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GOLDEN JUBILEE
50 YEARS OF LEGACY
مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

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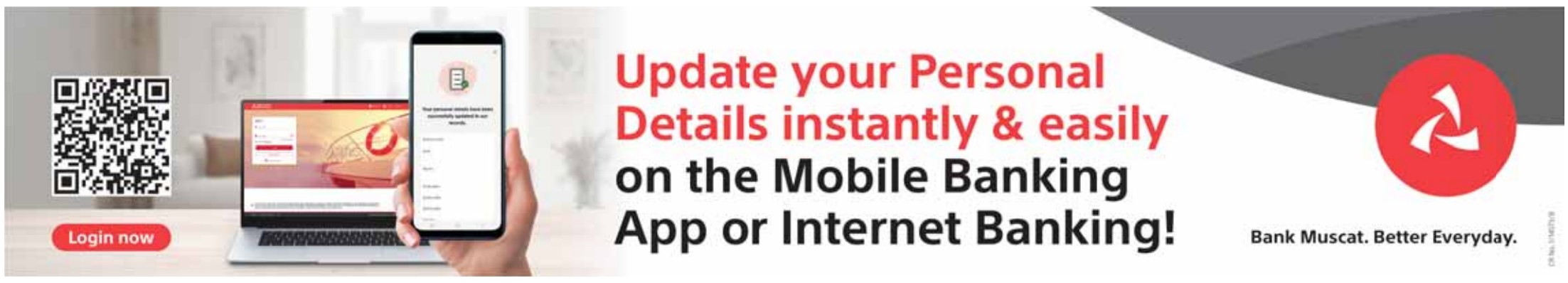

BOOST BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Commerce Minister meets entrepreneurs

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, met on Tuesday at the Ministry's headquarters with a number of entrepreneurs working in the vehicle repair and maintenance sector.

Empower entrepreneurs

This meeting is part of a series of direct engagements conducted by the Ministry to enhance communication with small and medium enterprise (SME) owners, in line with its efforts to empower entrepreneurs and strengthen the business environment in Oman.

The initiative is carried out in collaboration with partners, including the SMEs Development Authority (Riyada), Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Khazaen Economic City.

The meeting addressed key challenges facing workshop owners and businesses in this vital sector, including unfair competition under the guise of concealed trade. The Ministry confirmed that it has taken several legal measures against violating companies by implementing the first phase of Ministerial Decision No. 412/2023 on combating concealed trade, which covered three governorates (Muscat, Dhofar, and North Al Batinah). The second phase of the decision will be rolled out in the coming period. >A6

YOUNG OMANIS LEAD NATION IN SAVINGS, REVEALS SURVEY

Women outperformed men, with 74% of Omani women saving regularly compared to 56% of men

Picture for illustrative purposes only

MUSCAT: Young Omanis are leading the country in personal financial discipline, with 75 percent of individuals aged between 18 and 29 saying they save part of their income regularly, according to a survey by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) in collaboration with the Financial Services Authority.

The 2024 survey explored attitudes toward saving and investment among citizens and found that young adults were significantly more likely to save than older age groups. The savings rate drops to 58 percent among those aged between 30 and 40, and falls further to 42 percent for individuals aged over 50. Overall, the survey found that 59 percent of Omanis save some portion of their monthly income. Of these savers, 81 percent keep their money in bank accounts — both Islamic and conventional — making it the most preferred method of saving.

While the youth demographic showed the strongest saving behaviour, women outperformed men, with 74 percent of Omani women saving regularly compared to 56 percent of men.

Higher education levels were associated with stronger saving habits, with 73 percent of those holding qualifications above the general diploma level saving, versus 49 percent among diploma holders and just 33 percent among those with less than a diploma.

Income and employment also play a clear role. Among employed Omanis, 64 percent save, while only 49 percent of job seekers and 39 percent of those outside the labour force do the same. Those earning above OMR600 per month recorded a 69 percent savings rate, compared to just 33 percent for those earning below OMR300.

The top reason cited for saving was to prepare for emergencies and future needs, followed by housing and investment goals. The findings reflect a growing culture of financial awareness among young Omanis and are expected to guide national policies focused on improving saving behaviour across the Sultanate.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Dhofar Municipality builds internal roads

1 Dhofar Municipality is implementing a package of projects for the construction and paving of internal and dual carriageways across various wilayats of Dhofar Governorate during 2025. >A3

WORLD

India orders Boeing fuel switch inspections

2 India's civil aviation regulator ordered operators of specific Boeing planes to inspect the engine fuel control switch. >A6

MARKET

Oil exports of Oman top 126mn barrels

3 The Sultanate of Oman's total oil exports declined by 2.3% by the end of May 2025, reaching 126,056.900 barrels. >B1

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

New professional designations approved to regulate hotel sector

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, has endorsed 73 new professional designations for the hotel and tourist resort sector.

This initiative is part of efforts to regulate and develop the tourism sector and enhance the labour market's readiness to accommodate qualified national competencies in this field.

