

Times

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AT THE BEHEST OF HIS MAJESTY

Sayyid Shihab receives Tunisian, Lebanese ambassadors



MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs receives, separately, in his office at Al Murtafa'a Camp yesterday Azzedine el Tayse, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia and Albert Samaha, Ambassador of the Lebanese Republic to bid them farewell at the end of their tours of duty.

HH Sayyid Shihab expressed his appreciation to the ambassadors for their efforts in strengthening bilateral relations between



Oman and their respective countries. He wished them success in their future endeavours and for their countries' peoples further progress and prosperity.

For their part, the ambassadors expressed their profound thanks to His Majesty the Sultan, for the support extended to them during their tenure in Oman, which enabled them to carry out their duties. They wished His Majesty continued good health and a long life, and for Oman continued progress and prosperity under His Majesty's wise leadership. — OMA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
SQU team develops eco-friendly bricks

1 A student team from SQU has developed an eco-friendly brick named "Envibrick." Made entirely from local natural materials, this innovation is a promising and sustainable alternative to traditional bricks. **>A2**



OMAN
Discover the charm of Al Manakhir village

2 Al Manakhir village has emerged as a premier sustainable tourism destination, renowned for its landscapes and diverse terrain that attract nature enthusiasts and travellers alike **>A5**

MARKET
Omani startup platform secures key funding

3 The Omani startup platform SafaQat which is specialised in digital purchasing and procurement has successfully completed a funding round with Future Fund Oman and the Idarak Group. **>B1**

FUTURE FUND OMAN CLEARS OMR1.2BN PROJECTS



The OIA-established Fund aims to stimulate investments in promising high-potential sectors

MUSCAT: Future Fund Oman (FFO) has demonstrated positive performance during its first year of operations, having approved 44 projects with a total project value of approximately OMR1.2 billion.

FFO's contribution to these projects amounted to OMR333 million, while foreign capital contributions reached OMR885 million. This reflects growing in-

ternational confidence in Oman's investment environment, according to a report by the Oxford Business Group (OBG) covering FFO's performance in 2024. The report highlighted the Fund's pivotal role in stimulating economic diversification and expanding the investment base in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The report noted that Oman Investment Authority (OIA) established FFO with a capital of OMR2 billion, to be allocated over five years, as a key instrument to support sustainable growth and enhance the resilience of the national economy. The Fund operates within a comprehensive strategic framework designed to stimulate investment in promising high-potential sectors such as industry, renewable energy, ICT, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism, alongside emerging fields such as e-commerce, fintech, and electric vehicles.

The report also emphasised that FFO's role goes beyond providing capital; it aims to empower SMEs, support venture

capital firms, and foster an innovation ecosystem. This aligns with the Fund's structure, which allocates 90% of its capital to major national projects, while 10% is dedicated to supporting SMEs and venture-backed startups. Through this strategic capital distribution, the Fund complements the National Development Fund (NDF) and the Future Generation Fund (FGF), working together towards realising Oman's Vision 2040.

The report praised the recent legal and regulatory improvements in Oman aimed at attracting foreign investment and diversifying income sources. These reforms include the introduction of a new law allowing 100% foreign ownership in most sectors, the launch of the "Invest in Oman" platform as a unified digital gateway to streamline licensing procedures, and the update of the list of activities prohibited for foreign ownership, now reduced to only 123 activities. Other initiatives include the implementation of the privatisation law,

which enabled transferring government assets to the private sector and international investors through IPOs.

As a result of these improvements and OIA's efforts, FFO has been able to contribute significantly to the national economy through quality projects approved during its first year. These projects include investment funds, major national projects, and initiatives supporting SMEs and startups.

The report highlighted the Fund's collaboration with Chinese partners to launch two investment funds.

The first, the 'IDG Oman Fund', was launched in partnership with 'IDG Capital' to invest its entire capital of \$200 million within Oman, targeting ICT, renewable energy, and electric vehicles.

The fund focuses on attracting foreign direct investment and supporting the growth of advanced industries and clean technologies, marking a strategic step towards building an advanced industrial base in the Sultanate of Oman. **>A6**

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MUSCAT

QATAR OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Qatar announces bid to host 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games

DOHA: The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) announced a bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

If successful, the Gulf state would become the first country from the Middle East and North Africa region to host the event.

Qatar hosted the men's FIFA World Cup in 2022 and already has "95 percent of the required sports infrastructure in place to host the Games," and "a comprehensive national plan to ensure 100 percent readiness of all facilities," said QOC president Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani.

"This move underscores the State of Qatar's unwavering commitment to supporting the Olympic and Paralympic Move-



ments and its keen interest in playing an active role in the advancement of global sport," a QOC statement said.

It added: "Building on the monumental success of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, we reaffirm our readiness to bring the world together under the banner of the Olympic values just as we

did in 2022, when Doha welcomed over one million travelling fans from around the globe.

"Our journey to 2022 was one of tremendous growth. The path toward 2036 will build on that foundation with a new kind of legacy: an achievement that crowns Qatar's efforts to develop skills and create economic opportunities for all its people.

"This plan is rooted in a long-term vision aimed at building a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable legacy. Our objective goes beyond simply organising a successful event, we aim to deliver a global experience that reinforces the values of inclusivity, sustainability and international collaboration." **>A6**

'Nova' event in Ittin Plain boosts tourism during Khareef Dhofar

A5

JOURNEY OF CHALLENGE

740 students take part in specialised training courses



AL JABAL AL AKHDAR: As the summer holiday begins, students are eager to invest their free time in meaningful educational and recreational activities that develop their skills and enhance their capabilities.

Educational centres are dedicated to providing engaging and safe programmes that combine learning with enjoyment.

They offer a variety of activities such as art workshops, educational camps, sports, self-development programmes, and recreational trips. These initiatives aim to instill positive values like cooperation, discipline, and creativity, while also developing students' talents and motivating them to discover their potential in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and positive energy, learn new skills, and build friendships among participants.

In this context, the Ministry of Education, represented by the Career Guidance and Student Counseling Centre, in collaboration with "Challenge Oman," is implementing a summer program for students.

The programme, titled "Journey of Challenge," aims to empower

and develop students' skills and prepare them for future demands through a stimulating, interactive environment that blends learning with practical experience. The programme began this July and will continue until 21 August.

The programme includes 37 specialised training courses with the participation of 740 male and female students from various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The courses cover diverse topics focused on building students' character and enhancing their skills in different aspects of life. The sessions are being held in the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate and at the Ashour Camp in Dhofar Governorate.

The programme aims to promote self-discovery, build self-confidence, and foster new friendships among students from different governorates.

It also includes field visits to the Outward Bound Oman center in Al Jabal Al Akhdar, which features two educational halls, a theater, and outdoor learning units, to provide a unique learning and training experience. -ONA

SQU team develops eco-friendly bricks

Made entirely from local natural materials, this innovation is a promising and sustainable alternative to traditional bricks

MUSCAT: A student team from Sultan Qaboos University has developed an eco-friendly brick named "Envibrick."

Made entirely from local natural materials, this innovation is a promising and sustainable alternative to traditional bricks.

It contributes effectively to reducing carbon emissions in the construction sector, aligning with Oman's unique environmental requirements and marking a pioneering step toward a future of sustainable building.

Envibrick possesses exceptional properties that make it ideal for Oman's hot and humid climate. It



is lightweight, salt-resistant, and offers very high thermal insulation, which significantly reduces energy consumption in buildings and creates a more comfortable indoor environment.

The brick also has an insect-repellent property, adding a health and environmental dimension to buildings. Furthermore, its low production cost makes it an excellent economic choice compared to imported alternatives.

Halima Khamis Al Fajrani, CEO of Envibrick, explained that the team underwent a meticulous research and development journey. This began with extensive product testing in university labs using specialized equipment, with comprehensive documentation of the

results through videos and photos.

She noted that the main challenge was the brick's weight. The team adjusted the component ratios, replacing heavy materials with lighter ones without compromising quality. Some of the alternatives even demonstrated higher-than-expected performance.

Al Fajrani confirmed that work is ongoing to finalize the product's composition in preparation for obtaining a patent. She added that the company plans to use 3D printing technology in the next phase, after the final mixture is approved, to produce precise models that meet the latest needs of modern construction.

The Envibrick project has

POLITICAL FORUM

Environment Authority participates in forum on sustainable development

NEW YORK: The Environment Authority on Wednesday took part in the "2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development" in New York.

The forum was held in New York under the theme "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind".

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation was led by Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, who heads the 7th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).

The forum focused on practical, data-driven strategies to bridge implementation gaps, notably amid interconnected global crises, including climate change, inequality and economic instability.

In a speech at the forum, Al Amri laid emphasis on the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), scheduled to be held in Nairobi in December 2025. He said that the UNEA-7 constitutes a "global opportunity to accelerate sustainable, knowledge-based solutions for a resilient planet."

Al Amri underscored the need to devise environmental solutions with special focus on the interconnectedness that exists between environmental challenges



and public health. He stressed the need to embrace an integrated approach—like "One Health" principle—to effectively address these challenges.

He also underlined the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach to address environmental issues and espousing circular economy as a key factor to achieve sustainable production and consumption. In this context, he called upon countries to incorporate such solutions into their national policies.

Al Amri highlighted the progress made in negotiations on the convention to control plastic pollution. He stressed the need to ratify international agreements to protect marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, in addition to cooperation

between the United Nations Environment Assembly and parties tasked with multilateral environmental agreements to ensure effective environmental governance.

The speech also underscored the urgent need to reform the global financial structure and provide sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable economic and environmental models. Al Amri pointed out that areas affected by wars and conflicts should be included in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as part of measures to support peace and environmental justice.

