

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN

50

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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EID AL ADHA GREETINGS TO HIS MAJESTY

The management and staff of Muscat Media Group and Muscat Media Galaxy extend their greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the occasion of Eid Al Adha.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

HM the Sultan issues Royal Decree

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued a Royal decree reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 51/2025 transfers the Directorate General of Medical Services from the Diwan of Royal Court to the Ministry of Health.

Article (1) states that the Directorate General of Medical Services shall be transferred from the Diwan of Royal Court to the Ministry of Health.

Article (2) stipulates that all allocations, rights, obligations and assets that belong to the Directorate General of Medical Services shall be transferred to the Ministry of Health.

Article (3) transfers all occupants of medical and paramedical jobs, as well as other personnel of the Directorate General of Medical Services, to the Ministry of Health, along with their respective job status, grades and financial allocations.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. -**ONA**

OMAN'S ECONOMY ON SOLID PATH OF GROWTH, SAYS IMF

MUSCAT: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission concluded its preliminary meetings with the government of the Sultanate of Oman during the period 21-29 May 2025 within the framework of Article IV consultations for the year 2025.

The Fund's team and the Omani side discussed the most prominent recent economic developments, fiscal and monetary policies, and structural reform progress in the Sultanate of Oman.

At the conclusion of the visit, the IMF commended Oman's continued economic expansion, with real GDP growth reaching 1.7% in 2024, up from 1.2% in 2023, primarily driven by strong performance in non-hydrocarbon sectors, notably manufacturing, logistics, tourism, and renewable energy. Growth is projected to accelerate to 2.4% in 2025 and 3.7% in 2026, supported by the gradual lifting of OPEC+ oil production cuts and ongoing economic diversification efforts. Inflation remains contained, recorded at 0.9% year-on-year for the first four months of 2025.

The IMF acknowledged the government's prudent fiscal stance, with a fiscal surplus of 3.3% of GDP in 2024, despite increased investment in infrastructure and essential public services. The surplus is expected to moderate to an average of 0.5% of GDP during 2025-2026, reflecting lower oil prices, but is forecast to strengthen over the medium term.

In the area of fiscal management, the IMF noted the reduction in public sector debt to 35.5% of GDP in 2024, alongside a continuing commitment to fiscal reforms and investment in priority sectors. Structural reforms across the public sector, including improvements in State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) governance by Oman Investment Authority.

The IMF confirmed that Oman's banking sector remains robust, supported by strong asset quality, ample capital and liquidity buffers, and sustained profitability. Private sector credit growth continues to be solid, underpinned by an expanding deposit base and a positive net foreign asset position. The IMF also welcomed the CBO's continued progress in enhancing its liquidity management framework, alongside broader financial sector initiatives aimed at expanding access to credit and deepening financial inclusion.

The external sector also performed positively, with a current account surplus of 2.2% of GDP in 2024. While a temporary shift to a modest deficit is projected in 2025-2026 due to softer oil prices and slower export growth, the balance is expected to return to surplus as hydrocarbon output gradually ramps up.

The IMF further recognized Oman's steady progress in implementing structural reforms. These include tax administration modernization by Oman's Tax Authority, operational success of Future Fund Oman in mobilizing private capital, and active efforts to develop the renewable energy sector, including green hydrogen initiatives.

The upcoming 11th Five-Year Development Plan (2026-2030) will build on these gains to accelerate economic diversification under Oman Vision 2040.

The Central Bank of Oman expressed appreciation for the IMF's positive assessment and remains committed to maintaining financial stability, advancing banking sector resilience, and supporting the Sultanate of Oman's vision for a diversified and sustainable economy. -**ONA**

TURKIYE

Oman launches hot air balloon campaign in Cappadocia to attract tourists at home



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has launched its first tourist hot air balloon within the "Oman Balloons" project in Cappadocia, the Republic of Turkiye, as part of the promotional phase of the project.

This initiative comes within the efforts of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism to develop and diversify the tourism product while strengthening Oman's position as a unique regional and international destination. The project aims to attract international expertise in hot air balloon tourism and localise it in Oman, contributing to the growth of tourism experiences and providing new options for both domestic and international tourists. It also aligns with the ministry's support for private sector-led tourism initiatives and enhances public-private partnerships to achieve tourism development goals.

"Oman Balloon No. 1" will begin its first flights within the Sultanate of Oman from the Wilayat of Bidiyah in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, offering a unique experience to explore breathtaking landscapes from the sky, showcasing Oman's diverse tourism attractions.

The balloon has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority in Oman and features a design suitable for Omani weather conditions, with a capacity of up to 20 passengers in addition to the technical crew consisting of a pilot and an assistant. The "Oman Balloons" project is one of the qualitative initiatives supported by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism due to its active role in promoting experiential tourism and providing panoramic views of tourist sites. This contributes to highlighting Oman's natural and cultural richness from an innovative perspective while attracting a broader segment of visitors seeking unique travel experiences. -**ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman and Bahrain explore industrial ties

1 Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, received yesterday Abdulla Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Bahrain. The two sides discussed ways to enhance collaboration between Omani and Bahraini factories. **>A2**

OMAN

Master plan for Salalah Airport City

2 Oman Airports organised an introductory workshop to present the master plan for Salalah Airport City, with the participation of various government and private entities in Dhofar Governorate. The event aimed to highlight investment opportunities, economic feasibility. **>A3**

MARKET

Bank Muscat manages sovereign sukuk

3 Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, announced that it successfully managed series 9 of the Sovereign Sukuk Issuance launched by the Oman Sovereign Sukuk Company, with a total value of OMR100 million. The sukuk carries a seven-year maturity. **>B1**

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The next edition of Times of Oman will be on Tuesday, June 10, due to Eid Al Adha holidays

Oman, Mexico celebrate 50 years of establishing diplomatic ties

The ambassador expressed gratitude of the Mexican government and people to the Sultanate of Oman for its humanitarian efforts in securing the release of the crew of the Galaxy Leader ship

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the United Mexican States on Tuesday celebrated the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between them, unveiling a commemorative emblem symbolizing the advanced ties between the two friendly nations.

This took place during a cere-



mony held at the Foreign Ministry in Muscat yesterday. Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, commended the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, noting that diplomatic relations began on 31 July 1985.

He emphasised that this step has contributed to strengthening cooperation in various fields, including political, economic, and

cultural spheres. He expressed Oman's aspiration to further develop fruitful relations with Mexico across multiple domains, underscoring the shared values that unite the two nations and their mutual commitment to building a partnership based on respect and understanding.

In his turn, Anibal Gómez Toledo, Mexico's Ambassador to Oman, praised the distinguished bilateral relations between Oman and Mex-

ico, affirming his government's keenness to enhance all aspects that elevate bilateral ties to wider horizons in all fields. He also lauded Oman's diplomatic efforts in resolving numerous regional and international issues, as well as its steadfast commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region and building bridges between conflicting parties through dialogue, tolerance, and respect. He stressed that Oman serves as a



model for mediation and peaceful conflict resolution. He expressed the profound gratitude and appreciation of the Mexican government and people to the Sultanate of Oman for its noble humanitarian efforts in securing the release of the crew of the Galaxy Leader ship, particularly the Mexican citizens, enabling their return to their families. He affirmed that celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two friendly nations presents a unique opportunity to set new and ambitious goals that enhance cooperation, increase trade volume, promote tourism, and strengthen academic exchanges through university scholarships, joint scientific research initiatives,



and other fields. In a joint statement, Oman and Mexico celebrated five decades of productive and friendly relations across various sectors, noting that political consultations, economic and trade exchanges, and cultural cooperation have deepened mutual understanding and strengthened collaboration. The two nations reaffirmed their commitment to deepening and expanding their bilateral relationship, expressing their determination to enhance cooperation based on shared interests and to continue working together for the lasting benefit of their peoples. The ceremony was attended by several officials from both the Omani and Mexican sides. -ONA

ENHANCE COLLABORATION

Oman, Bahrain to boost industrial partnership



MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, on Tuesday received Abdulla Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Bahrain.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance collaboration between Omani and Bahraini factories by leveraging available production inputs in both countries.

They also explored joint pro-

motion of industrial products to attract foreign investments and enhance the competitiveness of national industries in regional and international markets. Both ministers emphasised the importance of implementing memorandums of understanding signed between the two nations, which were among the outcomes of the visit of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain to Oman in

January 2025. They also stressed the need to build on existing pacts to develop industrial and trade cooperation. The meeting was attended by Pankaj Khimji, Advisor for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, Dr. Jumaa Ahmed Al Kaabi, Bahrain's envoy to Oman, along with several officials from both sides. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Bahrain to strengthen trade and investment

MUSCAT: Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance received here on Tuesday Abdulla Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and explored means of enhancing cooperation in industrial, investment and trade exchange fields. Both sides underscored the importance of financial, economic and investment cooperation. They also exchanged views and expertise on various matters of mutual concern.

OCCI chief Meanwhile, Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), received Abdulla Adel Fakhro of Bahrain. The two sides discussed ways to enhance trade and investment cooperation between Oman and Bahrain, expanding opportunities



for private sector partnerships in both countries through joint ventures and knowledge exchange, contributing to bilateral relations and economic integration. The meeting also reviewed opportunities in key economic sectors of mutual interest and explored mechanisms to activate the private sector's role in establishing joint projects that support economic development in both nations. Al Rowas emphasized the significant progress in economic relations between Oman and Bahrain, expressing hope that this

meeting would lead to further initiatives boosting trade and investment cooperation while opening new avenues for business owners in promising economic sectors. He highlighted the private sector's role in driving future cooperation through strategic partnerships and high-quality projects that align with both countries' development visions—"Oman Vision 2040" and "Bahrain 2030"—while praising the efforts of the Oman-Bahrain Investment Company and the Oman-Bahrain Friendship Society in strengthening bilateral ties. -ONA

MAWTAN AL-JALAL

Oman Radio wins second prize in Arab music, singing event

TUNIS: Oman Radio has secured second prize in the "Song" category of the Arab Music and Singing Competition, organised by the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) based in Tunis, for the song Mawtan Al-Jalal. The winning entry features lyrics by Hisham Al Saqri, composition and arrangement by Asaad Al Raisi, and vocals by Abdulhameed Al Kayoumi. The competition saw broad participation from Arab broadcasting entities, including both public and private radio stations, with 11 songs and 8 musical pieces submitted from Oman, Kuwait, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, Comoros, and Libya. Asaad Al Raisi, the composer and arranger of the song, stated that this achievement marks a significant cultural and artistic addition to Oman Radio's record in the Arab Music and Singing Competition under ASBU. The competition is among ASBU's cultural and artistic initiatives, launched as part of its ongoing efforts to support Arab musical and vocal creativity and advance Arabic musical culture. -ONA

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AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following auctions:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
37/2025	Developing the infrastructure of central devices and networks for the Vocational College in Al Khaburah	Wednesday 18/06/2025 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 03/07/2025 10 a.m.
38/2025	Providing maintenance services for the building of the Vocational College in Ibri	Monday 23/06/2025 2:00 p.m.	Sunday 13/07/2025 10 a.m.
39/2025	Providing maintenance services for the building of the Directorate General of Labour in Al Dhahirah Governorate and its affiliated departments.	Monday 23/06/2025 2:00 p.m.	Sunday 13/07/2025 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tenders' documents online through the following link, starting from **Wednesday 04/06/2025 at 08:00 a.m.:**
/https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om
- Bids shall be submitted online.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on the date mentioned against each tender in the above table.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

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Master plan for Salalah Airport City reviewed

The workshop reflects Oman Airports' commitment to boost strategic partnerships and institutional integration among various sectors

SALALAH: Oman Airports organised an introductory workshop to present the master plan for Salalah Airport City, with the participation of various government and private entities in Dho-

far Governorate. The event aimed to highlight investment opportunities, economic feasibility, and direct and indirect returns from the project. The workshop reflects Oman Airports' commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships and institutional integration among various sectors, supporting sustainable development goals in the region. The programme included a presentation of the preliminary outputs of the master plan, focusing on targeted economic sectors and proposed land uses within the airport city. Eng. Salim Al Harassi, Senior Director of Infrastructure Projects at Oman Airports, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the key components of the proposed plan. He emphasised the project's strategic role in linking the city with vital sectors, particularly tourism and logistics. The workshop also reviewed the project's implementation phases and proposed timeline,

with Oman Airports reaffirming its commitment to applying the highest standards in developing the city in line with national priorities for enhancing infrastructure and economic enablers. It is worth noting that Oman Airports recently completed the first direct air-sea cargo transfer initiative between Salalah Port and Salalah Airport—a pioneering step to strengthen Oman's logistics integration, leveraging the proximity between the airport, port, and free zone. The cargo terminal at Salalah Airport is a state-of-the-art facility spanning 20,000 square meters, with an annual handling capacity of 50,000 tonnes (expandable to 100,000 tonnes). It includes cold storage for sensitive goods and a 2,500-square-metre live animal handling facility. Salalah Airport serves as one of Oman's key aviation gateways, providing an ideal entry point to the Middle East and connecting Europe, the Indian subcontinent, and the Far East. -ONA



HEAC

More than 51,000 students register at admission centre



MUSCAT: As many as 51,027 students were registered in the Higher Education Admission Center (HEAC) at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The number included 25,706 males and 25,321 females. The figures reflect the number of students who applied to the HEAC until the end of the first stage of registration for students to contest seats in government higher education institutions, internal scholarships, private sector grants, external scholarships and grants from Arab countries for the academic year 2025/2026. The applicants will be given an opportunity to change their study preferences during a "Choice Modification" period that follows the announcement of results of the General Education Diploma (GED) exams in July 2025.

