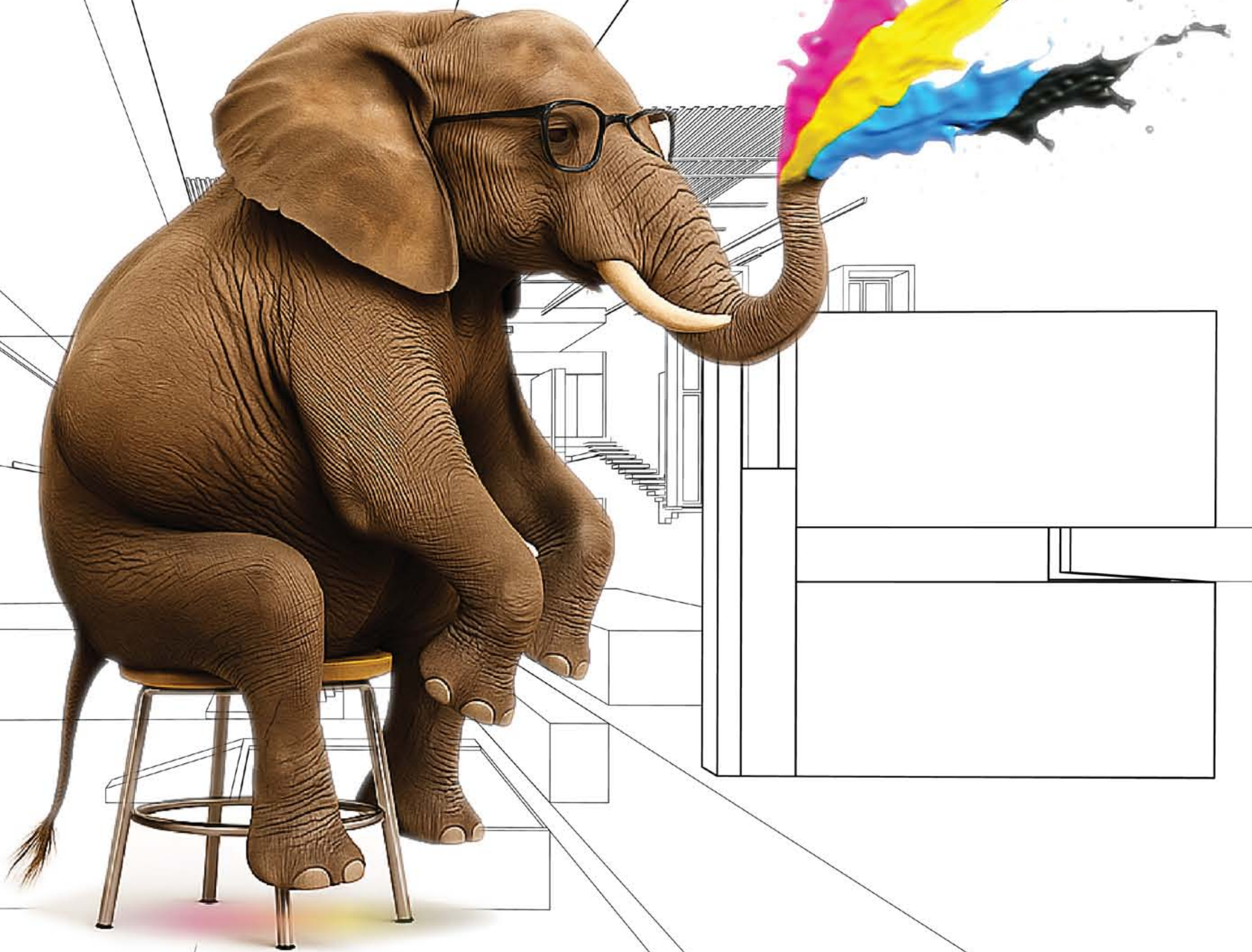
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