At the conclusion of his speech, Al Amri underlined the importance of dialogue and understanding as the best means of achieving

approchement at a time the international community is joining hands to ensure a sustainable future for all.

On the sidelines of the forum, Al Amri conferred with the President of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting touched on ways to enhance international environmental action and highlighted the Sultanate of Oman's role in advancing the global agenda on sustainability.

Al Amri also held a meeting with the Hungarian Minister of Environment. The meeting discussed bilateral and regional cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development.

The two sides spoke about preparations for the forthcoming seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Acting in cooperation with Environment Society of Oman, the Environment Authority also participated in an event on the sidelines of the forum.

The event was aimed to enhance the role of youth in climate action and marine environment protection, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 13 on climate action, Goal 14 on Life Below Water and Goal 17 on "Partnerships for the Goals". -ONA

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AL MURTAFA'A CAMP

Commander of RNO meets Qatari military official

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman, received at his office at Al Murtafa'a Camp on Wednesday Rear Admiral Khalid Nasser Al Hajri, Commander of Mohammed bin Ghanem Al Ghanem Maritime Academy in the State of Qatar.

The RNO Commander welcomed the visiting official and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed a number of matters of mutual interest, particularly in naval affairs. -ONA



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University Medical City pioneers advanced spinal surgery techniques

The integrated use of surgical robotics, 3D printing, and VR represents a qualitative leap in medical care, demonstrating the institution's commitment to adopting cutting-edge technologies

MUSCAT: The spinal surgery team at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH), part of the University Medical City, has successfully implemented three groundbreaking surgical technologies for treating spinal disorders and deformities – marking a regional first



in specialised healthcare services. The integrated use of surgical robotics, 3D printing, and virtual reality (VR) within single procedures represents a qualitative leap in medical care, demonstrating the institution's commitment to adopting cutting-edge global medical technologies. These advanced techniques have been applied in complex surgeries including scoliosis correction, spinal canal decompression, and spinal tumor resections. The

University Medical City has become the region's first healthcare facility to simultaneously combine all three technologies in individual operations, establishing itself as a regional leader in specialized spinal surgery. Dr. Hamad Al Far'ei, Consultant Orthopedic and Spinal Surgeon, stated: "This achievement marks a transformative development in Oman's spinal surgery capabilities. Our medical team's integration of three advanced technologies into

unified procedures has significantly enhanced surgical precision while reducing risks and complications – directly improving treatment outcomes and patient recovery times." The technological integration features Surgical robotics enabling ultra-precise instrument guidance during operations, improving safety outcomes while reducing procedure duration, 3D printing technology creating accurate anatomical models for surgi-



cal planning, particularly valuable in complex deformity cases and Virtual reality providing real-time, detailed cross-sectional imaging during operations for enhanced visual guidance. This strategic initiative aligns with Oman Vision 2040's healthcare objectives to develop an innovative, quality-driven health system utilizing national expertise. Dr. Siham Salim Al Sinani, CEO of University Medical City, emphasised: "Implementing these advanced technologies strengthens public confidence in government healthcare services while

elevating specialised care standards. This reflects our execution of national policies for healthcare development through localising modern medical technologies to deliver services meeting international benchmarks." The achievement underscores Oman's growing capabilities in complex medical interventions while reducing dependence on overseas treatment referrals for spinal conditions. Hospital administrators confirm plans to expand these technologies across additional surgical specialties in coming years. – OMA

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WHERE MOUNTAINS MEET HOSPITALITY:

Oman-Pakistan ties ride high



From Islamabad to the Khunjerab Pass, a cross-cultural journey on two wheels

MUSCAT: Towering snow-capped mountains, serene alpine lakes, roaring rivers carving through rocky valleys, cascading waterfalls, lush green forests, and quaint villages nestled in the hills — this isn't a scene from a movie but the unforgettable reality a group of Omani bikers encountered on their recent adventure across northern Pakistan.

For these riders, it was nothing short of "paradise."

"It is a paradise for bikers... the hills, the lakes, the waterfalls, small villages, and the warmth of the people... it's a dream come true biking around in these places," said team leader Issa Al Hasani, speaking after completing the 12-day ride from June 20 to July 2.

Inspired by Muhammad Iqbal Ghangla, a renowned Pakistani motorcycle adventurer, the group — composed of seven Omanis and two Pakistanis from the Bousher Bikers Club — set off from Islamabad on what they described as the trip of a lifetime.

"Pakistan is a happening place for bikers," Al Hasani said. "Many areas are still untouched and offer raw, natural beauty. Although the roads can be rough in places, that's part of the thrill — it adds to the adventure and excitement."

The group covered an impressive 2,500 kilometres, riding through a mix of terrain that included bustling cities, remote mountain trails, desert paths, and verdant valleys. They averaged around 300 kilometres a day, typically starting at 9am and riding until evening.

Their journey culminated at the majestic Khunjerab Pass, a high-altitude border between Pakistan and China, located at over 4,600 metres above sea level.

All bikes were sourced locally in Pakistan, ranging from 150cc to 750cc, and the group was accompanied throughout by an ambulance and government convoy for safety and support.

"What melted our hearts were not just the landscapes, but the people," one of the riders shared.

"Everywhere we stopped, we were welcomed with smiles. Even the police and military personnel were incredibly friendly and supportive."

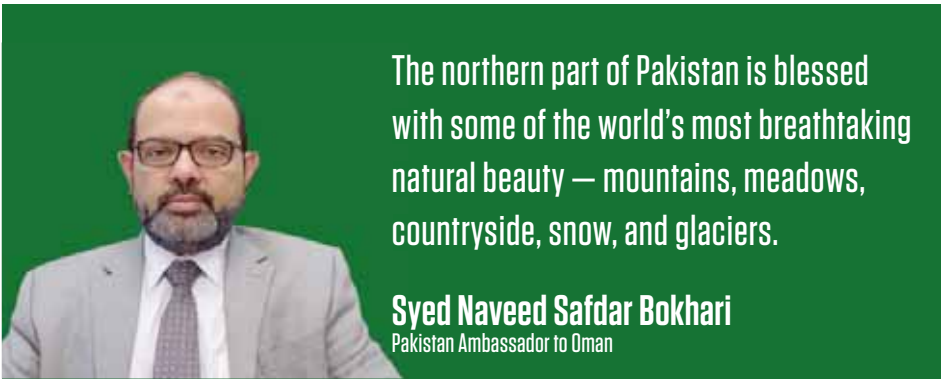
To celebrate the success of the journey and to highlight the deepening ties between Oman and Pakistan, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, Syed Naveed Safdar Bokhari, hosted a special reception at his residence on Tuesday.

"The northern part of Pakistan is blessed with some of the world's most breathtaking natural beauty — mountains, meadows, countryside, snow, and glaciers," said Bokhari. "It rivals the best of any continent, and trips like this help promote Pakistan as a key destination for adventure and eco-tourism."

The initiative was part of the 54th anniversary of Oman-Pakistan diplomatic relations, with the embassy playing a crucial role in organising and facilitating the journey. Planning began just 28 days before the departure, underscoring the strong collaboration between the two nations.

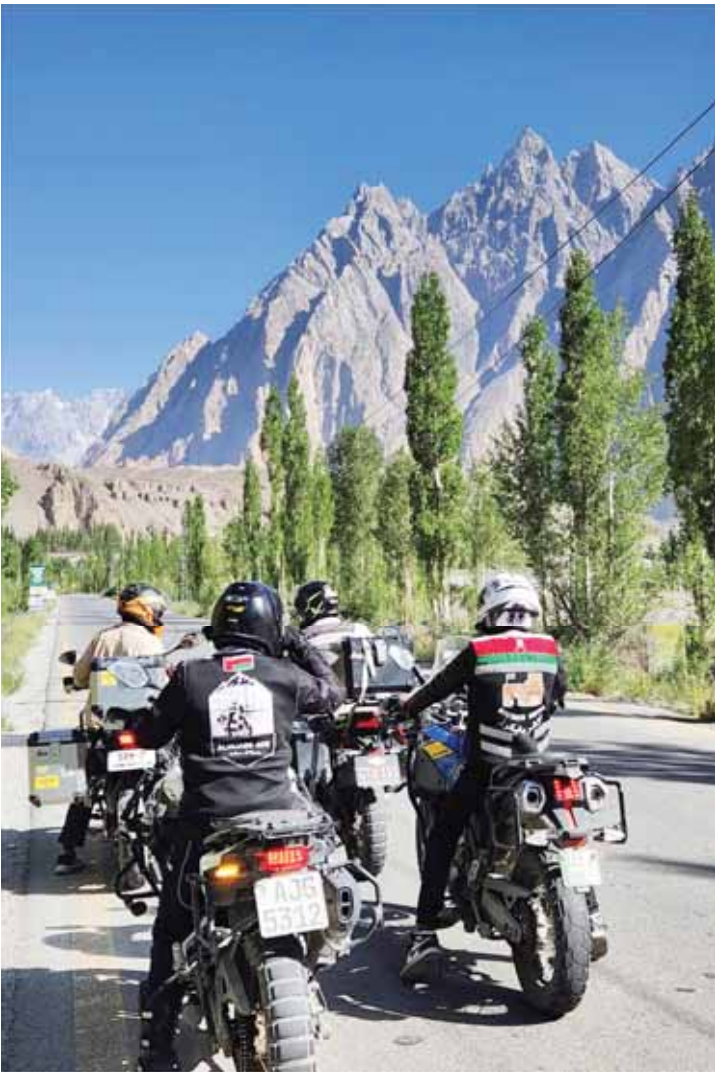
Among the team members was Kashif, a passionate biker originally from Rawalpindi, who has lived in Oman for nearly a decade. A dedicated member of the Bousher Bikers Club, Kashif said the club, founded in 2016, now includes 40 members from various nationalities, united by a shared love for the open road.