The Higher Education Admission Center announced that the outcome of the first sorting will be made public during the first week of July 2025. These results are based on students' performance in the first semester and their current placing of the programmes of their preference. The aim is to enable the students to amend their choices and make the most appropriate decision in consultation with their parents. The "Choice Modification" period plays a significant role in a student's admission, because registration during this stage becomes final ahead of the "First Round Sorting". This stage is followed by procedures like personal interviews, admission tests and medical tests, in accordance with the requirements of the academic programmes. -ONA

YEMENI ISSUE

Meeting with Dutch envoy to Yemen

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, met here on Tuesday with Janet Alberda, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Yemen. Ongoing efforts The meeting discussed regional

developments, the latest updates on the Yemeni issue, and ongoing efforts to reach a settlement. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Ahmed Hashel Al Maskari, Head of the GCC Department; Stella Kloth, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Sultanate of Oman and several officials from both sides. -ONA



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SYMBOLIC GIFT

Oman presents WTO a commemorative plaque to mark Sayyid Bilarab’s visit

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman presented a commemorative plaque to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) commemorating the visit of His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said to the organisation's headquarters in Geneva on June 21, 2023.

The mural is a symbolic gift from His Highness to the organisation, an initiative that embodies the depth of bilateral relations and mutual appreciation between the Sultanate of Oman and the organisation.

It highlights three main themes: Historical civilisation, natural diversity, and a bright future, in an artistic representation that reflects Omani values, openness to global issues, and sustainable development.

This initiative was supervised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, with the participation of the Omani Society for Arts, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth.

This initiative reflects institutional cooperation and affirms Oman's active presence in international forums through arts and culture.

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said: "This initiative expresses the Sultanate of Oman's appreciation for its constructive relations with the World Trade Organisation and embodies its commitment to promoting cultural communication and dialogue with various countries around the world through art."

He added: "This initiative comes under the guidance and follow-up of His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, who attaches special importance to the arts as an effective tool in promoting cultural dialogue and building bridges of communication between the Sultanate of Oman and the world."

The minister emphasised that HH Sayyid Bilarab support for



tween the Sultanate of Oman and the world."

The minister emphasised that HH Sayyid Bilarab support for

this project reflects his belief in the role of culture in consolidating Oman's presence on the international stage and underscores the

Sultanate of Oman's commitment to presenting a bright image of its cultural and human heritage.

Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Busai-

di, Undersecretary for Culture at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, said: "This artistic initiative embodies a civilisational, cultural, and artistic dimension that reflects the Sultanate of Oman's vision of using the arts as a bridge for global dialogue and understanding, and a belief in the importance of culture and the arts as a tool for representing national identity in various forms."

He expressed his pride in presenting the commemorative plaque to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, which is part of the institutional partnership and cooperation supporting the integration of national efforts to represent the Sultanate of Oman in international forums, enhance its national and cultural identity, and disseminate it globally, in line with Oman Vision 2040.

He said: "This plaque, which reflects Omani civilisation, natural diversity, and a vision for the

future, has highlighted the creative energies of young Omani artists and contributed to conveying the message of authentic Omani art to the World Trade Organisation, thereby affirming the role and importance of the arts in building cultural and diplomatic relations."

Idris bin Abdulrahman Al Khanjari, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, explained that this cultural initiative reflects an important cultural and diplomatic dimension in the Sultanate of Oman's relations with the WTO. It also demonstrates the Sultanate's commitment to the approach of human communication through the arts.

Al Khanjari expressed his pride that this painting will remain present at the WTO headquarters as a symbol of mutual appreciation and the strong relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the WTO.

The Ambassador explained that the painting will be hung in a central hall in the WTO building, called the "Salle des Pas Perdus," which serves as a living museum of pluralism, art, and shared history, with its walls echoing the footsteps of generations of diplomats.

It is worth noting that an art competition was organised with the participation of six Omani artists, taking eight months of continuous work under the supervision of a specialised art committee and in coordination with relevant authorities.

The painting by Omani artist Salem bin Khamis Al Salami was honoured by His Highness Sayyid Bilarab to represent the Sultanate of Oman and is on permanent display at the World Trade Organization headquarters, as an artistic blend that combines Omani cultural identity with global openness. - ONA



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The company invites offers for the following tender:

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Contact details: Office number: +968 2270 5601, Mobile number: +968 97932277

The last date for purchasing of Tender Documents shall be on the **19th of June 2025**.

The last date for submission of offers is on Tuesday, **24th of June 2025 by 2359 PM**, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value or deposit slip.

The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers. Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by a tender bond will NOT be considered. This publication is part of the tender documents.

TENDER NOTICE

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources
(Directorate General Of Agriculture And Livestock Research) Announces the following Tenders: -



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries
Wealth and Water Resources

Tender no.	Description	Tender documents price (R.O)	Class	Last date for collection of documents	Last date for Submission of documents
1	178/2025/MAWR/DGALR-25- Recall - 1 Supply and insulation lab furniture food processing Lab in Research Center Al-Rumais	25/-	Specialized	Sunday 22/6/2025	Sunday 6/7/2025
2	179/2025/MAF-WR/DGALR-26- Recall - 1 Supply and installation of laboratory furniture for the Biocontrol Research Department	25/-	Specialized	Sunday 22/6/2025	Sunday 6/7/2025
3	365/2025/MAF-WR/DGALR-64 Supply of Automated Hematology Analyzer	25/-	Specialized	Monday 30/6/2025	Sunday 13/7/2025
4	364/2025/MAF-WR/DGALR-63 Supply of Medical Ultra Low Temperature Freezers	25/-	Specialized	Monday 30/6/2025	Sunday 13/7/2025
5	366/2025/MAF-WR/DGALR-65 Supply of instruments and equipment for project \ The molecular diagnosis of bacterial virulence factors and genes involved in microbial resistance using NGS technology	25/-	Specialized	Monday 30/6/2025	Sunday 13/7/2025

- Interested Companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board (in the above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.
- The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.
- Preference will be given to companies whose bid includes the largest percentage of Omanization and possible purchase of national products.
- The Tenderer should attach Bid Commitment Declaration (regarding the exemption from submitting a bid bond in tenders).
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
- All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **+968 24402200 or etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om**

TENDERS COMMITTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

Biogas, Bio-CO2 production project launched in Oman

This collaboration aims to transform environmental challenges into promising economic opportunities by utilising approximately 20 million cubic metres of biogas

MUSCAT: Oman Environmental Services Holding Company “be’ah” and OQ Trading have signed a co-operation agreement to develop a national project focused on producing biogas (biomethane) and bio-carbon dioxide through processing organic waste at landfills and future biofacilities managed by be’ah.

This collaboration aims to transform environmental challenges into promising economic



opportunities by utilising approximately 20 million cubic meters of biogas extracted from these sites – comprising roughly 40% biomethane (renewable fuel) and 60% bio-CO2 for sustainable industrial applications.

The agreement establishes a roadmap for technical-economic feasibility studies, infrastructure assessment, and commercial marketing opportunities for project outputs, creating promising local investment opportunities aligned with Oman Vision 2040 goals.

Both companies emphasized that this partnership represents

an integrated model of national collaboration between energy and environmental sectors, combining be’ah’s waste/resource management expertise with OQ Trading’s global energy capabilities to reinforce Oman’s position as a regional clean energy hub.

Engineer Tariq Ali Al Amri, CEO of be’ah, stated that the project marks a new milestone in energy recovery from organic waste through sustainable methods, converting environmental challenges into developmental and economic opportunities. He noted biogas and bio-CO2 production will reduce emissions,

support Oman’s net-zero goals, enhance waste management efficiency, and provide alternative energy sources.

Said Talib Al Maawali, OQ Trading’s Middle East Executive Director, described the project as an attractive opportunity to diversify Oman’s energy mix in line with 2050 carbon neutrality targets and global trends toward sustainable, low-carbon energy solutions.

He considered this initiative a strategic nucleus that will stimulate further waste-to-energy investments and enhance clean energy value chains. -**ONA**



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Oman and Qatar to enhance bilateral relations



MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs received here on Tuesday Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, the two

sides reviewed bilateral relations. They also explored means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by several officials from the Foreign Ministry. -**ONA**

PALESTINE'S RIGHT

Oman participates in Geneva labour conference



GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday participated in the 113th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, in addition to related GCC coordination and expanded meetings.

During the conference, a draft resolution was endorsed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to modify Palestine’s membership status from “liberation movement” to “non-member observer state”, besides recognizing Palestine’s right to full participation in the ILO meetings.

During the conference, the Sultanate of Oman actively contributed to the adoption of the ILO’s draft resolution on amending the membership status of Palestine.

The step affirmed Oman’s commitment to support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and promote the principles of justice in international forums.

At a GCC-ILO coordination meeting held on the sidelines of the ILO conference, the Sultanate of Oman’s delegation contributed to the discussion of key topics on the agenda, including a report by the ILO Director-General and a draft programme on budget for the period 2026-2027.

The delegation also coordinated GCC stands on a number of technical issues released for discussion during meetings of specialised committees.

In addition, Oman participated

in an expanded meeting that included production parties in GCC states.

During the meetings, Oman voiced its steadfast commitment to back tripartite dialogue and unify GCC stands towards the technical items listed on the agenda of the 113th session of the ILO conference.

The meeting discussed key topics related to the “work environment” and its challenges.

The discussion covered the draft convention on tasks related to “digital platform economy”, ways of protection against biological risks in the workplace, innovative approaches and other aspects of the labour market. -**ONA**

INFLUENCER

Pakistan TikTok star Sana Yousaf shot dead



LAHORE: Islamabad police have launched a murder probe after a teenage social media influencer was shot dead in her home. The news has reignited fears about the safety of women, particularly those in the public eye. Yousaf had nearly 800,000 followers on TikTok and close to 500,000 on Instagram.

Police in Islamabad on Tuesday were investigating the killing of 17-year-old Sana Yousaf after she was found shot dead in her home.

The killing of the popular teenager, who had more than a million followers across TikTok and Instagram, has raised renewed concerns over the safety of online personalities in Pakistan, particularly young women. -**DW**

KERCH BRIDGE

Russia’s bridge to Crimea attacked



MOSCOW: Road traffic on the bridge connecting Russia to the Crimean peninsula was temporarily suspended Tuesday, according to Russian authorities.

Ukraine’s SBU security service said it was behind an attack on the Kerch Bridge, claiming to have struck both the road and rail sections using underwater explosives.

Meanwhile, Russia continues missile attacks on Ukraine, with three killed in the northeastern city of Sumy.

Three people were killed and 25 others, including children, were injured in Ukraine’s northeastern Sumy, in a Russian artillery attack, according to statements from the city council and the health ministry.

“Eight of the wounded are in serious condition, and three of

them are children,” the ministry said in a statement.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the assault underscored that Moscow has no intentions of halting the three-year war.

“The Russians brutally struck Sumy — directly targeting the city, ordinary streets — with rocket artillery,” Zelenskyy said.

“That’s all you need to know about Russia’s ‘desire’ to end this war,” the Ukrainian president wrote in a post on Telegram.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry announced that its troops had seized control of Andriivka in the Sumy region as its troops continues to advance.