These designations have been incorporated into the unified GCC guide for professional classification and description, where they were categorized and distributed according to the economic activities approved in the tourism sector. This includes hotels, resorts, hotel facilities, rest houses, chalets, heritage inns, and guesthouses.

These new designations provide employers and tourism establishments with broader options and greater accuracy in identifying their workforce needs, which contributes to improving institutional performance and raising the efficiency of human resources in this vital sector.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism affirms that this step comes within the context of joint coordination with the Ministry of Labour to support development in the tourism sector and create an appropriate environment for growth and investment, in line with the aspirations of "Oman Vision 2040," which prioritizes tourism as part of economic diversification. -ONA

OFA

Oman appoints Portuguese Queiroz as new football coach

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Football Association (OFA) on Tuesday appointed the highly experienced Portuguese Carlos Queiroz as the new head coach of the national football team.

The strategic decision comes ahead of the AFC fourth and final round of qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with the draw scheduled in Kuala Lumpur for July 17. Oman will compete in a high-stakes tournament hosted by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, vying for a place at football's most prestigious event.

Queiroz boasts a distinguished international coaching career, having managed top national teams including Portugal, Iran, South Africa, Colombia, Egypt, and Qatar. He is famed for leading Iran to three consecutive FIFA World Cups (2014, 2018, and 2022) and for his two spells as assistant coach at Manchester United under Sir Alex Ferguson. He was also the coach of Spanish giants Real Madrid from 2003-2004.

Queiroz's wealth of tactical expertise and experience will be pivotal as Oman competes against Asia's elite for a historic World Cup berth. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) confirmed that Saudi Arabia and Qatar will jointly host the fourth round of Asia's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers in October 2025. This stage features six teams that finished third and fourth in their respective third-round groups.

The teams drawn on July 17 will be split into two groups of three nations each.

Oman will join Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates in this final qualifying phase. Matches will be played over three matchdays, from October 8 to 14, in a centralised format. The winners of each group will earn direct qualification to the newly expanded 48-team World Cup finals.

Meanwhile, the runners-up from each group will face off in a playoff scheduled for November. The victor of that playoff will advance to an intercontinental playoff tournament in March 2026, with the chance to claim one of the last two World Cup spots available.

The AFC's eight World Cup slots (expanded from five in previous tournaments) have been claimed by Japan, Australia, Iran, Uzbekistan, South Korea, and Jordan, who secured their spots by finishing in the top two of their respective groups during the third round.

Oman now has the challenging task of navigating the fourth round to join these established teams on the global stage.

In a message on X, the OFA expressed deep appreciation for the former head coach Rasheed Jaber, whose leadership was instrumental in guiding Oman to this crucial qualification phase. Jaber's tenure laid the groundwork for the team's current competitive position, which Queiroz now aims to build upon.

In addition to Queiroz's appointment, Hamad Al Azzani has been named technical director for Oman's youth national teams and will temporarily serve as assistant coach for the senior team during the qualifiers, ensuring a seamless transition and focus on long-term development.

The OFA's board, chaired by Sayyid Sulaiman Al Busaidi, endorsed the decision to appoint Queiroz, reflecting a commitment to get the best results at the top level.

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr....12:18pm
Asr....3:38pm
Maghrib....7:01pm
Isha....8:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).... 4:05am

HEAVY TO MODERATE RAINS FALL IN WILAYATS OF AL MUDHAIBI AND BIDIYA

Heavy to moderate rains fell in the Wilayats of Al Mudhaibi and Bidiya in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate on Tuesday. Several villages received heavy to moderate rainfall accompanied by strong winds and hail, which caused a number of wadis and ravines to overflow. -ONA

Programme launched to develop youth skills

These youth programmes target individuals aged 15 to 34 in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, with each governorate hosting programmes tailored to its specific nature

MUSCAT: The Youth Centre, in partnership with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (Riyada), has launched a package of entrepreneurial programmes aimed at developing youth skills across various sectors, including agriculture, maritime affairs, logistics, technology and handicrafts.

These youth programmes target individuals aged 15 to 34 in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, with each governorate hosting programmes tailored to its specific nature.

The Agricultural Entrepreneurship Programme aims to equip young people with entrepreneurial skills in the agricultural sector and introduce them to promising opportunities within this field.

Meanwhile, the Maritime Entrepreneurship Programme seeks to develop entrepreneurial skills among youth in the maritime domain by leveraging Oman's natural resources and strategic location.

In the technical field, the Technology Entrepreneurship Programme focuses on enabling participants to invest their technological skills and transform them into scalable tech projects.

Furthermore, the Logistics Entrepreneurship Programme emphasizes empowering youth to innovate sustainable entrepreneurial projects in the logistics sector, enhancing their practical skills in areas such as storage and e-commerce.

The Craft Entrepreneurship Programme has been introduced to utilise craftsmanship and artistic skills in building innovative entrepreneurial projects that preserve cultural identity, demonstrating a commitment to offering specialised programmes.

Additionally, a programme for youth has been dedicated in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to foster the concept of independent work among the 15-17 age group.