As for what's next, the riders already have their sights set on their next adventure, this time planning to explore Iran and Türkiye.



The northern part of Pakistan is blessed with some of the world's most breathtaking natural beauty — mountains, meadows, countryside, snow, and glaciers.

Syed Naveed Safdar Bokhari
Pakistan Ambassador to Oman





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Discover the charm of Al Manakhir village in Al Jabal Al Akhdar

Strategically located in the eastern part of Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Manakhir holds the distinction of being the first village in the region to greet the sunrise

AL JABAL AL AKHDAR: Nestled in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate's Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Manakhir village has emerged as a premier sustainable tourism destination, renowned for its breathtaking natural landscapes and diverse terrain that attract nature enthusiasts and travellers alike.

The village is surrounded by indigenous flora including ancient trees such as wild olive (Al Utum), wild berries (Al Boot) and Alalan tree (Juniperus Excelsa). Local residents maintain traditional agricultural practices, cultivating pomegranates, peaches, apricots, olives, and walnuts alongside livestock rearing — activities that collectively form the economic backbone of the community.

Strategically located in the eastern part of Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Manakhir holds the distinction of being the first village in the region to greet the sunrise and the primary destination for visitors arriving via the Birkat Al Mouz-Al Jabal Al Akhdar route.

Ahmed bin Hamad Al Nabhani, Municipal Council representative for Al Jabal Al Akhdar, highlighted the village's rich historical and cultural heritage: "Al Manakhir boasts seven mosques, including the architecturally significant Al Bilad Mosque that reflects the village's religious identity. Notable landmarks include the restored Al Ghaba Tower in 2010 and Mitrah



Boukbeer — the area's largest seasonal waterfall during wadi flows." Al Nabhani told Oman News Agency (ONA) that Al Manakhir connects to multiple villages across Al Dakhiliyah and South Al Batinah governorates through established trails including Wadi Mistal in Nakhal, Wadi Halfin to Samail, Wadi Bani Kharus to Al Awabi, and Imti village to Izki. These routes, marked with directional signage by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, have become popular for hiking and mountaineering while facilitating discovery of the area's historical sites.

Mahmoud bin Salim Al Toubi,

a village resident, emphasised Al Manakhir's year-round agricultural appeal: "The village has become a sustainable tourism magnet through its harvest seasons — roses, pomegranates, olives, grapes, peaches and walnuts — complemented by agricultural trails offering adventurous exploration of mountainous terrain and historical landmarks."

He added that the village's ancient irrigation systems form another attraction, with notable aflaj (ancient irrigation system or water channels) including Al Manakhir Falaj, Ain Al Biban, Ain Al Rassa, Kour Al Madhaf, Wadi Al Rumana Dam, and Al Biban Dam sustaining

the agricultural landscape.

These traditional water management systems demonstrate centuries-old Omani hydraulic engineering while supporting the village's agro-tourism offerings.

Tourism officials note that Al Manakhir's combination of natural assets, cultural heritage, and sustainable agricultural practices positions it as a model for community-based tourism development in Oman's mountainous regions. The village continues to attract growing numbers of domestic and international visitors seeking authentic cultural experiences amid spectacular highland scenery. — ONA



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‘Nova’ event in Ittin Plain boosts tourism during Khareef Dhofar

SALALAH: Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season provides vital opportunities to empower young talents, showcase their projects, develop their entrepreneurial skills and encourage them to enter the private business market.

An event known as "Nova" event is being held at Ittin Plain in Salalah as part of the activities of Khareef Dhofar Season 2025. The event attracts visitors through a range of entertainment performances that will continue until 31 August 2025.

Youth entrepreneurship initiatives contribute to enriching Dhofar Governorate's tourism potential by offering innovative experiences that enhance the attractiveness of the tourism season and provide sustainable economic and social opportunities.

Such projects underscore the growing role of Omani youth in boosting tourism and enhancing the presence of entrepreneurship in the local landscape, in line with the Sultanate of Oman's comprehensive development aspirations. — ONA

OMAN'S UNIQUE COASTLINE

Oman Kite Festival shares untapped natural beauty of Al Ashkharah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The penultimate leg of the Oman Downwinder, part of the Oman Kite Festival 2025 set off from the Pink Lagoon headed for Al Ashkharah, demonstrating the untapped natural beauty in the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

Organised by Omran Group in partnership with Oman Sail, Visit Oman, and Oman Adventure Centre, the Oman Kite Festival reflects the commitment of all stakeholders to develop sports tourism and capitalise on Oman's unique coastline as a world-class tourism experience.

Ayman Abdullah Al Ghafri won the leg, ahead of Al Mukhtar Abdul Karim Al Mujaini in second and Ahmed Mohammed from Egypt in third. These results puts Al Mukhtar Abdul Karim Al Mujaini on top, with Ayman Abdullah Al Ghafri second and Ahmed Mohammed in third.

With just one more leg remain-

ing, from Ras Al Jinz to Ras Al Hadd on 24 July, the Oman Kite Festival 2025 has successfully showcased the potential of the Omani coastline to attract domestic and international tourists as well as reinforced the Sultanate's position on the international map of adventure and marine sports events. A slalom competition will also take place on 24 July at Ras Al Hadd, showing the complexity of kite surfing and the visual appeal from a spectator perspective with 90 top-ranked international Kite Festival athletes all taking part. This will be followed by the closing ceremony at Sur Waterfront where the prizes will be presented. In attendance will be the Governor of South Al Sharqiyah, Dr. Yahya bin Badr Al Ma'awali, Dr. Hashil Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Omran Group, Dr. Khamis Salim Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, Senior management from both organisations, and representatives from event sponsors and partners.

Abdullah Al Farsi, Operation Manager, said, "The Oman Kite Festival is a key part of Omran Group's ongoing efforts to promote adventure tourism and harness Oman's natural assets — especially in coastal destinations like Bar Al Hakman, Ras Al Hadd, Masirah, and Al Ashkharah. To be able to do this with such a high calibre of athlete and of competition highlights the potential for Oman's

distinctive coastal destinations to become exceptional platforms for tourism experiences.

"The geographic and thematic expansion of this year's festival activities, building on the success of last year's Oman Downwinder, reflects the Group's vision to develop high-quality events that drive tourism movement. This has been an excellent example of institutional collaboration, through a partnership between Omran Group, Oman Sail, and the national travel operator, in cooperation with South Al Sharqiyah and Al Wusta governorates, alongside other entities and government authorities — all of whom deserve our sincere appreciation."

The Oman Kite Festival serves as a platform to showcase the Sultanate's exceptional coastal and marine landscapes, reinforcing its presence on the global tourism map and attracting enthusiasts of adventure sports and international sporting events.

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FAMILIARISATION SESSIONS

Sezad to hold ‘Duqm Summer’ sessions for investors in August

DUQM: The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (Sezad) will organise four specialised familiarisation sessions, titled “Duqm Summer”, in favour of investors in August 2025, at Sezad-building in Duqm in Al Wusta Governorate.

The sessions will deal with uses of artificial intelligence applications, developing an adaptable workforce, building resilient supply chains and promoting a culture of work environment that encourages stability and professional growth.

The sessions include one about global trade and supply chains, due to be held on 19 August. It will discuss strategic location of A'Duqm as an ideal meeting point between Europe, Asia and Africa. It will also address real-life expe-



riences in managing risks during periods of disruption and crises.

“Duqm Summer” sessions conclude on 26 August, with a session to be dedicated to workplace culture and mental health. The closing session will explain how organisations can build a supportive work environment that enhances performance and diminishes employee turnover rates.

Construction work on fish market in Ibra commences

The project constitutes part of efforts to boost trade and activate the seafood sales sector

IBRA: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources launched a project to establish a fish market in the Wilayat of Ibra, North Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

Seafood sales

The project constitutes part of efforts to boost trade and activate the seafood sales sector.



Dr. Anwar Nasser Al Saadi, Director of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in Ibra, said that steps are underway to develop fish markets to meet

the needs of consumers, expand investment in the fisheries sector and provide employment opportunities for the national workforce.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources supervises eight fish markets across wilayats of North A'Sharqiyah governorate. — **ONA**

NORTH AL SHARQIYAH

Agricultural Products Collection Station serves as logistics hub

IBRA: The Agricultural Products Collection Station in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate is one of the most prominent projects that contributes to boosting the agricultural sector and inspiring farmers, thus adding local value to the governorate's agricultural products.

The station serves as an integrated logistics centre for various seasonal agricultural products.

Mohammed bin Ali Al Duwaiki, Deputy Chairman of the Board of

Directors of Oman Agricultural Association in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the agricultural products collection station is funded with more than OMR300,000 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund (AFDF).

He added that the funding enabled the centre to achieve its desired objectives, most notably en-

couraging farmers to market their products in a way that ensures the supply of high-quality products for the local and foreign markets.

Al Duwaiki pointed out that the station, which occupies an area of 42,000 square metres, uses the latest technologies to preserve, package and market products according to top standards, before their marketing.

By establishing such agricultural product collection stations in the Sultanate of Oman's governorates,



the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources seeks to set up networks of state-of-the-art



marketing outlets that contribute to achieving local added value and marketing local agricultural prod-

ucts that are compatible with the latest technologies and commercial marketing methods. — **ONA**

SOHAR UNIVERSITY



AI-powered platform to translate sign language developed by student team

SOHAR: A student team from Sohar University in North Al Batinah Governorate has successfully developed an electronic platform project to translate sign language for individuals with hearing impairments using artificial intelligence technologies.