Ukraine has not yet confirmed losing the settlement, which is located more than 20 kilometers from the regional capital of Sumy. -**DW**

WHITE HOUSE

US President, Xi ‘likely’ to hold talks this week

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are “likely” to hold talks this week, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Monday (local time), ABC News reported.

While speaking to reporters, Leavitt said that the readout of the call would be provided if the two leaders hold talks. Earlier on Sunday, the White House National Economic Council Director, Kevin Hassett, had said that there was an expectation for Trump and Xi to hold talks this week.

Responding to the reporter’s query, Leavitt said, “I can confirm that the two leaders will likely talk this week.” “And as always, when foreign leaders call, we will provide a readout of those calls,” she added, as per ABC News report.

Hassett made the remarks during an appearance on ABC News’ “This Week” on Sunday. However, he did not mention the specific date when the two leaders would hold talks.

The development comes after Trump accused China of breaching a deal negotiated between officials of the two nations in Geneva



last month to roll back high tariffs for 90 days. However, China rejected Trump’s allegations on Monday and accused the US of provoking “new economic and trade frictions.”

On May 30, Trump accused China of violating a recent trade agreement with the US.

However, he did not mention

China’s action that violated its agreement with China.

In a post shared on truth social, he stated, “two weeks ago, china was in grave economic danger! The very high tariffs i set made it virtually impossible for china to trade into the united states marketplace, which is, by far, the number one in the world. We

went, in effect, cold turkey with china, and it was devastating for them. Many factories closed and there was, to put it mildly, ‘civil unrest.’ I saw what was happening and didn’t like it, for them, not for us.”

“I made a fast deal with China in order to save them from what I thought was going to be a very

bad situation, and I didn’t want to see that happen. Because of this deal, everything quickly stabilized and China got back to business as usual. Everybody was happy! That is the good news!!! The bad news is that China, perhaps not surprisingly to some, has totally violated its agreement with us. So much for being mr. Nice guy,” he added.

Earlier in May, the US announced a trade deal with China in Geneva. US Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent said that there was substantial progress between the parties.

“I’m happy to report that we made substantial progress between the United States and China in the very important trade talks. First, I want to thank our Swiss host. The Swiss government has been very kind in providing us this wonderful venue, and I think that led to a great deal of productivity we’ve seen. We will be giving details tomorrow, but I can tell you that the talks were productive,” the White House quoted Bessent as saying.

“We had the vice premier, two vice ministers, who were integrally involved, Ambassador Jamieson,

and myself. And I spoke to President Trump, as did Ambassador Jamieson, last night, and he is fully informed of what is going on. So, there will be a complete briefing tomorrow morning,” he added.

US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer said that the parties came to a conclusion very quickly. “This was, as the Secretary pointed out, a very constructive two days. It’s important to understand how quickly we were able to come to an agreement, which reflects that perhaps the differences were not so large as maybe thought,” he said.

Greer hoped that the deal would help the US deal with a trade deficit of USD 1.2 trillion. “That being said, there was a lot of groundwork that went into these two days. Just remember why we’re here in the first place -- the United States has a massive USD1.2 trillion trade deficit, so the President declared a national emergency and imposed tariffs, and we’re confident that the deal we struck with our Chinese partners will help us to work toward resolving that national emergency,” the statement read. -**DW**

SPORTS

RCB defeat PBKS to lift IPL crown for first time



Chasing a target of 191, PBKS buckled under pressure during the final in Ahmedabad on Tuesday night



AHMEDABAD: After 18 long seasons, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finally captured their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title, defeating Punjab Kings (PBKS) by six runs in a tense final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

A stellar spell from Krunal Pandya (2/17) and disciplined pace bowling from Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/38), Josh Hazlewood, and Yash Dayal (1/18) helped RCB defend 190/9 and script history.

For PBKS, the heartbreak continued as they failed to end their title drought, despite a sensational 61* off 30 balls from Shashank Singh.

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar lifted the trophy, while star batter Virat

Kohli — part of the franchise since its inception in 2008 — finally got his hands on an IPL crown.

Chasing a challenging target of 191, PBKS made a positive start with openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh taking 13 runs off Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the first over. Priyansh struck four boundaries in his 19-ball 24 before a brilliant catch by Phil Salt at the ropes off Hazlewood ended his stay. PBKS reached 52/1 at the end of the powerplay.

Prabhsimran (26 off 22) looked to break the shackles with a six off Suyash Sharma but fell to Krunal Pandya soon after, caught at covers by Bhuvneshwar.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer's stay was brief, dismissed for 1 by Romario

Shepherd. Josh Inglis, meanwhile, kept the scoreboard ticking with an aggressive 39 off 23 balls (1 four, 4 sixes) before he too succumbed to Krunal's pressure, holing out early in the 13th over.

With 72 required off the last five overs, Nehal Wadhwa and Shashank tried to mount a recovery. Shashank smashed two sixes in the 16th over from Hazlewood, while Wadhwa fell for a laboured 15 (16 balls), caught brilliantly by Krunal off Bhuvneshwar.

Marcus Stoinis briefly threatened with a six but was out next ball to Yash Dayal, leaving PBKS struggling at 142/6. Azmatullah Omarzai added just one before falling to Dayal as well, reducing PBKS to 145/7 in 17.2 overs.

Needing 42 off the final two overs, Shashank kept fighting — launching Bhuvneshwar for a six and taking 13 off the 19th over. In the final over, he hammered three sixes and a four but couldn't bridge the gap, as PBKS finished at 184/7.

Krunal Pandya's 2/17 in four overs was pivotal, drying up runs in the middle overs and striking key blows. Bhuvneshwar Kumar's 2/38, while Dayal held his nerve in a crucial spell of 1/18. Hazlewood (1/54) was expensive but chipped in with an early breakthrough.

Kohli, Jitesh light up RCB innings

Earlier, RCB posted 190/9 after being sent in to bat. Kohli led the way with a composed 43 off 35 balls, while Jitesh Sharma's explosive 24 from just 10 deliveries gave RCB the late boost they needed.

Salt gave the innings early momentum with a four and a six in the opening over. However, he fell for 16 while attempting another big hit off Kyle Jamieson.

Mayank Agarwal (24) departed after the powerplay, trying to attack Yuzvendra Chahal. Kohli and Patidar (26 off 16) then stitched a useful stand, before Patidar fell LBW to Jamieson. Liam Livingstone (25) added quick runs before being trapped in front by Jamieson, who finished with 3/48. Kohli's knock ended at 43 when he

'I gave it everything': Kohli

AHMEDABAD: A visibly emotional Virat Kohli said Royal Challengers Bengaluru's maiden IPL title was not just a reward for the team, but also for the fans who stood by them through 18 seasons of heartbreak.

Speaking after RCB's narrow six-run win over Punjab Kings in the final, Kohli said, "This win is as much for the fans as it is for the team. I've given this team my youth, my prime, and now my experience. I tried to win it every single season, gave it everything I could. Honestly, I never thought this day would come. I was overcome with emotion after we won."

Kohli paid a heartfelt tribute to his former teammate AB de Villiers, who retired four years ago but remains a legend of the franchise. "What AB has done for this team is tremendous. I told him after the win, 'This is as much yours as it is ours.' He's still the Player of the Match in most fans' hearts. He deserves to be on that podium, lifting the cup with us," Kohli said.

Reflecting on his long association with the franchise, Kohli added, "This win is right up there. I've stayed loyal to this team. There were moments where I could have gone elsewhere, but I chose to stay, and they stood by me. My heart is with Bangalore, my soul is with Bangalore."

Kohli, who has been one of the IPL's most consistent performers since its inception, admitted the victory was personally fulfilling, but still ranked it below the ultimate prize—Test cricket. "This is the best moment I've had



in the IPL, but it still ranks five levels below Test cricket for me. I always tell young players—give your heart and soul to the game. That's what earns you respect," he said.

Known for his intensity and work ethic, Kohli also spoke about his desire to keep evolving. "I look for ways to improve. I want to field well, make an impact wherever I can. God's blessed me with talent and perspective. I just put my head down and worked as hard as I could."

He also addressed pre-season criticism of RCB's auction strategy, saying the team never lost belief. "People questioned our auction picks, but we were happy with what we had. The management kept us positive, and the players were amazing. That belief carried us through," Kohli said.

As RCB fans erupted in celebrations across the country, Kohli signed off with a smile, saying, "Tonight, I'll sleep like a baby." - Agencies

FRENCH OPEN

Sabalenka to face Swiatek in semis



MUSCAT: World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka will face three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek in a blockbuster French Open semi-final between two title contenders.

Sabalenka edged a tight quarter-final against China's Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen 7-6 (7-3) 6-3 on a blustery Court Philippe Chatrier on Tuesday.

Poland's Swiatek then came through 6-1, 7-5 against Elina Svitolina to set up a fascinating last-four encounter.

Belarusian Sabalenka replaced fifth-ranked Swiatek as world No.1 in October last year.

The pair have met 12 times, with Swiatek leading the head-to-head 8-4 - but they have not met at a major since the 2022 US Open semi-finals.

Swiatek has won four of the past five Roland Garros titles, while Sabalenka is bidding for her first Paris trophy.

"Aryna has a game for every surface, so I need to focus on myself, do the work, be brave in my shots and just go for it," Swiatek said.

"It is going to be a tough match, but I'm happy for the challenge."

For all that Swiatek has dominated the French Open in recent years, Sabalenka is the player to beat this time around.

She has won three titles this year - including one on the Madrid clay - and reached two further finals, as well as strengthening her grip on the top ranking.

But her three-set defeat by Madison Keys in the Australian Open final stung - and she looks on a mission to avenge that loss.

Djokovic ends Norrie's run

Earlier on Monday night, Novak Djokovic ended Cameron Norrie's encouraging French Open run with a straight-set victory over the Briton to reach the quarter-finals.



Djokovic, bidding for a standalone record 25th Grand Slam singles title, beat Norrie 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Also, top seed Jannik Sinner won his last-16 match against Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-3, 6-4.

Norrie, playing in the last 16 at Roland Garros for the first time, was looking for another scalp in Paris after stunning 11th seed Daniil Medvedev in the first round.

Sixth seed Djokovic will face third seed Alexander Zverev next - having lost to the German in January's Australian Open semi-finals after suffering a hamstring injury.

Jack Draper's loss in four sets to Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik later on Monday ended British interest in the singles in Paris.

Norrie is only the fourth British man - after Greg Rusedski, Tim

Henman and Andy Murray - to reach the last 16 at all four majors in the Open era.

Draper said it feels like a "missed opportunity" to reach the French Open quarter-finals after a surprise defeat by world No.62 Bublik.

The 23-year-old was given a reality check as Bublik, the second-lowest ranked player left in the draw, claimed an inspired 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win.

World No.5 Draper lost his way as the maverick Kazakh produced one of the finest displays of his career.

"It's a really tough loss to take," said Draper, who had never won a French Open match before this year.

"Even though I've come up quickly this year and got myself to a high ranking, it's been a steep learning curve for me. "I had an opportunity today and I missed my opportunity." - Agencies

T20I SERIES



Holder, Russell in WI side against England

KINGSTON: West Indies have recalled Jason Holder and Andre Russell to their T20I squad to face England, but they will be without Nicholas Pooran after he asked to be rested for the tour following his involvement at the IPL.

West Indies will take on England in three T20Is following the conclusion of their ODI series at The Oval on Tuesday.

They will then return to Ireland, where they began their white-ball tour last month, for another three-T20I series - although they have opted to rest several members of the playing and coaching staff, including Russell, from that leg.

Holder last played T20Is for his country in February 2024, having been forced to miss the World Cup later in the year through injury. Russell's most recent appearance came against England in Barbados in November, when he suffered an ankle problem that kept him out of the rest of the se-

ries. The England series will be West Indies' first since Shai Hope replaced Rovman Powell as T20I captain.

Powell, who oversaw a 3-0 defeat at home to Bangladesh in his final series in charge, retained his spot in the squad but there was no room for all-rounders Justin Greaves, Shamar Springer or Terrence Hinds.

Sherfane Rutherford is back after missing the Bangladesh series, like Hope, while at the Big Bash League.

West Indies will hold a Test training camp in Barbados from June 13-21 ahead of the first Test against Australia, starting on June 25.

West Indies T20I squad: Shai Hope (capt), Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
Oman Crude (August delivery 2025) rose by 46 cents to reach \$64.52 per barrel, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). Average price of Oman Crude (June Delivery) has stabilised at \$67.87 per barrel, \$4.64 per barrel lower than May delivery. - **ONA**

MARKE

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,553.15 points, down by 0.39% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07% at 444.79 points. Dhofar Generating, up 4.92%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 7.37%, was the top loser. **>B2**

Bank Muscat successfully manages OMR100mn sovereign sukuk issuance

The sukuk, launched by the Oman Sovereign Sukuk Company, carries a 7-year maturity and offers an annual profit rate of 4.65%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, announced that it successfully managed series 9 of the Sovereign Sukuk Issuance launched by the Oman Sovereign Sukuk Company, with a total value of OMR100 million.

The sukuk carries a 7-year maturity and offers an annual profit rate of 4.65%. Bank Muscat was appointed as the official issue manager and collecting bank for the subscription, in collaboration with other local financial institutions.

This mandate reinforces the bank's leadership in executing major investment transactions within the Sultanate and across GCC



capital markets.

The Oman Sovereign Sukuk Company had opened the subscription window from 27th May to 1st June 2025, with the sukuk settlement scheduled for Wednesday, 4th June 2025. The sukuk was priced within a competitive yield range, with an average yield of 4.625%, a minimum yield of 4.57%, and a maximum yield of 4.64%, reflecting strong investor confidence and market stability. The sukuk payouts will be made semi-annually on 4th June and 4th December each year until maturity on 4th June 2032. The issuance witnessed participation from all categories of investors, retail as well as institutional. The

sukuk is structured in accordance with Sharia-compliant principles and is fully tradable on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) at prevailing market prices. All allocation details and investor records will be maintained and administered by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company, as the central registrar and depository for the sukuk.

Commenting on the occasion, Khalifa Abdullah Al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager, Investment Banking and Capital Markets at Bank Muscat, expressed pride in collaborating with the team at Oman Sovereign Sukuk Company and the Ministry of Finance, Sultanate of Oman for this successful issuance. He noted: "The Bank's

appointment as the official issue manager for the sukuk issuance is a testament to the company's trust in Bank Muscat's capabilities and leadership in managing major investment transactions for a range of corporate and institutional clients. The Bank, represented through its Investment Banking and Capital Markets division, has extensive experience in structuring and executing large-scale capital market deals, both on debt as well as equity side, and its specialized team is well-equipped to navigate evolving market dynamics and complexities. Bank Muscat is committed to supporting the growth of local financial markets by offering a comprehensive suite

of banking and financial solutions tailored to institutional and retail customers alike."

The selection of Bank Muscat as the issue manager underscores its strong local, regional, and international reputation among individuals, corporates, and financial institutions. Demonstrating its role as a key player in advancing the Sultanate's financial landscape, the Bank continues to build on its market-leading position by delivering innovative financing and advisory solutions. These include corporate and project finance, debt restructuring, public offerings, equity-linked instruments, private placements, and mergers and acquisitions.

9th sovereign sukuk auction results announced

MUSCAT: Total subscription requests for the ninth issue of local sovereign sukuk exceeded OMR260 million, against an issuance size of OMR100 million by the Oman Sovereign Sukuk Company.

In its official statement, the company reported an average accepted yield of 4.62%, with the maximum accepted yield reaching 4.64% and the minimum accepted yield at 4.57%.

The company confirmed that these sukuk will be issued tomorrow, Wednesday 4 June 2025. Profit payments on the local sovereign sukuk will be made semi-annually on 4 December and 4 June until their maturity date on 4 June 2032. - **ONA**

NCSI APRIL DATA



Oman's real estate trading value tops OMR833 million

MUSCAT: The total value of real estate transactions in the Sultanate of Oman reached OMR833.9 million by the end of April 2025, marking a 9.7% increase compared to the same period in 2024, which recorded OMR760.2 million, according to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI)

The data indicate that fees collected from all legal transactions rose by 18.4%, reaching OMR24.3 million compared to OMR20.5 million during the same period last year. The traded value of sales contracts increased by 13.7%, amounting to OMR408.5 million by the end of April 2025, up from OMR359.4 million in the corresponding period of 2024. Meanwhile, the number of sales contracts declined by 1.4%, totaling 21,087 contracts compared

to 21,385 contracts by the end of April 2024.

On the other hand, the traded value of mortgage contracts rose by 6.1%, recording approximately OMR421.5 million across 7,164 contracts, compared to OMR397.2 million for 6,482 contracts by the end of April 2024. As for exchange contracts, 436 contracts worth OMR3.9 million were traded by the end of April 2025, compared to 465 contracts worth OMR3.6 million during the same period in 2024.

The number of issued property deeds increased by 1.7%, reaching 73,432 by the end of April 2025, compared to 72,181 during the same period in 2024.

Moreover, property deeds issued to GCC nationals decreased by 3.9%, totaling 394 compared to 410 by the end of April 2024. - **ONA**

OBG'S THE REPORT: OMAN 2025

Economic transformation gains momentum as Oman accelerates its diversification goals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's strides in economic diversification, sustainability and private sector expansion under Vision 2040 form the core of The Report: Oman 2025, the latest research publication by global advisory and research firm Oxford Business Group (OBG).

The report charts the country's progress in reducing its reliance on hydrocarbons, with non-oil sectors now contributing over two-thirds of GDP. Key areas of growth include manufacturing, logistics, tourism and green energy. The launch of the \$5.2bn Future Fund Oman is positioned as a major development aimed at attracting targeted foreign direct investment, particularly in high-growth industries.

A dedicated chapter on Trade and Investment - a first for the publication - underscores Oman's efforts to expand its global trade footprint and enhance its appeal to international investors. The report examines new initiatives designed to streamline business procedures, including the establishment of the Invest in Oman lounge, which serves as a one-stop facility to support incoming investment. It also presents data on rising FDI inflows, robust export performance and sector-specific momentum in areas such as green energy, manufacturing



and logistics. Oman's expanding network of trade agreements and its increasing engagement in multilateral trade forums are assessed, with particular focus on strategic partnerships, including deepening commercial ties with the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other key regional players.

Strategic infrastructure developments, such as the expansion of broadband access and transport networks, are also covered in detail, alongside the role of multiple free trade economic zones such as Sohar, Salalah and Al Mazunah and Sejad, the special economic zone to Duqm, in strengthening Oman's regional trade position. The report explores fiscal and regulatory reforms introduced to improve the business environment, from the implementation of VAT to labour law amendments.

Digital transformation efforts are given significant attention, with insights into the country's strategy to bridge the digital divide and leverage technology to drive competitiveness. The publication also includes an overview of ongoing banking sector consolidation, the growth of Islamic finance and the measures being taken to ensure monetary stability.

The Report: Oman 2025 contains contributions and perspectives from high-level public and private sector figures. Notable interviewees featured in the report include HE Qais Al Yousef, Minister Of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion; HE Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, President Oman Investment Authority; HE Dr Khamis Al Jabri, Chairman, Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit; HE Eng. Said Al Maawali, Minister of Transport and ITC, HE Salim M. Almahrui, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, HE Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, HE Shaikh Abdullah Al Salmi, Executive President, Financial Services Authority; and Dr Aflah Al Hadhrami, Managing Director, Petroleum Development Oman.

Commenting as part of his interview with OBG, Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion said that the sultanate's sustained

push to deliver on climate goals was contributing to greater macroeconomic stability and investor interest.

"It is crucial Oman's trade system can tackle the issues of climate change and sustainability, to avert fragmentation, safeguard trade routes and maintain a steady and predictable business landscape."

Dana Carmen Agarbicean, OBG's Country Director for Oman, said the findings reinforce the importance of collaboration across public and private sectors in delivering economic transformation.

"Our coverage reflects a deepening confidence in Oman's development trajectory. Interviews and analysis in this edition illustrate how policy implementation, fiscal discipline and new investment frameworks are supporting long-term, broad-based growth," she said.

The Report: Oman 2025 has been produced in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, InvestOman, and Ominvest. The publication is the result of a year of field research conducted by a team of analysts from Oxford Business Group. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the sultanate's economic performance and outlook, and is available in print and online: <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/reports/oman/2025-report/>

STRATEGIC PROJECT

Agreement signed for key shipbuilding and maintenance project in Musandam

MUSANDAM: Musandam Global Investment company and its Turkish business partners on Tuesday signed an agreement to establish Musandam Drydock and Marine Industries Company.

OMR5 million in its first phase

The agreement deals with launching a strategic project in Musandam Governorate, with an investment cost of more than OMR5 million in its first phase, to provide a set of vital services like construction and maintenance of fish farming cages, coastal and commercial fishing vessels, marine tugs, service vessels and transport vessels.

Industrial integration

The company will take steps to meet the needs of the Omani market and neighbouring regional markets, besides enhancing industrial integration in the marine and fisheries services sector.

Food security

The project will keep pace with national trends in promoting food security and sustainable industrial growth.

The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Sayyid Ibrahim Said Al Buisaidi, Governor of Musandam.

- **ONA**



EUROSTAT DATA

Eurozone annual inflation softens

BRUSSELS: Eurozone inflation eased more than expected in May 2025 largely due to a slowdown in services inflation, flash data from Eurostat showed on Tuesday.

Inflation in the euro area softened to 1.9% in May, slightly below the European Central Bank's target of 2%.

Inflation had been expected to slow to 2% from 2.2% in April.

Core inflation excluding prices of energy, food and tobacco slowed unexpectedly to 2.3% from 2.7%.

On a monthly basis, the harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) remained flat in May.

Among components of HICP, the annual increase in food and



tobacco prices advanced to 3.3% from 3.0%.

Meanwhile, energy prices posted a steady decline of 3.6%.

Non-energy industrial goods prices rose 0.6%, the same rate seen over the past three months.

By comparison, services inflation slowed to 3.2% from 4.0% in the previous month. - **ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Dhofar Generating, up 4.92%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 7.37%, was the top loser in yesterday's trading

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,553.15 points, down by 0.39% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07% at 444.79 points. Dhofar Generating, up 4.92%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 7.37%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded.

A total number of 2028 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR9.51 million, with more than 61.14 million shares changing hands. Out of 65 traded securities, 20 advanced, 22 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR135K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR93K, followed by foreign investors for OMR42K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,867.32 points, down 0.84%.

Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Al Anwar Investment, Oman United Insurance were up by 1.24%, 1.21%, 0.85% respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Dhofar, Bank Muscat, Global Financial Investments were down by 6.12%, 4.11%, 2.76%, 2.51%, 2.00% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,571.62 points, down 0.48%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Muscat Thread Mill were up by 2.17%, 0.68% respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Al Maha Ceramics, Al Anwar Ceramics, Salalah Mills, Galfar Engineering were down by 3.33%, 2.58%, 2.49%, 2.04%, 1.37% respectively.

Services Index closed at 1,618.11 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Phoenix Power, Barka Desalination, Musandum Power, Al Batinah Power were up by 4.92%, 4.62%, 3.20%, 3.20%, 1.45% respectively. – **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,575.63	4,546.98	4,553.15	4,570.79	-17.63	-0.39
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,933.97	7,864.19	7,867.32	7,933.97	-66.66	-0.84
Industry Index	6,669.01	6,516.91	6,571.62	6,603.06	-31.43	-0.48
Services Index	1,623.11	1,608.35	1,618.11	1,619.41	-1.30	-0.08
MSX Shariah Index	447.63	441.47	444.79	445.12	-0.33	-0.07
MSX TR INDEX	6,766.23	6,723.86	6,732.99	6,759.06	-26.08	-0.39
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,402.75	9,320.05	9,323.76	9,402.75	-78.99	-0.84
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,195.21	8,008.30	8,075.54	8,114.16	-38.63	-0.48
SERVICES TR IDX	2,069.85	2,051.03	2,063.48	2,065.14	-1.66	-0.08
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
61,149,192	9,511,723	2,028	27,922,606,897	20	22	23	65