This platform leverages AI to provide direct and instant communication, unlike traditional methods that rely heavily on human interpreters or limited resources.

The platform provides a digital bridge between sign language users

and people who communicate orally. Its system offers real-time translation tools, including sign language recognition, speech-to-text, and text-to-speech, making it a flexible tool for use in workplaces, schools, healthcare centres, and daily life. — **ONA**

REVIEW MEETING

Traffic Safety Competition's main committee reviews media plan and nomination criteria

MUSCAT: The main committee for the Traffic Safety Competition reviewed a number of topics related to the competition, including the nomination mechanism and criteria, the evaluation of projects, and the media plan for the fourth edition of the Traffic Safety Competition for 2025/2026.

The review took place during

the committee's meeting yesterday at the Directorate General of Traffic, chaired by Maj. Gen Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations and head of the committee. Members of the committee from various relevant government bodies were in attendance.

The organisation of this competition stems from the active role undertaken by government and private entities, as well as community members of all backgrounds, in promoting traffic awareness and a culture of road safety. This has a direct impact on the behavior of road users and contributes to reducing accidents. — **ONA**



FUTURE FUND OMAN

FFO successfully established a value chain in Oman

< FROM A1 In addition, FFO partnered with the Chinese firm 'EW Partners', which focuses on investments in the Middle East and North Africa, developing an investment platform that connects leading Chinese companies with expansion opportunities in the GCC. The partnership resulted in the establishment of the 'EWTP Oman Fund' with a capital of \$250 million, aiming to invest the entire amount within Oman in sectors such as ICT, renewable energy, tourism, and agriculture. This fund's importance lies in its focus on attracting leading Chinese industrial companies to establish their regional operations in Oman, creating local job opportunities, and strengthening supply chain capabilities, which aligns with the OIA's “Oman Angle” philosophy.

In addition to creating investment funds, FFO has undertaken a crucial role in supporting major national projects such as the United Solar Polysilicon Plant in Sohar Free Zone. This project is the largest of its kind outside China, with a production capacity of 100,000



tons of polysilicon.

Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, President of OIA, highlighted the project's added value in his interview with OBG, saying: “FFO has successfully established a value chain in Oman by investing in the United Solar Polysilicon plant in Sohar, reinforcing Oman's posi-

tion as an influential player in the renewable energy sector.” According to the report, this project is expected to enable Oman to capture 4.4% of the global polysilicon market, estimated at \$37.3 billion.

The report also noted FFO's support for SMEs and startups, having approved several related

projects, including Q-Pay, Oman's first certified “Buy Now, Pay Later” provider; Bima, a digital insurance services platform; and the SERB Project for managing drone traffic.

Furthermore, the report detailed the FFO's five-year strategic vision (2024–2028) and its

expected economic impact.

Projects approved by FFO in 2024 alone are anticipated to create over 1,600 direct jobs, diversify the economy to reduce reliance on oil and gas, empower entrepreneurial ventures, and foster innovation.

These objectives align with the pillars of Oman Vision 2040, which aims to build a productive and diversified economy led by the private sector, support sustainable development through clean energy and green industries, create jobs, develop local talent, and transfer knowledge to Omani workers while strengthening local and international partnerships in renewable energy and advanced technologies.

OBG concluded its report by affirming that FFO is an effective tool for implementing Oman's strategy to transition towards a diversified, sustainable economy based on innovation and high-quality partnerships. This will enhance Oman's position as an attractive regional and global investment hub and reinforce OIA's commitment to a long-term investment philosophy. — **ONA**

2036 OLYMPIC GAMES

Several countries considering bids

< FROM A1 The new IOC president, Kirsty Coventry, said last month that her organisation would be reviewing the process for determining Games hosts.

Other confirmed bids for 2036 include Istanbul (Turkey), Ahmedabad (India), Nusantara (Indonesia) and Santiago (Chile). Countries considering bids reportedly include Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Egypt, Italy, Germany, Denmark and Canada.

Qatar previously bid to host the 2016 and 2020 Olympics, which were ultimately awarded to Rio and Tokyo.

Summer Olympics

The Summer Olympics are scheduled to host the Asian Games in 2028 and Brisbane, Australia, in 2032.

Doha, the Qatari capital, is scheduled to host the Asian Games in 2030, a year after Saudi Arabia stages the Asian Winter Games in Trojena. Saudi Arabia was the sole bid to win the rights to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup.

SPORTS

England hit back after solid Indian start at Old Trafford



India were 149/3 at tea after Jaiswal and Rahul provided a good platform on the opening day of the fourth Test against England

OLD TRAFFORD: The fourth Test at Old Trafford remained finely balanced at tea on day one, with India reaching 149/3 after a promising opening stand was undone by England's disciplined afternoon fightback on Wednesday. Inserted under overcast skies, India's openers KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal batted assuredly through the morning session,



putting on 94 runs in 30 overs to set a strong platform. But the tide turned after lunch as England struck three timely blows — including two in quick succession — to peg India back and edge mar-

ginally ahead in the contest.

Rahul, composed and compact throughout his stay, became just the fifth Indian batter to cross 1,000 Test runs in England.

He looked firmly set before fall-

ing for 46, chasing a Chris Woakes delivery that moved away slightly — edged to Zak Crawley at third slip to give England their long-awaited breakthrough.

Jaiswal, meanwhile, had curbed

his usual attacking instincts to reach his eighth 50-plus score in just 16 innings against England.

Having weathered the early challenge in dim conditions, he appeared in control. But the introduction of Liam Dawson — returning to the Test side after a seven-year absence — turned the tide.

The left-arm spinner needed just seven deliveries to make an impact, luring Jaiswal into a drive that kissed the edge and was smartly held by Harry Brook at slip. Jaiswal departed for a gritty 58 off 107 deliveries that included ten boundaries and a maximum.

Dawson's control and subtle variation provided the sort of reliability England had missed in the absence of Shoaib Bashir.

At tea, he had 1 for 21 from seven probing overs, applying pressure that helped tighten the screws on India's middle order.

That pressure told once again late in the session when England captain Ben Stokes produced a crucial breakthrough. India skipper Shubman Gill, who had begun

to look fluent and was growing in confidence, misjudged a sharp delivery that jagged in off the seam. Offering no shot, he was struck on the pad. Umpire Rod Tucker upheld the appeal of Stokes but Gill opted for the review. Ball-tracking confirmed it was hitting, and Gill was sent back for 12, leaving India suddenly three down.

England's bowlers will be buoyed by their effort in the second session, where they not only picked up key wickets but also managed to control the scoring rate effectively — keeping India to under three an over across the day.

From 94 for no loss, the visitors lost three wickets for just 55 runs, shifting the momentum back toward the hosts.

Debutant B Sai Sudharsan, who survived a tough chance on 20 when Jamie Smith failed to glove a leg-side offering off Stokes, was at the crease along with Rishabh Pant.

Brief scores (at tea): India 1st innings 149/3 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 58, KL Rahul 46) vs England. - Agencies

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SECOND T20I

Australia trounce Windies to spoil Russell's farewell

KINGSTON: Australia powered to a dominant eight-wicket win over West Indies in the second T20I at Sabina Park, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series and spoiling Andre Russell's final international appearance.

Josh Inglis and Cameron Green stitched together a breathtaking unbeaten 131-run stand — the highest third-wicket partnership for Australia in T20Is — to chase down 173 with 28 deliveries to spare.

Inglis, named Player of the Match, clobbered 78* off 33 balls with seven fours and five sixes, while Green added a brutal 56* off 32, smashing four sixes and three fours of his own.

The West Indies fielding display collapsed under pressure, with six catches spilled, three of them in a single over during the chase. Inglis and Green were dropped twice each — errors that proved fatal as Australia accelerated with ease.

Earlier, the West Indies rode a brief Russell special to reach 172 for 8. After being reduced to 98 for 5, the hometown hero lit up Sabina Park one last time.

Having received a guard of honour before the match, Russell blasted 36 off just 15 balls, including three sixes in his first five deliveries against Ben Dwarshuis and a huge hit off Adam Zampa. His counter-attack, however, was cut short by Nathan Ellis, who induced a skier held by Inglis.

Russell walked off to a standing ovation, greeted by handshakes from every Australian player.

Australia's spinners had earlier tilted the game heavily in their favour: Glenn Maxwell and Adam Zampa combined for 5 for 44 in six overs, tearing through the top order after Brandon King (51 off 36) had powered West Indies to 63 without loss inside eight overs.

Zampa removed King and later claimed Roston Chase and Sherfane Rutherford to finish with 3 for 29, while Maxwell's 2 for 15 included the big wicket of Shai Hope. Despite some late lapses in the field — three dropped catches and a missed run-out — Australia's discipline with the ball held firm. Nathan Ellis chipped in with 2 for 34, while debutant Matthew Kuhnemann showed promise in his first T20I spell.

In reply, Australia took a bold approach by promoting Maxwell to open with skipper Mitchell Marsh, targeting spin in the powerplay. Maxwell cracked a six and a four off Akeal Hosein's first over but fell for 12. Marsh struggled before departing for 19, but once Inglis and Green took over, it was one-way traffic.

The turning point came in the seventh over, when West Indies missed three catches — Russell, Motie, and Hope all guilty. Inglis and Green punished the lapses ruthlessly, shifting gears as the asking rate evaporated.

Inglis brought up his 50 in just 22 balls, highlighted by an outrageous reverse ramp and a monstrous six onto the roof off Russell's final over. Green reached his second successive fifty in 28 deliveries.

The final insult for the West Indies came when Holder dropped a caught-and-bowled chance off Inglis, and Green sealed the chase in the 15th over to cap a comprehensive Australian win.

Brief scores: West Indies 172/8 (Brandon King 51, Andre Russell 36; Adam Zampa 3-29, Glenn Maxwell 2-15) lost to Australia 173/2 in 15.2 overs (Josh Inglis 78*, Cameron Green 56*). - Agencies



OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2025 reaching \$70.52, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 18 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$70.70. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,765.18 points, down by 0.25% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.10% at 456.82 points. Muscat Insurance, up 9.13%, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 9.90%, was the top loser.

Omani startup platform secures funding to boost digital economy



This reflects growing confidence in national technology projects and their ability to contribute to building a sustainable digital economy

MUSCAT: The Omani startup platform SafaQat or “Deals” which is specialised in digital purchasing and procurement has successfully completed a funding round with Future Fund Oman and the Idrak Group. This move reflects growing confidence in national technology projects and their ability to contribute to building a sustainable digital economy.

SafaQat is supervised by the SMEs Development Authority “Riyada”. SafaQat is a pioneering joint venture founded by four brothers from the Wilayat of Nizwa: Majed bin Majed Al Saifi, Sulaiman bin Majed Al Saifi, Ibrahim bin Majed Al Saifi and Al Moatasem bin Majed Al Saifi. The family partner-



ship was established during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

Al Moatasem, one of the founders, explained that the idea originated from a simple experience of sharing price quotes via messaging apps, which confirmed the market's readiness for competitive digital models. The brothers then began developing a prototype that evolved into a fully integrated platform.

He noted that the project's launch was built on their cumulative expertise, particularly in the tendering sector. He affirmed that each brother managed a specific aspect of the platform according to

his specialization, which contributed to its steady and professional growth. He emphasized that the project's success came after overcoming several challenges related to building trust, changing market behaviors, and convincing institutions to use the platform.

He stated that the solutions involved flexibility, listening to feedback, and developing the system as needed.

Al Moatasem explained that the investment partnership with Oman Future Fund and Idrak Group represents a qualitative leap for the platform. He pointed

out that these entities do not just provide financial support; they believe in the importance of investing in the future of the national economy and empowering Omani youth.

He added that the investment will be allocated to developing the technical infrastructure, improving user experience, attracting national talent, expanding into government services, and preparing to enter new markets.

Al Saifi mentioned that the number of SafaQat app users has reached 2,486, while the number of tenders and opportunities pub-



lished on the platform has reached 1,260. The number of registered suppliers and companies stands at 2,784. He affirmed that these figures reflect rapid growth and increasing confidence from the local market, reinforcing the platform's position as an effective national platform for digitizing procurement and supply chain operations.

The SafaQat platform has earned several awards and recognitions, including second place in the live pitches at the Omani Startup Accelerator, the Best Growing Company in the Market award, a second-place ranking among Omani e-commerce stores, and a win in the “Jadarah 2024” initiative.

The platform has participated in numerous local and international forums, including Comex 2024, the Economic Vision 2024 award,

and represented Oman at international exhibitions such as Biban 24 in Riyadh, Web Summit in Doha, and LEAP 25 in Saudi Arabia.

SafaQat utilizes smart technologies, including interactive dashboards, alert systems, bid-sorting algorithms, and real-time reports. It is currently working on developing AI-powered tools for analyzing bids and forecasting prices, in line with digital transformation trends.

On the community side, the platform launched an initiative to train job seekers as sales representatives through practical online training content, aiming to empower youth and create self-employment opportunities. It also supports small and medium enterprises with free registration, technical support, and awareness campaigns.

ICONIC NEW LANDMARK

The Sustainable City - Yiti unveils ‘The Arc’ luxury residences to redefine green urban living

MUSCAT: The Sustainable City -Yiti, Oman's flagship sustainable development and the pioneering net zero emissions community, has today announced the launch of The Arc, an iconic new landmark with a collection of 132 luxury serviced residences offering a modern living experience grounded in sustainability, wellness, and timeless architecture.

Located within the heart of The Sustainable City -Yiti, The Arc marks the next chapter in the development's mission to offer diverse, future-ready living options in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The Arc offers three distinctive residential collections, each thoughtfully curated to reflect a modern approach to coastal living, where comfort, elegance, and purpose intersect. Among them is a signature collection branded by Nikki Beach. Available in two, three, and four bedroom layouts, the homes feature expansive floorplans with panoramic sea and mountain views, as well as thoughtfully integrated smart home technology. Residents will enjoy seamless access to a range of amenities, including wellness hubs, pools, concierge services, and a private marina, all set within a walkable environment.

The development integrates energy-efficient architecture, solar power, recycled water systems,



local food production, and EV charging infrastructure, reinforcing The Sustainable City - Yiti's broader commitment to net-zero living. Beyond the homes themselves, residents become part of a thriving ecosystem that brings together education, retail, culture, and innovation in one holistic, future-ready destination.

“Today's residents are looking for more than luxury, they're seeking meaning, wellbeing, and a genuine sense of place,” said Mahmoud Shehada, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer at The Sustainable City -Yiti. “With The Arc, we're introducing a new chapter of luxury living, one that offers residents and investors access to a fully integrated, walkable commu-

nity that combines coastal living with world-class infrastructure, wellness, education, and innovation. As Oman continues to position itself as a leading tourism and investment destination, we are expanding our residential portfolio and inviting people to be part of a resilient ecosystem where sustainability drives value. It's a forward-looking investment in quality of life, community, and a more sustainable tomorrow.”

The launch of The Arc builds on the momentum of earlier residential sales successes including villas and The Plaza Apartments. With the city's full handover on track for completion by the end of 2026, this latest milestone reinforces the project's evolution into

one of the region's most ambitious and future-ready communities.

Developed by Diamond Developers in collaboration with Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN) Group, The Sustainable City - Yiti spans nearly one million square meters along the Gulf of Oman, and offers smart infrastructure, low-carbon living and sustainable tourism.

The wider development will include residential, commercial, hospitality, and educational spaces, as well as two hotels, school, a nursery, an equestrian centre, an indoor sports complex, and outdoor leisure areas, all designed to foster a connected, resilient community aligned with Oman Vision 2040.

AL WUSTA GOVERNORATE



15 development project worth over OMR4mn signed

MUSCAT: The Al Wusta has signed 15 agreements for development projects across the governorate's wilayats, with a total cost exceeding OMR4.3 million.

The agreements were signed on behalf of the governorate by Sheikh Ahmed bin Musallam Jaddad Al Kathiri, Governor of Al Wusta, and by representatives of the companies that were awarded the projects.

The tenders included a number of priority projects in the wilayats of the governorate, such as the organization and development of the first phase of the residential plan in Haima, the development and beautification of the Al Ajaiz village waterfront in Haima, and the establishment of parks in both Al

Ajaiz and Abu Mudhabi villages. Other projects in Haima include the creation of a plant nursery and the supply of street lighting poles.

The agreements also covered the construction of a central market in Mahout, the establishment of the first phase of Wadi Al Sail Park in Mahout, and the construction of a camel racing track platform and course in the wilayats of Mahout and Al Jazir. Additionally, a park will be built in the northern and southern Al Ghubrah areas. The agreements also include the maintenance of several buildings belonging to the wilayats and the Al Wusta Municipality, as well as an agreement for technical and administrative support services in the governorate. -**OMA**

STRATEGIC

Saud Bahwan Group announces partnership with SungrowPower Supply

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Group, through their Group Company - World Auto Business, recently announced a new strategic collaboration with SungrowPower Supply, a global leader in renewable technology solutions.

As part of this partnership, World Auto Business and Sungrow Power Supply will jointly introduce a range of advanced AC and DC electric vehicle chargers for residential and commercial use in Oman.

Recognised as the pioneer of renewable technologies, Sungrow offers highly reliable AC and DC chargers that are compatible with 99.8% of all major electric vehicle models. These initiatives aim to bring sustainable, energy-efficient

and smart charging solutions to the electric vehicle market and to support Oman's energy transition.

Commenting on the collaboration, an official from World Auto Business shared, “We are excited to join forces with SungrowPower Supply whose vision for a smarter and more sustainable future aligns with the rapidly growing demand for renewable energy solutions,” he said.

“This initiative reflects the shared vision of both companies to accelerate the adoption of electric mobility and to meet the unique requirements of the new-age customers.”

World Auto Business is committed to driving the transition towards a sustainable, low-emission

As part of this partnership, World Auto Business and Sungrow Power Supply will jointly introduce a range of advanced AC and DC electric vehicle chargers for residential and commercial use in Oman

future by supporting the development of new energy solutions and infrastructure. As awareness grows around the importance of reducing environmental impact, the company is investing in technologies and services that align with this global shift.

From promoting clean mobility options to facilitating the installation of eco-friendly charging infrastructure, World Auto Business LLC is helping to lay the groundwork for a greener transportation ecosystem. Its efforts aim not only to enhance the

customer experience but also to support broader societal goals for environmental responsibility, energy efficiency and sustainable urban development.

Set to revolutionise the automotive arena, the EV chargers provide up to 96.5% of charging efficiency. Each unit supports ultra-fast charging with OCPP 1.6J and 2.0.1 protocols and includes PV, ESS and EVC charging modes with dynamic load management. These chargers support a wide voltage range of 200–920V and are designed for carefree maintenance, ease of use and control via app and easy installation, among other advanced features.

Additionally, Sungrow EV chargers feature user-friendly

smart load management systems, intelligent charging capabilities, an increased service lifetime and anti-corrosion properties. Beyond this, their minimalist, sleek design adheres to environmental protection principles, offering low noise emissions of up to 65dB, and low power consumption, all at par with international safety standards.