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 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																
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,107	5,001	5	2,400	2,400	2,350	2,350	2,300	0,050	2.17%	2,350	2,350	2,350	0.100	210,795,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	138,123	9,668	15	0,069	0,070	0,069	0,070	0,069	0,001	1.44%	0,070	0,070	0,070	0.001	47,242,120
OM0000000672	OQ GAS NETWORKS	9,217,294	1,395,416	289	0.151	0.154	0.150	0.154	0.152	0.002	1.31%	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.000	666,916,084
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	17,347	4,491	3	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.24%	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.000	14,550,000
OM0000003988	OOREDOO	258,380	56,506	36	0.217	0.220	0.217	0.219	0.217	0.002	0.92%	0.219	0.210	0.224	0.000	142,556,786
OM0000001987	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	6,090	1,428	2	0.238	0.238	0.236	0.238	0.236	0.002	0.84%	0.238	0.230	0.237	0.000	23,800,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	86,158	24,546	17	0.283	0.285	0.283	0.285	0.283	0.002	0.70%	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.000	67,376,850
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	67,500	19,560	2	0.289	0.292	0.289	0.292	0.292	0.000	0.00%	0.292	0.289	0.292	0.000	474,778,336
OM0000003276	JAZZERA STEEL PRODUCTS	9,063	3,444	5	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.00%	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	17,493,225
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	53,480	4,278	3	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.00%	0.080	0.080	0.083	0.000	7,200,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	317,869	288,492	17	0.845	0.845	0.844	0.845	0.845	0.000	0.00%	0.845	0.844	0.845	0.000	633,730,000
OM0000003286	SCHAH INTERNATIONAL BANK	8,472,022	1,190,899	113	0.141	0.142	0.140	0.141	0.141	0.000	0.00%	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.000	353,031,724
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	10,264	6,821	3	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.000	0.00%	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.000	62,232,733
OM0000004932	AL SUWADI POWER	212,019	14,731	16	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.00%	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.000	49,294,037
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	233,217	51,987	26	0.223	0.223	0.222	0.223	0.224	-0.001	-0.46%	0.223	0.221	0.225	0.000	208,665,686
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	29,635	2,964	5	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.99%	0.100	0.096	0.101	0.000	223,695,303
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	50,000	3,050	2	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.062	-0.001	-1.61%	0.061	0.060	0.062	0.000	21,723,705
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	99,000	9,775	8	0.100	0.100	0.098	0.098	0.100	-0.002	-2.00%	0.098	0.098	0.101	0.000	19,600,000
OM0000008834	ABRA ENERGY SERVICES	2,780,751	683,968	132	0.250	0.250	0.244	0.245	0.250	-0.005	-2.00%	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	188,699,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	83,1216	185,466	71	0.202	0.203	0.192	0.196	0.201	-0.005	-2.48%	0.196	0.196	0.202	0.000	43,120,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	208,000	41,304	18	0.203	0.203	0.195	0.195	0.200	-0.005	-2.50%	0.195	0.195	0.199	0.000	9,354,383
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,888,311	1,074,111	91	0.279	0.279	0.271	0.272	0.279	-0.007	-2.50%	0.272	0.279	0.272	0.000	1,041,740,001
Total		22	270,88,956	5,056,725	879											

Parallel Market

OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	190	6	1	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.061	0.003	4.81%	0.064	0.060	0.064	0.000	14,223,360
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	3,007,712	20,149	18	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.003	4.61%	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.000	99,456,899
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,536	653	3	0.258	0.258	0.257	0.258	0.250	0.008	3.20%	0.258	0.257	0.258	0.000	18,160,620
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	3,590	445	3	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.125	0.004	3.20%	0.129	0.122	0.129	0.000	9,743,338
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	6,476,232	788,797	148	0.121	0.124	0.121	0.124	0.122	0.002	1.63%	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	645,884,291
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,901,651	158,197	60	0.083	0.084	0.082	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.20%	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	24,113,891
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	15,020	1,259	4	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.20%	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.000	54,481,587
OM0000004735	SEMBOOP SALALAH	211,200	22,176	9	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.96%	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.000	100,230,055
OM0000001132	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	37,638	4,495	5	0.118	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.118	0.001	0.84%	0.119	0.115	0.120	0.000	17,850,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	14,000	2,072	2	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.147	0.001	0.68%	0.148	0.148	0.161	0.000	2,608,302
OM0000004248	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	464,206	96,091	4	0.469	0.469	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.00%	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	74,419,750
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,942,921	572,595	136	0.294	0.296	0.294	0.295	0.294	0.001	0.34%	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.000	360,000,000
OM0000001117	GULF HOTELS (OM)	300	1,067	2	3.465	3.460	3.465	3.465	3.465	0.000	0.00%	3.460	3.460	3.460	0.000	11,879,136
OM0000001400	OMAN POWER HOLDING	6,245	2,826	4	0.469	0.469	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.00%	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	74,419,750
OM0000001426	OMAN REFINEMENT	500	450	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.00%	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	45,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	15,510	7,929	12	0.504	0.505	0.503	0.503	0.503	0.000	0.00%	0.503	0.500	0.503	0.000	168,428,973
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	500	330	1	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.000	0.00%	0.660	0.660	0.694	0.000	40,441,500
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	90,881	68,487	15	0.122	0.123	0.121	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.00%	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	74,191,438
OM0000004699	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	2,250	303	2	0.133	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.00%	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.000	13,203,282
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	11,616	1,708	2	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.00%	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	245,403,270
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	9,000	646	5	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.00%	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	1,533,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	145,134	16,545	17	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.00%	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.000	67,423,804
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	20,102,473	2,403,991	412	0.120	0.121	0.119	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.00%	0.121	0.117	0.121	0.000	418,598,393
OM0000003341	BARKA WATER AND POWER	6,072	1,206	4	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.205	-0.001	-0.48%	0.204	0.199	0.204	0.000	32,940,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	18,250	1,294	4	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.25%	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.000	6,715,000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	16,600	1,186	2	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.35%	0.073	0.068	0.077	0.000	1,533,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	405,790	88,107	59	0.219	0.220	0.217	0.217	0.220	-0.003	-1.36%	0.217	0.215	0.217	0.000	93,031,178
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	70,500	7,695	17	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.81%	0.108	0.105	0.109	0.000	3,240,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	106,601	9,543	10	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.87%	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.000	15,971,609
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	607	291	3	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.000	0.00%	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.000	29,982,271
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	218,150	65,295	56	0.310	0.312	0.300	0.302	0.310	-0.008	-2.58%	0.308	0.298	0.320	0.000	16,610,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	23,100	3,260	2	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.145	-0.004	-2.75%	0.141	0.142	0.144	0.000	42,681,512
OM0000004248	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	464,206	96,091	4	0.469	0.469	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.00%	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	74,419,750
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,942,921	572,595	136	0.294	0.296	0.294	0.295	0.294	0.001	0.34%	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.000	360,000,000
OM0000001117	GULF HOTELS (OM)	300	1,067	2	3.465	3.460	3.465	3.465	3.465	0.000	0.00%	3.460	3.460	3.460	0.000	11,879,136
OM0000001400	OMAN POWER HOLDING	6,245	2,826	4	0.469	0.469	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.00%	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	74,419,750
OM0000001426	OMAN REFINEMENT	500	450	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.00%	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	45,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	15,510	7,929	12	0.504	0.505	0.503	0.503	0.503	0.000	0.00%	0.503	0.500	0.503	0.000	168,428,973
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	500	330	1	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.000	0.00%	0.660	0.660	0.694	0.000	40,441,500
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	90,881	68,487	15	0.122	0.123	0.121	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.00%	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	74,191,438
OM0000004699	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	2,250	303	2	0.133	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.00%	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.000	13,203,282
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	11,616	1,708	2	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.00%	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	245,403,270
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	9,000	646	5	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.00%	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	1,533,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	145,134	16,545	17	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.00%	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.000	67,423,804
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	20,102,473	2,403,991	412	0.120	0.121	0.119	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.00%	0.121	0.117	0.121	0.000	418,598,393
OM0000003341	BARKA WATER AND POWER	6,072	1,206	4	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.205	-0.001	-0.48%	0.204	0.199	0.204	0.000	32,940,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	18,250	1,294	4	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.25%	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.000	6,715,000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	16,600	1,186	2	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.35%	0.073	0.068	0.077	0.000	1,533,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	405,790	88,107	59	0.219	0.220	0.217	0.217	0.220	-0.003	-1.36%	0.217	0.215	0.217	0.000	93,031,178
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	70,500	7,695	17	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.81%	0.108	0.105	0.109	0.000	3,240,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	106,601	9,543	10	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.87%	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.000	15,971,609
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	607	291	3	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.000	0.00%	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.000	29,982,271
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	218,150	65,295	56	0.310	0.312	0.300	0.302	0.310	-0.008	-2.58%	0.308	0.298	0.320	0.000	16,610,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	23,100	3,260	2	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.145	-0.004	-2.75%	0.141	0.142	0.144	0.000	42,681,512
OM0000004248	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	464,206	96,091	4	0.469	0.469	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.00%	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	74,419,750
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,942,921	572,595	136	0.294	0.296	0.294	0.295	0.294	0.001	0.34%	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.000	360,000,000
OM0000001117	GULF HOTELS (OM)	300	1,067	2	3.465	3.460	3.465	3.465	3.465	0.000	0.00%	3.460	3.460	3.460	0.000	11,879,136
OM0000001400	OMAN POWER HOLDING	6,245	2,826	4	0.469	0.469	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.00%	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	74,419,750
OM0000001426	OMAN REFINEMENT	500	450	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.00%	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	45,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	15,510	7,929	12	0.504	0.505	0.503	0.503	0.503	0.000	0.00%	0.503	0.500	0.503	0.000	168,428,973
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	500	330	1	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.000	0.00%	0.660	0.660	0.694	0.000	40,441,500
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	90,881	68,487	15	0.122	0.123	0.121	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.00%	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	74,191,438
OM0000004699	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	2,250	303	2	0.133	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.00%	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.000	13,203,282
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	11,616	1,708	2	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.00%	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	245,403,270
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	9,000	646	5	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.00%	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	1,533,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	145,134	16,545	17	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.00%	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.000	67,423,804
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	20,102,473	2,403,991	412	0.120	0.121	0.119	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.00%	0.121	0.117	0.121	0.000	418,598,393
OM0000003341	BARKA WATER AND POWER	6,072	1,206	4	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.205	-0.001	-0.48%	0.204	0.199	0.204	0.000	32,940,000
OM00000																



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We are Hiring !

Market Research & Business Development Assistant

Company : Zenith Gulf LLC
Location : Remote/ Nizwa

Job Summary

We are seeking a young enthusiastic Omani national sales and marketing representative to support our business growth in Oman and the Gulf region. The ideal candidate will help expand our market presence in the chemical industry, particularly in the fields of paint, resin, construction materials, and polymer additives.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and maintain relationships with local clients, distributors, and industrial buyers.
- Conduct market research and identify potential customers and partners in Oman and surrounding markets.
- Promote and sell company products in accordance with corporate strategy.
- Participate in industry events, exhibitions, and trade meetings.
- Coordinate with internal supply and logistics teams to ensure timely delivery and customer satisfaction.
- Provide customer feedback and local market insights to management.
- Assist with proposal preparation, pricing, and contract negotiation.

Requirements

- Fluent in Arabic and English.
- Proven experience in B2B sales or marketing, preferably in chemicals, construction, or industrial sectors.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Oman-based (preference given to Muscat/Nizwa residents or those with local network).
- Driving license and willingness to travel locally.
- Familiarity with government procurement processes is an advantage.