Sungrow, a global leader in renewable energy technology, has pioneered sustainable power solutions for over 28 years. With a presence in 180 countries, the company is recognised as the world's No. 1 in PV inverter technologies. Sungrow is committed to bridging the gap to a sustainable future through cutting-edge technology and unparalleled service.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Muscat Insurance, up 9.13%, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 9.90%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,765.18 points, down by 0.25% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.10% at 456.82 points. Muscat Insurance, up 9.13%, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 9.90%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 2548 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 21.96 million, with more than 142.23 million shares changing hands. Out of 66 traded securities, 28 advanced, 25 declined, and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 849K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 705K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 144K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,069.81 points, down 0.85%. Prices of Muscat Insurance, Takaful Oman, National Finance,

Bank Nizwa were up by 9.13%, 4.00%, 2.31%, 1.01% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Muscat were down by 8.33%, 4.76%, 3.64%, 2.74%, 2.01% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,839.88 points, up 0.77%. Prices of Oman Chromite, Construction Materials, Oman Cement, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 6.67%, 4.35%, 2.88%, 1.54%, 1.21% respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Oman Chlorine were down by 7.17%, 0.41% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.2% before closing at 1,826.84 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Phoenix Power, Muscat Gases, Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power were up by 9.09%, 6.06%, 5.77%, 5.32%, 5.32% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Oman Oil Marketing, Sembcorp Salalah, Renaissance Services, Ooredoo were down by 9.90%, 6.00%, 5.52%, 2.33%, 2.04% respectively. – United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

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INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,790.41	4,764.80	4,765.18	4,777.19	-12.02	-0.25	
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,142.88	8,069.81	8,069.81	8,139.10	-69.29	-0.85	
Industry Index	6,868.32	6,787.71	6,839.88	6,787.71	52.16	0.77	
Services Index	1,853.65	1,826.84	1,826.84	1,830.52	-3.68	-0.20	
MSX Shariah Index	457.98	455.57	456.82	456.35	0.47	0.10	
MSX TR INDEX	7,086.12	7,048.25	7,048.80	7,066.57	-17.78	-0.25	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,674.02	9,587.22	9,587.22	9,669.54	-82.32	-0.85	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,440.14	8,341.08	8,405.18	8,341.08	64.10	0.77	
SERVICES TR IDX	2,363.86	2,329.66	2,329.66	2,334.36	-4.69	-0.20	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
142,237,010	21,961,562	2,548	28,993,073,360	28	25	13	66

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1417047	139,838	106	0.095	0.101	0.095	0.099	0.094	0.005	5.319	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	66,813,856
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1148773	112,830	68	0.095	0.100	0.095	0.099	0.094	0.005	5.319	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	70,726,228
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	93030	16,866	18	0.180	0.184	0.180	0.182	0.178	0.004	2.247	0.182	0.180	0.182	0.100	7,797,424
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	44125	15,817	7	0.415	0.420	0.415	0.420	0.415	0.005	1.205	0.420	0.415	0.420	0.100	52,457,143
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	728534	72,632	31	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	14557	12,943	6	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.000	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.100	77,688,924
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	215991	97,210	39	0.173	0.175	0.170	0.173	0.172	0.001	0.581	0.173	0.174	0.170	0.100	86,060,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	31315	9704	6	0.309	0.310	0.309	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.300	0.310	0.100	504,043,370
OM0000001077	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	533	1,200	4	2.295	2.295	2.295	2.295	2.295	0.000	0.000	2.295	2.290	2.295	0.100	305,861,500
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	209421	13,770	12	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.062	0.066	0.100	23,148,274
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	10000	836	3	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.100	7,470,000
OM0000004789	MAJINA TAKAFUL	187100	15,422	18	0.081	0.083	0.081	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.100	14,550,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	123189	110,910	28	0.906	0.906	0.900	0.903	0.906	-0.004	-0.442	0.902	0.901	0.902	0.100	676,500,000
OM0000003388	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	33354	4,582,732	133	0.138	0.139	0.137	0.138	0.139	-0.001	-0.719	0.138	0.138	0.139	0.100	913,179,985
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1438293	379,197	42	0.263	0.264	0.263	0.264	0.266	-0.002	-0.752	0.264	0.263	0.266	0.100	203,332,800
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	627425	141,617	51	0.230	0.230	0.225	0.228	0.230	-0.002	-0.870	0.228	0.227	0.228	0.100	213,342,244
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	16403372	2,493,874	397	0.149	0.149	0.147	0.147	0.149	-0.002	-1.342	0.147	0.147	0.149	0.100	538,601,716
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	12320109	3,626,478	247	0.297	0.297	0.292	0.292	0.298	-0.006	-2.013	0.292	0.294	0.296	0.100	2,191,897,842
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	7111	1,711	7	0.242	0.242	0.240	0.240	0.245	-0.005	-2.041	0.240	0.239	0.244	0.100	156,226,615
OM0000002324	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	1041566	39,728	28	0.300	0.300	0.291	0.293	0.300	-0.007	-2.333	0.293	0.291	0.299	0.100	69,265,130
OM0000008125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	3620	507	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.147	-0.007	-4.782	0.140	0.133	0.000	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	7000	3,100	2	0.450	0.450	0.440	0.440	0.444	-0.004	-7.173	0.440	0.450	0.470	0.100	52,300,000
Total	22	68,990,158	11,821,843	1,234												

Parallel Market

OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	300	437	1	0.873	0.873	0.873	0.873	0.880	0.007	9.125	0.873	0.870	0.870	1.000	8,624,865
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	1,889,054	133,917	83	0.069	0.072	0.069	0.072	0.066	0.006	8.991	0.072	0.072	0.100	16,001,280	
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	29,929	131,267	20	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.415	0.415	0.005	6.667	0.410	0.400	0.410	0.100	14,520,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	412,172	42,926	63	0.099	0.108	0.099	0.105	0.099	0.006	6.061	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	153,573,153
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,000	110	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.104	0.006	5.769	0.110	0.103	0.110	0.100	3,300,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	167,817	13,998	21	0.081	0.085	0.081	0.084	0.080	0.004	5.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	7,140,000
OM0000008966	THE PEARL REEF	69,848	8,600	16	0.124	0.130	0.123	0.130	0.124	0.006	4.839	0.130	0.123	0.124	0.100	70,886,794
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	41,795	3,009	3	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.069	0.003	4.348	0.072	0.063	0.072	0.100	4,500,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	70,109	8,840	7	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	48,598,967	6,721,971	519	0.136	0.144	0.135	0.141	0.136	0.005	3.676	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.000	48,778,210
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,300	384	1	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.285	0.010	3.509	0.295	0.295	0.299	0.100	20,765,050
OM0000001746	OMAN CEMENT	200	100	1	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.486	0.014	2.881	0.500	0.485	0.502	0.100	165,438,355
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	702,966	91,392	9	0.130	0.133	0.130	0.133	0.130	0.003	2.308	0.133	0.130	0.133	0.100	80,880,830
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	67,982	4,961	10	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.100	11,199,629
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	60,345	5,243	9	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.087	0.085	0.087	0.100	56,427,358
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	88,704	20,679	18	0.238	0.239	0.232	0.237	0.236	0.001	0.424	0.237	0.231	0.240	0.100	10,846,494
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,500	1,061	3	0.303	0.303	0.303	0.303	0.302	0.001	0.331	0.303	0.303	0.308	0.100	16,665,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	114,216	8,388	6	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	133,000,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	60,029	7,684	4	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.127	0.128	0.100	389,094,212
OM0000002600	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	1,450	1,305	2	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	52,100,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	8,800	1,162	2	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.128	0.132	0.100	9,968,904
OM0000007629	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	4,200,049	1,463,852	229	0.348	0.349	0.347	0.348	0.348	-0.001	-0.287	0.348	0.348	0.351	0.000	10,002,784,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	2,205	531	1	0.241	0.241	0.241	0.241	0.242	-0.001	-0.413	0.241	0.241	0.246	0.100	17,233,631
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	779,942.5	964,887	97	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.124	-0.001	-0.806	0.123	0.122	0.124	0.000	640,675,546
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVE	16,150	1,974	3	0.123	0.123	0.122	0.122	0.123	-0.001	-0.813	0.122	0.122	0.123	0.100	18,300,000
OM0000008569	JABAL REIF	1,446,839	147,575	3	0.099	0.102	0.099	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.099	0.102	0.100	177,400,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	58,610	1,099	20	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	25,675,552
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	20,000	3,000	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.152	-0.002	-1.316	0.150	0.140	0.150	0.100	406,020,049
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	165,621	11,544	14	0.074	0.075	0.071	0.071	0.073	-0.002	-2.740	0.071	0.072	0.075	0.100	8,632,132
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	70,109	8,840	7	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000004073	SEMBOOR SALAH	134,420	18,554	13	0.148	0.148	0.137	0.137	0.145	-0.008	-5.517	0.137	0.137	0.145	0.100	130,776,755
OM0000001152	OMAN CHLORINE	2,205	531	1	0.241	0.241	0.241	0.241	0.242	-0.001	-0.413	0.241	0.241	0.246	0.100	17,233,631
OM0000000291	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	4,600	202	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.048	0.004	8.333	0.044	0.040	0.047	0.100	8,081,311
OM0000001152	OMAN CHLORINE	202,753	36,624	36	0.182	0.183	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.183	0.183	0.100	13,000,000
Total		34	67,058,081	9,890,213	1,237											



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Srilankan accountant, reading CA. 3+ yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization, budgeting seeks placement. Contact: +968 76297279

Indian female accountant. MBA Finance. 9+yrsr experience in and out Oman. Contact: 95756987

Group Finance manager Indian 26yrs of experience, looking job change. Contact: 78399621

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

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ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH 3,000-YEAR-OLD PREHISTORIC MURAL



The polychrome mural features intricate depictions of marine life, including fish and fishing nets, alongside celestial symbols and native plants

A team of archaeologists has uncovered a remarkably preserved 3,000-year-old mural in northern Peru, offering new insights into the region's ancient civilizations. The discovery was made at a previously unexplored archaeological site in the La Libertad region.

Measuring over five metres in length and two metres in height, the polychrome mural features intricate depictions of marine life, including fish and fishing nets, alongside celestial symbols and native plants. Its vibrant pigments have retained surprising clarity despite millennia of exposure.

"This mural displays entirely unique iconography in Peruvian archaeology," said Dr. Ana Cecilia Mauricio, lead archaeologist from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. "The stylistic elements suggest it was created by a pre-Columbian culture predating the Spanish colonial era by nearly two millennia. We've found nothing comparable in previous excavations."

The discovery challenges previous assumptions about early artistic development in the region. Carbon dating of organic materials found near the mural confirms its origin between 1200-900 BCE, contemporaneous with the early Cupisnique culture known for its ceramic traditions.

Cultural historians note the mural's marine motifs may indicate coastal trade networks or spiritual beliefs tied to the Pacific Ocean, located just 50 kilometres from the site. Peru's Ministry of Culture has dispatched conservation specialists to protect the fragile artwork, which they describe as "one of the most significant archaeological finds of the decade."

The research team continues excavations at the site, where they've identified potential ceremonial structures that may yield additional artifacts. The Peruvian government plans to include the discovery in its UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination for the region's archaeological treasures. - ONA

IN NORTHERN PERU



SPORTS

Racing green: F1 on target to become net zero by 2030

Formula One said its sustainability progress had been achieved during a period of significant growth for the sport

LONDON: Formula One says it is on target to become net zero in the next five years - effectively having zero carbon emissions by 2030, according to a *BBC Sport* report. The sport has delivered a 26% reduction since 2018, from the equivalent of 228,793 tonnes of CO2 a year to 168,720, according to its annual sustainability report. F1's president Stefano Domenicali said the five-year net zero target was a "concrete goal" and "already visible in the significant reduction of our sport's carbon footprint".



"We are proud of what we have achieved so far and remain determined to continue on this path," he said. F1 launched its sustainability strategy in 2019 with a long-term commitment to reduce carbon emissions in areas like travel, logistics, and energy use.

Changing the now 24-race calendar, so grands prix are grouped together by region to reduce travel, has also helped F1 in its quest for greater sustainability, with Japan moving to an April slot and Azerbaijan twinning with Singapore in the autumn since the 2024 season. Team factories are now using

more green energy such as wind and solar power, resulting in a 59% reduction in emissions from these facilities compared to seven years ago. Other initiatives that have contributed include F1 expanding the use of biofuel trucks for transporting freight in Europe, which reduced related carbon emissions

by an average of 83%. From the 2026 season and beyond, F1 is introducing new regulations that will feature environmentally friendly cars with engines that have a near 50-50 split between electric and internal combustion power - and use fully sustainable fuels.

To further improve the flow of the calendar, Canada switches to an earlier date in May, followed by a run of nine European races, starting with Monaco in June and ending with the new Madrid Grand Prix in September. "Formula 1 has always been synonymous with innovation and the desire to improve," added Domenicali. "Once again, this mentality has allowed us to make important progress, not only for those who work in this world, but also for society as a whole. "While continuing to grow globally, we have shown that sustainable development is possible and that the strategies we have adopted are yielding tangible results." The report said any remaining unavoidable emissions in 2030 "will be offset using credible programmes in line with latest best practice guidance". Carbon offset programmes typically help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by supporting projects which reduce environmental harm, such as tree planting schemes. - Agencies

WASHINGTON OPEN

Venus, 45, rolls back the years with winning return



WASHINGTON: Venus Williams became the second oldest woman to win a WTA Tour-level singles match by beating Peyton Stearns at the Washington Open. Venus, 45, overcame world number 35 and fellow American Stearns, who is 22 years her junior, 6-3, 6-4 in the first round on Tuesday. Venus is the oldest woman to win a singles match on tour since Martina Navratilova at the age of 47 in 2004. Seven-time singles Grand Slam winner Venus, who gained entry to the tournament via a wildcard, had not played since March 2024.

Asked if she felt satisfaction in proving people wrong, she said: "No, because I'm not here for anyone else except for me." "I have nothing to prove. Zip. Zero. "I'm here for me because I want to be here. And proving anyone wrong or thinking about anyone has never gotten me a win and has never gotten me a loss." Venus, who won 14 Grand Slams in the doubles alongside sister Serena, last won a singles match in August 2023. Although Venus never said she had retired, she was listed by the WTA as 'inactive' after 16 months out.

On Monday she made her return in the doubles alongside compatriot Hailey Baptiste as they beat Eugenie Bouchard and Clervie Ngounoue 6-3, 6-1 in the last 16. Venus, a former world No.1, had won four Grand Slam titles by the time Stearns was born in 2001. "She played some ball tonight," Stearns said. "She was moving really well, which I wasn't expecting too much, honestly. Her serves were just on fire." Williams will face Polish fifth seed Magdalena Frech in the second round. - Agencies

ERIK TEN HAG SPEAKS

Sunderland target Khaka will not leave, says Leverkusen coach

LONDON: Head coach Erik ten Hag said on Wednesday that Sunderland target Granit Khaka will not be allowed to leave Bayer Leverkusen this summer. The 32-year-old former Arsenal midfielder's agent told German media on Tuesday he had agreed personal terms with the newly promoted Premier League club and wanted to return to England. However, after selling Florian Wirtz and Jeremie Frimpong to Liverpool, as well as Jonathan Tah to Bayern Munich, the Bundesliga club do not want to lose any more players. "The agent can say anything. But this club has already lost three important players," Ten Hag said. "We won't let any more players go, that's not possible. That would neglect the structure and also the culture of the squad. "It's clear - Granit is a leader, he



has signed here for five years and has three years left on his contract. He's too important for us to let him go." The Switzerland player spent seven years in the Premier League with Arsenal before joining Leverkusen in 2023. He helped Leverkusen to the Bundesliga title and the German Cup double under Xabi Alonso during his debut season, when

they also lost the Europa League final to Atalanta. Khaka has three years to run on the five-year deal he signed in 2023. Ten Hag, who spent more than two years at Manchester United before being sacked in October 2024, replaced Alonso as head coach earlier this summer following the Spaniard's move to Real Madrid. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A

Brighton striker Ferguson joins Roma on loan



LONDON: Striker Evan Ferguson has joined Italian side Roma on a season-long loan from Brighton. The Republic of Ireland international is attempting to rebuild his career after injury and a loss of form resulted in him dropping down the pecking order at the Seagulls. "Evan had a challenging period across the past season and a half, and it has been one disrupted by niggling injury issues," said Brighton head coach Fabian Hurler. "He really wants to play regularly and this is an exciting opportunity in a strong league and with the prospect of European football." Ferguson joined West Ham on loan for the second half of last season but made only eight appearances and started once under then manager Graham Potter. Ferguson was pictured on social media meeting Roma fans and signing autographs in advance of the move to the Serie A side. The 20-year-old was nominated for the PFA Young Player of the Year award following a stellar 2022-23 campaign, when he scored nine goals and made his senior international bow. However, he has scored only one goal at club level since November 2023 and was unlikely to play a significant role under Hurler at the start of the current campaign. - Agencies

DOPING CONTROVERSY



World No.1 Sinner rehires fitness coach

MILAN: World No.1 Jannik Sinner has reappointed fitness coach Umberto Ferrara, with whom he parted ways following the investigation into his positive tests for a banned substance. Ferrara and physiotherapist Giacomo Naldi left the Italian's team last August, five months after Sinner returned two positive tests for clostebol. "Umberto has played an important role in Jannik's development to date, and his return reflects a renewed focus on continuity and performance at the highest level," a statement from Sinner's team read. "The decision has been made in alignment with Jannik's management team as part of ongoing preparations for upcoming tournaments, including the Cincinnati Open and US Open." Sinner was cleared by an independent tribunal of any wrongdoing last August but the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appealed against the panel's ruling that he "bore no fault or negligence".

The 23-year-old accepted a three-month ban in February after reaching a settlement with WADA. WADA said it accepted that Sinner did not intend to cheat but bore responsibility for "the entourage's negligence". Sinner said the substance clostebol, which can increase muscle mass, entered his system when Naldi applied an over-the-counter spray to treat a cut on his hand. Ferrara said he provided the spray to Naldi for personal use and warned him not to use it on Sinner. After the departures of Ferrara and Naldi, Sinner appointed fitness coach Marco Panichi and physiotherapist Ulises Badio in September. However, he parted ways with them shortly before this year's Wimbledon. Sinner made his return at the Italian Open in May. He lost the French Open final to Carlos Alcaraz in a five-set thriller in June, before beating him in the Wimbledon final this month to win his fourth Grand Slam. - Agencies

Wife of Diogo Jota posts 'forever' tribute

LONDON: The wife of Liverpool forward Diogo Jota has marked what would have been their first month married, three weeks after he died in a car crash. Rute Cardoso shared photos of their 22 June wedding in a post to Instagram. Three pictures were accompanied with the words "one month of our 'until death do us part'," adding she was "forever" his. Jota, 28, was killed on 3 July when a Lamborghini he was travelling in with his younger brother, Andre Silva, suffered a tyre blow-out, crashed and caught fire in Cernadilla in the Zamora province of Spain. Jota joined Liverpool from Wolves in 2020 and scored 65 goals in 182 appearances for the club. He also helped them win the FA Cup and League Cup in 2022 - also winning the latter in 2024 - and the Premier League title last season. Liverpool last week took the



decision to retire their No.20 shirt in his honour. A mural has also been created near the stadium with the number painted on, and a collection of messages from fans. - Agencies

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ROUND-UP

Changan UNI-K redefines accessible luxury in Oman with striking design

With monthly instalments starting from just OMR 173 for 6 years, the UNI-K makes intelligent luxury more accessible than ever



MUSCAT: The Changan UNI-K continues to turn heads across Oman, offering a seamless combination of striking design, cutting-edge technology, and exhilarating performance. With monthly instalments starting from just OMR 173 for 6 Years, the UNI-K makes intelligent luxury more accessible than ever. These EMI plans are based on a 20% down payment, subject to bank credit approval, and apply only to vehicles purchased for personal use. The Changan UNI-K is a sleek, mid-size SUV known for its futuristic design and advanced features.