Employment Type : Full-time (initial 3-month probationary period)
Compensation : Competitive base salary + sales commission + travel allowance

Interested candidates please
Send C.V to (a.sharifi@zenithgulf.om)

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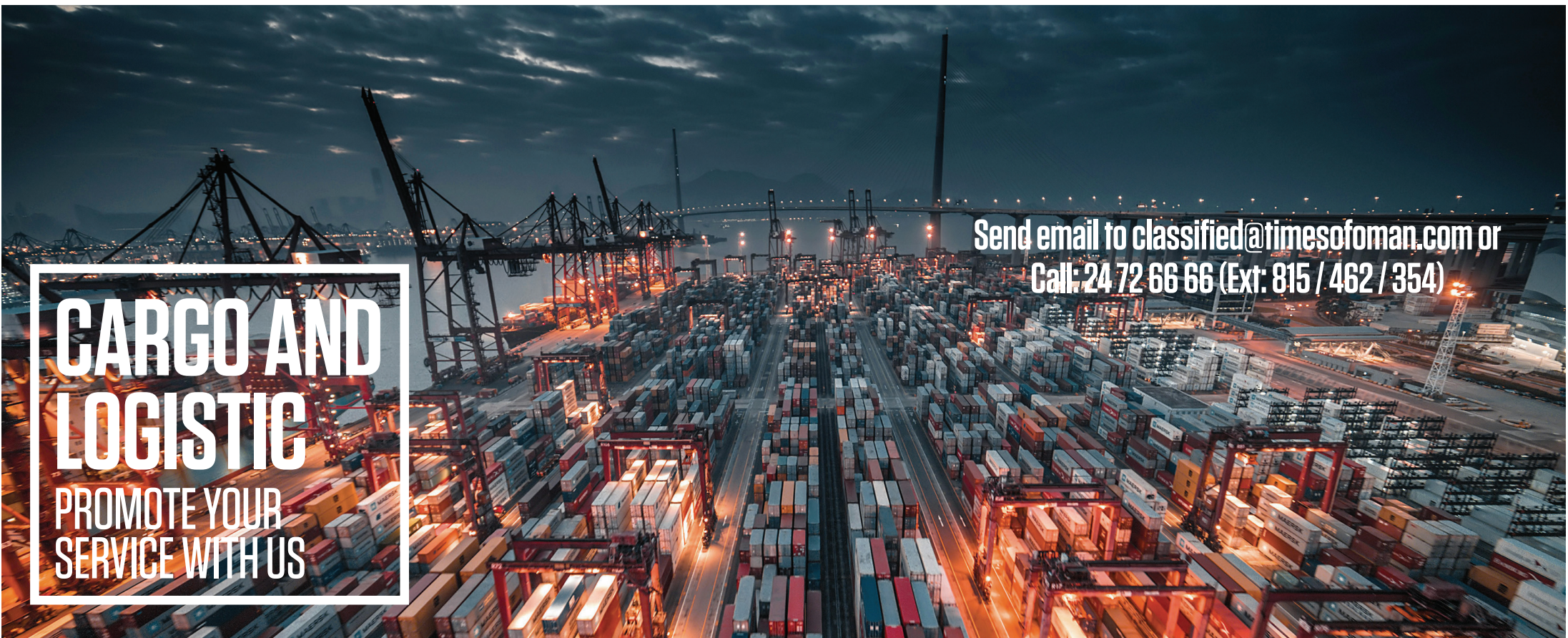
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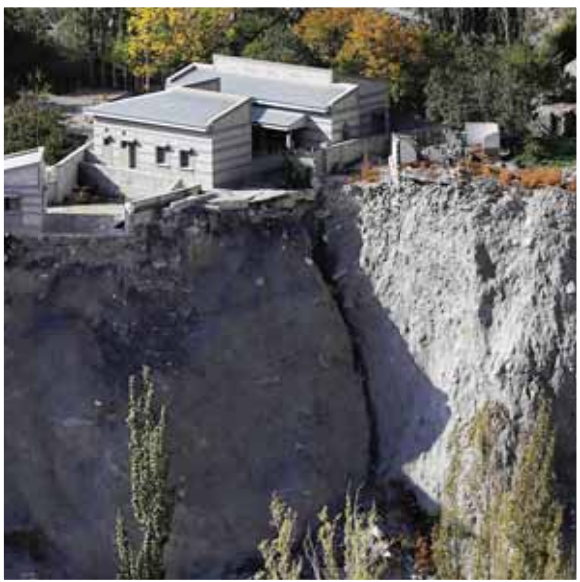
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LIFESTYLE

Glaciers are the planet's frozen water banks. They sustain water supply, ecosystems and even cultural traditions. But many of these sprawling beds of ice are melting. Why does that matter?



The collapse of a glacier in the Swiss Alps recently has underscored the impacts of a warming world on the ice-packed parts of planet Earth. When the melting Birch Glacier on crumbled on Wednesday, it engulfed the picturesque village of Blatten in the country's southern Wallis region. A mound of debris has clogged the path of the Lonza River, increasing the risk of flooding. Glaciers and ice sheets store about 70% of the world's freshwater reserves. High-altitude regions are often dubbed the world's "water towers" because they gradually release meltwater in the summer, sustaining towns and farms downstream. Two billion people globally rely on glacial melt for their day-to-day water needs, researchers say. Yet, as the world gets hotter, the ice is thawing.

Glaciers around the world are now melting at twice the rate measured just two decades ago. Between 2000 and 2023, they lost an ice mass equivalent to 46,000 Great Pyramids of Giza.

And this is affecting communities worldwide. Some regions are left with too little water, while others struggle with too much.

Glaciers are a crucial freshwater resource. The residents of the small western Peruvian town of Huaraz draw almost 20% of their annual water supply from melting ice. But Andean glaciers are thawing even faster than elsewhere.

This poses a risk of flooding. In a decade-long lawsuit, one resident of Huaraz sued a German energy company over the potential risk to his home from a mountain lake that is filling with meltwater at a rapid rate.

Meltwater damages infrastructure, makes mountains unstable

It's not only in Peru that huge glacial lakes form when glaciers thaw. When they become too full, deadly floods can wash away buildings, bridges and wipe out fertile land, like in Pakistan, where a glacial lake burst in October 2023.

That same month in neighboring India, a lake of melted ice overflowed and killed 179 people. Scientists estimate that globally, at least 15 million people are vulnerable to sudden flooding from thawing ice, most of them living in India and Pakistan. Since 1990, the volume of water in mountain lakes there has increased by around 50%.

The collapse of the Birch Glacier in Switzerland caused a landslide of rock and ice that covered most of the 300-strong village of Blatten in mud. Though residents had been evacuated as a precaution, one man is missing in what scientists call the latest dramatic example of climate change's impact on the Alps.

WHAT ARE THE REAL IMPACTS OF MELTING GLACIERS?

As glaciers shrink, they eventually reach a threshold — known as peak water — at which runoff declines. As a result, less meltwater flows downstream, with potentially far-reaching consequences.

Reduced water supply has forced local farmers, who traditionally grew corn and wheat, to change both their crops and water management. Some communities in the Andes have now switched to growing a bitter potato variety that is more resilient to drought.

Unstable water supply is also stalling electricity production. In Chile, 27% of power is generated by hydroelectric dams which critically depend on meltwater. In 2021, the Alto Maipo plant was shut down due to dwindling flow.

Thermal expansion of ocean water due to increased temperatures is the main cause of rising sea levels, yet the melting of glacial ice shields crucially contributes to it as well.

And it's not only glaciers in high altitudes that are melting, but also those in the ocean, like Thwaites Glacier in Western Antarctica. The majority of its ice shield is located on land, yet the glacier's front extends some 50 km (30 miles) into a huge floating ice shelf. This frosty giant is the size of the US state of Florida and has been deemed "very unstable." Scientists have said it is thawing on all sides.

Thwaites Glacier has been dubbed "doomsday glacier" for its potential impact on what some researchers call "abrupt" sea level rise.

In the last 25 years alone, melting glaciers have caused global sea levels to rise

by almost 2 centimeters (0.7 inches). This might not seem like much, but low-lying islands like Fiji and Vanuatu in the Pacific Ocean are at risk of disappearing under the waves.

In addition, more than 1 billion people in megacities like Jakarta, Mumbai, Lagos and Manila live within 10 kilometers (about 6 miles) of the coast. Protective dikes are only a temporary solution, as sea levels continue to rise.

Glaciers also hold spiritual and cultural significance.

Every year, tens of thousands of pilgrims gather at one of Peru's most sacred glaciers, the Colquepunco, for a religious festival.

In the past, ice blocks were carved from the glacier and carried down to local communities who believed in their healing properties. But as the glacier vanishes, this ancient tradition has come under threat.

The Presena Glacier in Italy, a popular destination for skiers, has reportedly lost a third of its volume since 1990. And natural snow in the European Alps is expected to decline by 42% by the end of the century. Scientists estimate that many ski resorts worldwide won't be profitable in the future.

Locals can adapt to some of these dangers. In the Pakistani village of Hassanabad, an early warning system has been installed to monitor activity at the nearby Shisper Glacier. Should there be a need for a warning, it can be communicated through external speakers in the village.

In the neighboring Ladakh region, researchers are experimenting with growing artificial glaciers that can mitigate water shortage in summer to meet this challenge.

But these strategies can only work up to a point. Scientist say the best way to tackle receding glaciers is to slow the rising temperatures that are heating the Earth.



SPORTS

‘Fearless, not careless’: Agha charts bold new path for Pakistan T20 side

Fresh off a 3-0 whitewash of Bangladesh in Lahore, Pakistan’s T20I captain Salman Agha has set the tone for a new era — one where flair and freedom are paramount, but discipline is not sacrificed

LAHORE: A series may not define a team’s destiny, but for Pakistan’s revamped T20I side under Salman Agha, the 3-0 sweep over Bangladesh on Sunday has laid down a marker — both in result and in style. Coming on the heels of a 4-1 series loss in New Zealand and a disappointing Champions Trophy campaign at home, the contrast could not have been starker. Yet, according to Salman, the approach remained constant; it was the conditions, not the intent, which dictated the outcome.



“As long as I’m captain, this is how we’ll play,” Salman declared after the third T20I, which Pakistan won by seven wickets. “I think this is the way to play cricket going forward; that’s how the world is playing. You need to put the bowlers and batters under pressure. “In New Zealand, we tried to follow this style, but the conditions didn’t allow it. The boys who went there learned how to be fearless without being careless — and that balance, I think, we achieved perfectly in this series.” That balance — so elusive in modern T20 cricket — found its embodiment in the explosive form of Mohammad Haris. In the series opener, Haris counterattacked after two early wickets, turning a shaky start into

a platform for a 200-plus total. The wicketkeeper-batter saved his best for the finale, smashing a breathtaking 107* off 46 balls to seal the series in style. “Haris gets accused of not using his brain during T20 innings,” Salman noted. “But when we were 5 for 2 in the first game, he took calculated risks — and again today. I think Haris, Saim [Ayub], and Hasan [Nawaz] are players I’d like to turn into match-winners in my captaincy. These players can perform wonders for Pakistan cricket.” While Pakistan’s wins came against a Bangladesh side still finding its footing, the significance of the team’s composure — particularly when losing early wickets — was not lost on observers. Historically, the dismissals of openers



like Babar Azam or Mohammad Rizwan have often spelled doom for Pakistan’s innings. Not this time. Without naming names, Salman hinted at a quiet generational shift. “The door is not closed for anybody,” he said diplomatically. But his focus is clear: he’s building a squad that thrives under pressure, not one reliant on safety-first accumulation. “I’m very happy with this team and the environment we’re creating,” he said. “The team has begun to move in the right direction. Modern-day cricket doesn’t mean disrespecting conditions. For me, modern cricket is beating par by about 10-15 runs — both with bat and ball — so you make things easier for your teammates.”

The batting order, he explained, will remain flexible. Haris, as wicketkeeper, is likely to stay at No.3, while Hasan Nawaz’s destructive capabilities against spin offer value deeper in the middle order. Salman himself is willing to adapt his position depending on match dynamics. “I was going to play at No.4, but we saw we hadn’t lost more than one wicket after 10 overs. Hasan is dangerous against spin — we’ve seen that in the PSL and this series. So we keep the batting order flexible and expect players to be ready to come in.” Salman’s clarity is mirrored by a supportive setup led by white-ball coach Mike Hesson, his mentor from Islamabad United. With their alignment and the PCB’s backing, the captain has the rare luxury in

Pakistan cricket: a bit of breathing room. “I’m very happy. The young boys performed. The result doesn’t matter as much to me — what matters is how we play cricket. We need to entertain, to put pressure on the opposition. If we do that, we’ll win more often than not.” With the T20 World Cup a year away, Salman isn’t rushing into definitive squad selections — but he has a vision. “You can’t say it’ll be the same players, but I think the core will be. I’d like to give these boys as much of a chance as possible. This is a young side with 25-30 matches to go. But the core is the same.” Pakistan fans have heard promises of renewal before — but under Salman Agha, they may finally be seeing the courage to follow through. (With inputs from ESPNcricinfo.com)

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea reject winger Sancho deal, to pay £5m penalty to Man United

LONDON: Chelsea have opted not to sign winger Jadon Sancho on a permanent basis and will instead pay a £5m penalty to send the player back to Manchester United. The England forward moved to Stamford Bridge on loan last summer after his relationship with former United manager Erik ten Hag broke down. United, who signed Sancho for £73m from Borussia Dortmund in 2021, are happy for the 25-year-old to leave. Chelsea did not pay a loan fee for the player and covered just half of his reported £300,000-a-week wages. The Blues had agreed an obli-



gation to buy Sancho for a fee of about 25m if they finished higher than 14th in the Premier League, which they did - or pay to get out of the deal. However, the club and the play-

er’s representatives have not been able to agree on a contract for Sancho, who would have had to take a pay cut from his deal at United. The England player has a year remaining on his United contract, and the club still owe £17m to Dortmund. Sancho scored in the 4-1 win over Real Betis on Wednesday to help Chelsea win the Conference League - their first trophy since February 2022 - and ended the season with five goals and 10 assists in 42 games. Although he is under contract until 30 June at Chelsea, he is unlikely to play for them in this month’s Club World Cup in the United States. - Agencies

290 APPEARANCES FOR UNITED



Man Utd captain Fernandes rejects Saudi’s Al Hilal move

LONDON: Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes has rejected a huge offer from Saudi Pro-League (SPL) club Al Hilal. Fernandes has spent the past few days seriously considering the deal which would have more than doubled his salary at Manchester United, where he is one of the biggest earners. However, after discussing the matter with his family, Fernandes has informed Al Hilal he will not be joining them. United are understood to be delighted by the news, which came after head coach Ruben Amorim on Friday expressed his belief that Fernandes would remain at Old Trafford. There were no direct conversations between United and Al Hilal, so they were never presented with a bid they could turn down. However, it was expected Al Hilal were prepared to offer between £80m and £100m to sign the 30-year-old in time for this month’s Club World Cup. It is not clear whether they will now pursue new targets.