It offers a spacious interior, a 360° HD camera, and a “space battleship” gear shifter. The UNI-K comes with 2 variants Trend and Royal, at the core of the UNI-K is a 2.0-litre turbo-charged engine that generates 233 horsepower, paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission for smooth yet responsive power delivery. An intelligent all-wheel-drive system ensures superior traction and stability, whether on urban roads or rugged terrain, making the UNI-K as capable as it is refined. Key features: Engine: 2.0TURBO I4 with 233 horsepower and 390 Nm of torque.

Transmission: 8-speed automatic. Drivetrain: 4WD. Design: Split LED headlights, 21-inch sports wheels, airship-shaped spoiler, and hidden door handles. Interior: Luxury Business Class seats, stylish fog lamps, and advanced technology. Technology: 360° HD camera, space battleship gear shifter. Safety: Impressive safety ratings. Other: Acoustic Hood, Multi Information Display, Radar and Advanced Safety Features. Manufacturer Warranty : 6 years or Unlimited Mileage Warranty. Its commanding presence is accentuated by a borderless front grille, sculpted LED headlamps, and a sleek fastback silhouette that communicates both elegance and athleticism. In Royal variant 21-inch alloy wheels enhance its bold design, giving the UNI-K an assertive road stance. Inside, the UNI-K is a show-

case of modern luxury. The cabin features premium materials, ambient lighting, and ergonomically designed seating for optimal comfort. A multi-screen digital cockpit includes a 12.3-inch infotainment display and an advanced digital instrument panel, providing intuitive access to connectivity and controls. A panoramic sunroof bathes the cabin in natural light, adding to the feeling of openness and sophistication. Technology plays a central role in the UNI-K’s appeal. Voice-activated controls, adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, and a 360-degree camera system are just a few of the advanced features that offer drivers convenience, safety, and peace of mind. With its powerful performance, standout design, and thoughtful innovation, the Changan UNI-K redefines what a modern SUV can be—intelligent, elegant, and engineered to impress.

PROMOTE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Sohar International acts as strategic sponsor of Sport Spark 2025 at OCEC

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its long-standing commitment to youth empowerment, community development, and the promotion of impactful local partnerships that contribute to in-country value, Sohar International has announced its strategic partnership for the third edition of Sport Spark 2025. Hosted at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), the immersive indoor sporting event spans over 9,000 square meters of fully air-conditioned halls and is organized in collaboration with the Muscat Governorate, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, and several private sector partners. The event was officially inaugurated in the presence of Ahmed Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality; and Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, along with distinguished representatives from the public and private sectors. Running until August 16 across Halls 1 and 2 at OCEC, the event offers a dynamic environment that brings together sports, innovation, and community engagement. Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, stated: “In light of the challenges facing communities today, it is essential to prioritize the promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle among youth and all individuals. Sporting events like Sport Spark play a vital role in providing a safe and motivating environment that enables everyone to engage in physical activity, especially during seasons when outdoor exercise is less feasible. “By supporting this initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to creating opportunities that enhance both physical and mental well-being, nurture local sporting talent, and foster a spirit of collaboration and community. We believe that investing in such initiatives is an investment in the future of our generations and reflects the important role national institutions play in contributing effectively to social and economic development. Sohar International remains steadfast in working alongside its partners to support initiatives that cultivate inspiring and sustainable environments, helping to develop skills and promote overall community welfare.” Through this strategic partnership, Sohar International underscores its continued support for forward-thinking initiatives that transcend traditional frameworks, providing an inclusive and enriching space for youth and families to connect, develop, and thrive. Now in its third year, Sport Spark continues to grow in scale and impact, offering more than 20 sports disciplines—including the introduction of indoor golf and hockey. The event welcomes children, youth, and families to a well-structured environment under the guidance of professional coaches, tailored to various age groups and skill levels. This year’s edition features a host of first-time activities in Oman, such as the Muscat Night Run with 2.5 km and 5 km track options, the Football Academies Cup with participation from 23 local and regional teams, and the Ninja Obstacle Series, offering a modern, high-adrenaline take on obstacle-based competitions.

EXCLUSIVE PROPOSITION

Be one of 1000 winners this summer with Bank Muscat credit cards

MUSCAT: In line with its pioneering role in providing exceptional offers during summer, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, announced an exclusive offer for credit cardholders. During the offer period, customers will get the chance to enter a draw to win 50% cashback when they spend a minimum of RO 50 using their Bank Muscat Credit Cards internationally on POS (Point of Sale) machines. There will be 1000 winners by the end of the campaign. The offer continues until August 31. Bank Muscat launched this exclusive proposition to offer customers a memorable travel experience with summer credit cards offerings. The Bank is keen to continuously develop its services and products to enhance customer experience. For those looking to participate in the offer, Bank Muscat offers a variety of credit cards carefully curated to fit the needs of its customers offering a plethora of benefits that assist cardholders on their journey from booking to arrivals and during their holiday. Benefits include free travel insurance, rewards on spends and discounted offers across a wide range of categories including, lifestyle, health and beauty, entertainment, travel and hotel stays, as well as up to 15% cashback on international brands when registering their Visa credit cards through www.visacashbacks.com (Valid until 31 December 2025). Bank Muscat Private Banking Visa Infinite Credit Card offers various rewards and benefits, including complimentary chauffeur service to and from Muscat International Airport and Salalah International Airport, airport lounge access at over 1000 lounges globally, free full multi-trip travel insurance, and 24-hour Visa Premium concierge service. The Asalah Visa Signature Credit Card facilitates 12 complimentary visits to over 1,000 airport lounges worldwide. The credit card also offers 1% cashback on purchases, free multi-trip travel insurance, complimentary chauffeur service and global concierge services. For Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders, they can enjoy 1% cashback on local and international spends, complimentary travel insurance, access to premium lounges around the world in addition to lounges at Muscat and Salalah airports. As for Bank Muscat Visa Gold Credit Card can make the most of free travel insurance, and exclusive offers on hotels, shopping, car rentals and more!



The Bank Muscat Oman Air Visa Platinum Credit Card helps customers make the most of their travels with the exclusive reward of earning 2 Sindbad Miles for every RO 1 spent with the card, as well as welcome bonus Sindbad miles with the first usage of the card. The credit card also facilitates complimentary visits to airport lounges worldwide as well as complimentary chauffeur service to and from Muscat and Salalah Airports. Similarly, the Lulu Bank Muscat Titanium Mastercard Credit Card offers its own unique range of benefits that enhance cardholders’ everyday life, including the exclusive ability to earn 2% LuLu reward points every time the card is used at Lulu Hypermarket in Oman and the ability to earn 0.5% reward points when shopping with the card at other local and international merchants. Cardholders can also enjoy travel related benefits including free travel insurance and lounge access with the Mastercard Flight Delay benefit.

LUXURY CROSSOVER

Buy Lexus UX200 with exciting summer offer

MUSCAT: Dazzle and impress the crowds in the youthful and vibrant Lexus UX200, now available with an unbeatable summer offer from Lexus. Buy the luxury crossover SUV and enjoy the incredible benefits of 7 years/70,000 km of complimentary service and first-year registration, before the offer ends on 30th July 2025. As pioneers of luxury cars, each Lexus vehicle is crafted to create unforgettable journeys, turning everyday moments into memories. Equipped with refined features, the SUV is a testament to where luxury meets high performance. Drive the luxury crossover to live in the moment and enjoy the perfect city life with its captivating futuristic technologies, smooth road response and aravishingbold exterior. Equipped with apowerful 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine, paired to a direct CVT transmission it delivers an exhilarating response and a smooth road grip. Aimed at providingan unparal-



leled luxury experiences, the interiors of the UX200 emerge from a traditional Japanese aesthetic of ‘Tazuna’. Depicting true craftsmanship, the spacious driver-focused cockpit with a colour head-up display, ventilated seats and premium leather seats that ensure a smooth journey. Carefully crafted into the dashboard, it features a 10.3-inch navigation with touchscreen display, Bluetooth voice recognition, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, wireless charging pad for compatible smartphones and four USB ports to charge your devices and keep you connected on the road. Fitted with the best-in-class Lexus Safety System+ 2.5, a suite of standard advanced safety equipment and convenience features, it brings countless benefits. The built-in Pre-Collision System with Bicycle and Pedestrian Detection alerts about potential collisions and brakes automatically. The Full-Speed Range Dynamic Radar Cruise Control helps maintain distance from the vehicle ahead. The Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist issues warnings on risky lane changes and makes minor steering adjustments to help keep the car in the lane. Moreover, the Lane Tracing Assist centres the vehicle within its lane while Dynamic Radar Cruise Control is active. Another noteworthy feature includes Road Sign Assist, which recognises certain road signs and displays, such as speed bumps or pedestrian crossings, preventing life-threatening situations.

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