Fernandes has made 290 appearances and scored 98 goals for the club since his £47m move from Sporting in January 2020. Former Manchester United right-back Gary Neville told Sky Sports he believes the transfer would not have been a poor deal for the Old Trafford club but added: “He’s so important. “The fact that he wants to stay, the fact that he wants to go through this and come out the other side, because it would have been easy for him at the end of this season to say, ‘Look, I’m done here,’ will endear him towards Manchester United fans even more. “To turn that money down at a point where Manchester United are at their lowest ebb and say, ‘No, I want to fight through this, I want to see it through the other side, I want to come out and achieve things,’ I think it says a lot about him as a person, as a character. “The club needs people who are going to run through a brick wall for them.” - Agencies

ITALIAN CLUB

Sarri returns for second spell at Lazio

MILAN: Maurizio Sarri has re-joined Lazio as head coach on Tuesday - 15 months after leaving the role. The 66-year-old replaces Marco Baroni, who led the Serie A side to a seventh-placed finish last season to miss out on European qualification. Sarri resigned in March 2024 following a fifth defeat in six games and was also heavily critical of the club’s transfer policy. The former Chelsea boss spent three years previously in charge of

Lazio and president Claudio Lotito said in a statement: “Maurizio Sarri has returned home. Welcome back to your home, commander.” Naples-born Sarri began his coaching career at low-level Italian clubs alongside his work as a banker. He quit his day job to focus on management in the early 2000s, but did not reach the Italian top-flight until the age of 55 when he steered Empoli to promotion in 2013-14. Sarri then led hometown club Napoli to two second-placed



finishes in three years and was named Serie A manager of the year in 2016-17. He spent one season at Chelsea in 2018-19, winning the Europa League and reaching the Carabao Cup final, before returning to Italy and winning the title with Juventus in the following campaign. He was the oldest manager to win Serie A when Juventus won the title. Sarri joined Lazio in June 2021 and led them to second place in the 2022-23 season. - Agencies

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP

Tuchel’s England to train in tents to replicate World Cup heat conditions

LONDON: England are using heated tents as part of training to replicate the conditions they could experience at the FIFA World Cup in the USA, Canada and Mexico next year. Thomas Tuchel and his squad are in Girona in Spain for a training camp. England play Andorra in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday before playing Senegal in a friendly at Nottingham Forest’s City Ground on 10 June. As part of the training camp the England head coach and the Football Association performance staff will look at how players cope in the extremely hot and humid conditions they could face at the World Cup.



Players will carry out fitness tests inside the tents on exercise bikes, in temperatures they could be expected to face during the tournament, and their recovery

will be analysed. Speaking last week, Tuchel said he expects his players to “suffer” in the tournament’s conditions and he will travel to the Club World



Cup this summer in the United States to assess the conditions. “It is important to see matches now in America, and in Miami at three in the afternoon,” Tuchel

said. “I will see that. How it looks, and we need to understand how to cool the players down, to drink. What our options are.

“Let’s see because it is after the season, so it will be very similar. The actual experience is for the players, but I have done pre-season there in Orlando and I will be very surprised if we do not suffer. Suffering is one of the headlines for this World Cup.” There have been warnings that the temperatures at 14 of the 16 stadiums being used for the 2026 World Cup could exceed ‘potentially dangerous levels’ during the tournament. In host city Dallas, in an average year more than 80% of June and July days exceed 28C. England have won their first two World Cup qualifiers under Tuchel and sit top of the Group K table. - Agencies

New World Autos unveils the all-new Chery Tiggo 9 SUV in Oman



The Tiggo 9 is a statement of Chery's growing global presence and its ambitious vision for vehicle enthusiasts in Oman

MUSCAT: In a spectacular evening that combined elegance with innovation, New World Autos, the distributor of Chery vehicles in Oman, unveiled the all-new Chery Tiggo 9 at a special event held at Hotel InterContinental, Muscat. Present at the occasion were distinguished guests from both public and private sectors.

The exciting launch event celebrated the arrival of a vehicle that blends cutting-edge technology, bold design and refined luxury. The Tiggo 9 is a statement of Chery's growing global presence and its ambitious vision for vehicle enthusiasts in Oman.

Speaking at the event, a spokesperson from New World Autos highlighted that the Tiggo 9 is designed for those who demand more from their SUV in terms of

technology, elegance and versatility. The vehicle reflects Chery's unwavering commitment to delivering intelligent, driver-focused solutions supported by its inspiring global R&D excellence.

Inspired by the powerful gaze of a tiger, the Tiggo 9's distinctive front fascia and bold grille exude strength and clarity. The SUV's dynamic silhouette is matched by 20-inch alloy wheels, a panoramic sunroof and intelligent LED lighting, delivering an unmistakable road presence.

The Tiggo 9 is equipped with a 2.0-litre turbocharged engine, finely tuned to offer a harmonious blend of power and efficiency. Paired with an advanced 8-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive capability, it delivers a smooth, confident and exhilarating driving experience across Oman's diverse terrain.

Inside, the Tiggo 9 offers a sanctuary of calm and sophistication. Its seven-seat configuration caters to modern families and adventurers alike, while the multi-layer noise reduction cabin, ventilated leather seats, front seat massage, driver headrest speakers and multi-zone climate control elevate passenger comfort to new levels. A 15.6-inch digital display with AR navigation and voice control headlines its tech-forward interior, bringing convenience and luxury together in perfect balance.

Safety takes centre stage in the Tiggo 9 SUV, which is engineered



with a comprehensive suite of advanced safety technologies to offer peace of mind on every journey. From its robust body structure designed to absorb and deflect impact forces, to intelligent driver monitoring system features such

as Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Keeping Assist, Blind Spot Monitoring, and Automatic Emergency Braking, the Tiggo 9 is built to protect. Equipped with multiple airbags, a 540-degree surround view camera and an intelligent auto

parking assist system, the Tiggo 9 ensures drivers and passengers are safeguarded with confidence, no matter the terrain or traffic conditions.

As part of its customer-first approach, New World Autos has

invested in modern showrooms, dedicated service centres and professional support team committed to ensuring a world-class ownership experience. The entire Chery range, including the all-new Tiggo 9, is now available for viewing and test drives at Chery showrooms in Wattayah, Al Hail, Sohar and Salalah.

The launch of the Tiggo 9 is not just the arrival of a new model. It marks a transformative moment in Oman's SUV landscape. With its sophisticated design, advanced features and powerful performance, the Tiggo 9 is poised to redefine expectations and lead the road ahead.

In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by New World Autos. For the latest Press Releases, Test Drive requests and more, please visit www.chery.om, www.youtube.com/@OmanChery, www.facebook.com/CheryAutoOman and www.instagram.com/cheryoman. For any further details & to ascertain the availability of stocks, please visit the Chery Showroom at Wattayah, Al Hail, Sohar and Salalah.

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NBO streamlines Eid note collection with smart booking through its app

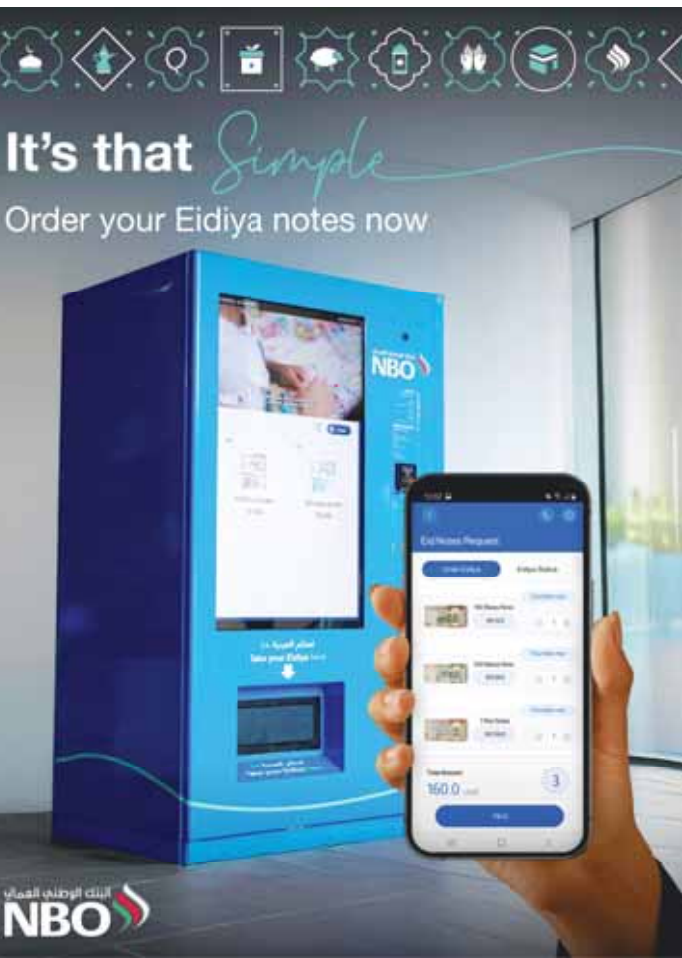
MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has launched an exclusive limited-time new feature on its NBO app, that allowed customers to pre-book their Eid notes in advance and enjoy a seamless and timely experience without the need to wait in long queues.

The exclusive service has enabled customers to choose from a range of denominations; 100 baisa, 500 baisa, OMR1, OMR5, and OMR10 – and receive a reference number upon booking to track requests and collect the notes conveniently from their preferred branch, including Central Business District (CBD), Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), Ghala, and Barka. Additionally, customers were able to monitor the status and cancel requests directly through the app.

A spiritual time

Commenting on the initiative Dr Ali Salim Al Shekaili, Assistant General Manager and Head of Digital and E-Channels at NBO, said: "Eid is a spiritual time for connection, giving and joy - values that resonate with our customer service. Through this new feature, we emphasised the simplicity and speed of digital banking by enabling customers to pre-book Eidiya notes from the NBO app, removing barriers, reducing queues and enhancing their banking experience. Moreover, our Eid Note Dispensing Machines contributed to our digital banking capabilities, reinforcing our dedication to seamless and customer-centric service."

In addition to the NBO app bookings, NBO's Eid Note Dispensing Machines are available at five different branches, including NBO's Head Office in Athaiba, Sohar, New Salalah, Bahla and Ibra, until 5 June 2025, providing NBO Debit cardholders with quick, in-person access to 100 baisa and 500 baisa notes.



The exclusive service has enabled customers to choose from a range of denominations; 100 baisa, 500 baisa, OMR1, OMR5, and OMR10

This service forms part of NBO's broader digital transformation journey. From self-service innovations and secure mobile features to real-time status tracking and automation, NBO continues to lead the way in delivering smart, ac-

cessible and user-friendly financial solutions.

To pre-book your Eid notes, download the NBO app today. For more information about NBO's Digital Banking services, please visit www.nbo.om or call 24770000.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BYPRODUCTS



ARA Petroleum partners with Sultan Qaboos University in a groundbreaking R&D agreement

MUSCAT: ARA Petroleum (ARA), the oil & gas exploration and production arm of The Zubair Corporation, has initiated a pioneering research and development agreement with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) to explore the transformation of produced saline water from oil and gas operations into sustainable energy byproducts, specifically Biohydrogen and Biochar. The agreement marks a significant step toward addressing environmental challenges in the energy sector through innovation and collaboration.

The partnership is supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation (MoHERI), which, through its EJAAD platform, has played a pivotal role in facilitating this industry-academia collaboration. The Ministry's involvement underscores the national commitment to advancing a diversified, knowledge-based economy.

The research will be led by experts and graduate students from SQU in collaboration with ARA Petroleum's R&D engineers. ARA will provide funding and technical support for the initiative, aligning with its commitment to sustainable practices and operational ef-



iciency. The study aims to assess the feasibility of converting produced saline water—a byproduct of oil extraction—into valuable resources that contribute to environmental sustainability.

Dr. Omar Al Jaaidi, Vice President of ARA Petroleum and Prof. Dr. Amer Bin Saif Al Hinai, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research attended the ceremony and signed on behalf of the two parties.

"This collaboration underscores the power of local expertise and the potential of Oman's younger generation," said Dr. Omar Al Jaaidi, Vice President of ARA Petroleum. "By working with Sultan Qaboos University, we are not only

advancing sustainable energy solutions but also empowering the next generation of innovators and researchers to lead the way in addressing global environmental challenges".

This collaboration exemplifies the power of public-private partnerships in addressing complex environmental challenges and supporting Oman's vision for a sustainable and innovation-driven future.

Established in 2014, ARA Petroleum is part of The Zubair Corporation, one of Oman's oldest and most respected business groups. It has broad interests across many sectors throughout the Middle East, Africa and beyond.

ROUND-UP

Sohar Freezone signs land lease agreement with Matrix Alloys

The project, with an investment of \$10 million aims to produce 20,000 tonnes annually of micro-carbon and low-carbon ferrochrome

MUSCAT: Sohar Freezone has signed a land lease agreement with Matrix Alloys (FZC) LLC, a leader in low-carbon ferrochrome production, to build a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly ferrochrome plant.

This initiative strengthens Oman's role as a regional hub for sustainable industrial development and supports the goals of Oman 2050 Net Zero commitment to reduce carbon emissions and diversify the economy.

The project, with an investment of \$10 million, will occupy 2.2 hectares within Sohar Freezone and aims to produce 20,000 tonnes annually of micro-carbon and low-carbon ferrochrome.

The facility will meet stringent purity and sustainability standards demanded by key markets including Europe, Japan, South Korea, and India.

Utilising an electric-based production process that avoids coal and heavy-oil pollution, the plant will significantly reduce its environmental footprint and operate with zero waste gas or wastewater emissions.

Furthermore, it seamlessly fits into Oman Vision 2040, promoting sustainable industrialisation and



encouraging foreign investment to drive long-term economic growth and environmental stewardship. The first phase is expected to be operational by 2026.

Mr. Bailin Yi, Chairman of Matrix Alloys (FZC) LLC, said, "Launching our first international ferroalloy plant in SOHAR Freezone offers us a strategic location with excellent infrastructure, market access, and competitive, stable, and low-cost energy essential for the energy-intensive smelting processes. We are committed to delivering premium low-carbon ferrochrome products that support global stainless-steel producers and promote a cleaner industrial future."

Mohammed Al Shizawi, Acting CEO of Sohar Freezone, stated: "This agreement underscores the trust that international investors place in Sohar's integrated industrial ecosystem. Matrix Alloys is bringing advanced, sustainable manufacturing capabilities to our



ferroalloy cluster, aligning perfectly with our vision to attract clean technology investments and strengthen Sohar Freezone's position as a competitive gateway for global trade."

Matrix Alloys will benefit from

Sohar's proximity to raw material suppliers and customers, as well as direct port access, and a supportive regulatory environment that reduces operational costs. The plant also plans to secure ISO 14001 and ISO 14067 certifica-



tions to ensure full carbon emission traceability and compliance with international standards such as CBAM, EcoLeaf, and K-ETS.

As Sohar Freezone approaches full capacity in its initial development phase, this agreement marks a significant milestone in expanding Oman's green industrial base and attracting technology-driven industries to the region.

For more information about Sohar Port and Freezone, please visit: soharportandfreezone.om

About Sohar Port and Freezone

Sohar Port and Freezone is one of the world's fastest-growing integrated industrial and logistics hubs, strategically positioned to connect businesses to the world and facilitate trade across diverse sectors. This significant mega-project, a collaboration between Asyad Group & the Port of Rotterdam, offers a comprehensive range of services, including logistics, petrochemicals, metals, and the region's first dedicated

agro terminal.

With over 20 years of operation, Sohar has become the primary gateway for Oman's import and export activities, contributing 2.1% to the nation's GDP and creating nearly 42,000 direct and indirect jobs. The Sohar Freezone enhances operational efficiencies through synergies in green manufacturing, logistics, and trade. Currently, land occupancy for both phase one and phase two has reached 66%.

As of 2024, Sohar Port has achieved a remarkable throughput of 75.4 million metric tons, rise in roll-on, roll-off (RORO) operations. Sohar Port is a multifunctional port driving innovation and efficiency in Oman's logistics, marine services, and trade sectors, committed to sustainable development and advanced technology. This modernization aligns with the economic diversification objectives outlined in Oman's Vision 2040.

IN OMAN AUTHENTIC OMANI HOSPITALITY

Sharakah launches Sharia-compliant financial solutions to support SMEs

MUSCAT: Sharakah, Oman's leading SME development company, has introduced a diverse range of Sharia-compliant financial solutions tailored to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As the first SME-focused fund entity in Oman to offer such products, Sharakah is reinforcing its commitment to ethical, sustainable, and impactful financing while addressing the growing demand for Sharia-compliant financial solutions.

Sharakah's vision has long been rooted in supporting entrepreneurs with innovative, responsible, and sustainable financial offerings.

Recognising a significant market demand for Islamic funding options, Sharakah has designed its new financial solutions to empower small and medium-sized enterprises while ensuring full adherence to Islamic principles.

Unlike the current market, where only commercial Islamic banks or Islamic windows provide such offerings, Sharakah's entry into the space fills a major gap in the SME funding ecosystem., Sharakah is stepping into an untapped market with strategic timing.

Commenting on the launch, Ali bin Ahmed Muqail, CEO Sharakah stated, "This launch marks a transformative shift in SME financing in Oman. By bridging the gap between Islamic financial principles and SME funding needs, we are fostering a more inclusive and ethical financial ecosystem. Many SMEs were at risk of being left behind due to the lack of Sharia-compliant options. To address this, we conducted a thorough market analysis, identifying key gaps and developing tailored solutions that empower SMEs to grow while adhering to Islamic financial principles. As the first

SME-focused entity to introduce these products in Oman, we take pride in offering a unique and competitive advantage that enables businesses to thrive without compromising their commitment to Sharia-compliant financial practices."

Sharakah's Sharia-compliant financial products have been rigorously evaluated and certified by M/s Eltizam Sharia Financial Consultancy, a specialist in Sharia-compliant financial solutions. This certification ensures that all financing structures comply with Islamic guidelines, providing SMEs with a credible and ethical alternative to conventional funding. The groundwork for this initiative was laid through an earlier Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sharakah and Eltizam, reinforcing the company's strategic commitment to expanding its Islamic finance portfolio.

Eltizam's role extends beyond certification. It includes reviewing and structuring Sharakah's contracts, verifying compliance with Shariah standards across legal, technical, and operational procedures, and offering continuous Sharia consultation. Eltizam also provides employee training through a series of workshops to ensure internal alignment with Shariah principles.

The newly introduced Sharia-compliant financial solutions cater to diverse business needs, offering flexibility, ownership opportunities, and investment management while ensuring compliance with Islamic finance principles.

Among these offerings is Ijara Muntahia Bittamleek, a lease-to-own model that enables businesses to acquire assets through a structured leasing plan, providing financial stability and a clear path to ownership.

Create timeless Eid memories and experience lavish hospitality at Grand Millennium Muscat

MUSCAT: As the blessed occasion of Eid Al Adha approaches, Grand Millennium Muscat is extending a warm invitation to families and loved ones to create cherished memories in an atmosphere of comfort, joy, and authentic Omani hospitality.

Even as temperatures continue to rise in tandem with humidity, the hotel is accentuating its timeless allure and its impressive service portfolio for holidaymakers to indulge in a much-needed dose of pampering and relaxation. It is welcoming guests to reconnect, relax, and revel in the joy of togetherness with a thoughtfully curated lineup of offerings designed for families, friends, and solo travelers seeking a peaceful retreat or a festive escape.

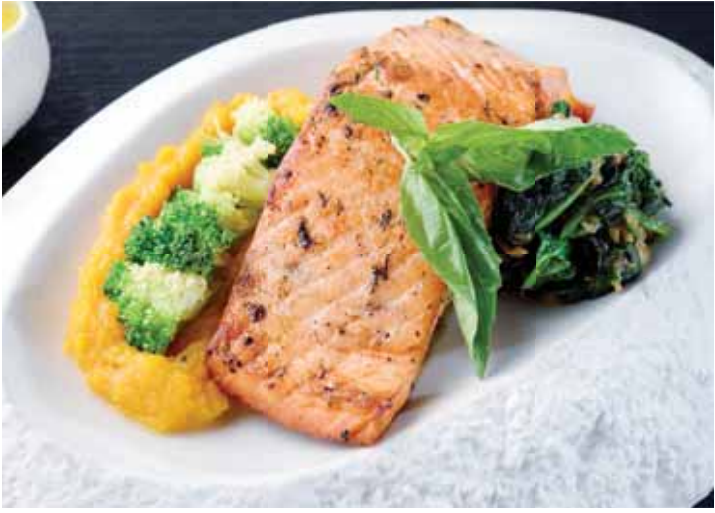
From luxurious private villas to soothing spa treatments and exquisite culinary experiences, the hotel promises a warm and indulgent ambience-one that presses pause button on the summer heat and infuses a sense of freshness and serenity within.

At the heart of the celebrations are Grand Millennium Muscat's private pool villas, available in 3- and 4-bedroom options. Ideal for families or groups, these elegant villas offer expansive living spaces, serene private pools, and the perfect blend of privacy and comfort for an unforgettable Eid getaway.

Guests can also take advantage of a 20% discount on rooms as part of the hotel's Hala Summer Campaign. Those signed up for the MyMillennium loyalty programme enjoy additional perks, including an extra 15% off, early check-in and late check-out (subject to availability), and dining offers.

Additionally, Taybat Restaurant invites guests to indulge in its signature themed nights with a generous 50% discount, while Bahriyat Restaurant, known for its fresh seafood and vibrant atmosphere, offers a 25% discount throughout the holiday period.

For those seeking relaxation and rejuvenation, the Zanta spa presents a special Eid treat-book a



60-minute massage and receive an additional 30-minute massage or facial-with a choice of treatments ranging from traditional Balinese and Deep Tissue massages to the unique Arabesque experience. Beyond this, guests can also enjoy a general 25% off on other spa services.

For a more decadent experience, guests can also indulge in a touch of luxury at the Café D Lobby Lounge, where our Golden Cappuccino awaits, shimmering with elegance and rich, velvety flavor. Treat yourself to a sip of sophistication this Eid holiday.

Referring to Eid as a time of joy,

reflection, and connection, Glenn Nobbs, General Manager of Grand Millennium Muscat, stated: "Our goal is to create a setting that not only celebrates these moments but enhances them-whether it's a family sharing laughter over dinner, a couple finding serenity in our spa, or children splashing in the rooftop pool. We're proud to offer experiences that feel personal, warm, and true to the spirit of Eid."

Grand Millennium Muscat looks forward to welcoming guests and their loved ones, ensuring a memorable Eid Al Adha filled with warmth, delicious food, and joyful experiences for all.

A tribute to the rich, cultural heritage and time-honoured values of Oman, the 5 star Grand Millennium Muscat is located in the heart of the city, close to the airport, and is seamlessly connected to the Muscat Grand Mall. Centrally located in the business, government and diplomatic district, our luxury hotel is uniquely convenient. The airport is 15 kilometres away, and we are within easy reach of beaches, the Avenues Mall, Mall of Oman and the Royal Opera of Muscat. The hotel also a home for the most elegant dining outlets in town that offers guests a wide variety of dining options including Bahriyat Restaurant, Taybat Restaurant, Pasha, Mazaj Terrace & Lounge, Al fresco and a pool bar. The hotel comprises 296 spacious rooms and suites, and 32 spacious apartments are all luxuriously appointed with contemporary Omani design and everything the guest need for a pleasant stay. At rejuvenating Zanta spa, guests can indulge all of their senses. We are pleased to host large weddings of up to 800 guests and a variety of other social events. With a range of meeting rooms, including our Executive Lounge with panoramic views of the city, we will ensure a productive time for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions.



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