As part of the diversification of programmes offered, the Youth Camp (Design and Packaging) programme was launched, aiming to provide participants with essential skills in modern product design and packaging, aligning with market demands.

It is worth noting that the number of beneficiaries from the Youth Center's programmes reached 56,953 young men and women by the end of last June. -ONA

DEVELOP TALENTS

Cultural Creativity Competition for Clubs conclude

SALALAH: The second stage of the 10th edition of the Cultural Creativity Competition for Clubs concluded on Tuesday at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah.

Clubs from across the Dhofar Governorate participated in the competition, which aims to activate institutional work within clubs, discover and develop talents, and foster the values of citizenship among young people.

Musa Abdullah Al Qassabi, Director-General of the Directorate General of Culture, Sports, and Youth in Dhofar, affirmed that the 10th edition of the Cultural Creativity Competition for Clubs features categories targeting various age groups, particularly young people, who are the primary focus of these specialised areas.

Creative segments

A'RUSTAQ: The Cultural Creativity Competition for Clubs 2024/2025 concluded at the South Al Batinah Governorate level.

The event was organised by the Directorate of Culture, Sports, and Youth in South Al Batinah.

The closing ceremony featured several artistic and creative segments, including a musical recitation and poetry, in addition to other performances.

The event also honoured the winners who secured first places in various competition categories. Youth committees from clubs and cooperating institutions were also recognised.

The closing ceremony was held under the patronage of Eng. Masoud Said Al Hashmi, Governor of South Al Batinah, and was attended by a number of officials. -ONA

AL MUDHAIBI

Water distribution project launched

AL MUDHAIBI: The second phase of the drinking water distribution network project in the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi, North A'Sharqiyah Governorate, began on Tuesday. Estimated to cost over OMR15 million, this project is a continuation of the first phase, which was completed in the wilayat earlier this year.

The project involves laying 40 km of water transmission lines and 217 km of distribution network lines, alongside installing 4,065 household connections.

Additionally, it includes a pumping station and an elevated storage tank. -ONA

2024/2025

Academic Council of UTAS holds meeting

SALALAH: The Academic Council of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) convened its seventh meeting for the 2024/2025 academic year on Tuesday at the university's Salalah branch.

The Academic Council discussed several academic and technical matters, including the approval of the results for 2,500 spring graduates for the 2024/2025 academic year.

QS World University Rankings

The Academic Council also reviewed the executive status of the university's inclusion in the QS World University Rankings project, in addition to discussing regulations and requirements related to academic staff positions within the university.

Chaired by Dr. Said Hamad Al Rubai'e, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Chairman of UATAS Academic Board, the meeting also reviewed updates on the General Foundation Program, specifically its implementation timeline and the approval of its documentation for the 2025/2026 academic year. -ONA

Dhofar Municipality builds internal roads worth over OMR36 million

These efforts are part of its commitment to enhancing infrastructure and developing the local road network

SALALAH: Dhofar Municipality is implementing a package of projects for the construction and paving of internal and dual carriageways across various wilayats of Dhofar Governorate during 2025, with total lengths estimated at over 300 kilometers and a cost exceeding OMR36 million.

These efforts are part of its commitment to enhancing infrastructure and developing the local road network.

The projects fall within the framework of the Governorates and Sustainable Cities Development Programme and the developmental projects implemented by Dhofar Municipality, in line with the national priorities of "Oman Vision 2040."

They aim to improve the quality of services provided to citizens, residents, and visitors, and to facilitate movement between different residential areas, thereby supporting urban and economic development and enhancing traffic safety.

The ongoing and completed works during the current year include the construction and paving of internal roads in the wilayats of Salalah, Taqa, Mirbat, Sadah, Shaleem & Al Hallaniyat Islands, Thumrait, Maqshan, Al Mazyunah, Rakhyut, and Dhalkut, according to a timetable and technical standards that consider public safety requirements and infrastructure sustainability.

Dr. Ahmed Mohsen Al Ghassani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, stated to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the Wilayat of Salalah is witnessing the implementation of internal road totaling approximately 161 kilometres in residential areas within the centre of the wilayat, the plain, and the mountain, at a cost exceeding OMR9 million. Additionally, there is a dual carriageway project of Sultan Qaboos Street, with a length of 9 kilometres, which has reached 22 percent completion, at a cost of OMR16.3 million.

He added that the municipality will implement a project to pave 40 kilometres of internal roads in the Wilayat of Thumrait, along with a new project to dual Thumrait Street for 4.5 kilometres, including decorative lighting works, with a total cost for both projects reaching over OMR3 million.

He also indicated that the municipality has begun implementing a project to pave 32 kilometres of internal roads in the Wilayat of Taqa (in the plain and mountain areas) at a cost of approximately OMR1.7 million, in addition to paving 20 kilometres of roads in the Wilayat of Mirbat at a cost of about OMR995,000, alongside the completion of the Mirbat Street dualisation project this year, spanning 3.5 kilometres, at an estimated cost of OMR1.96 million.

He pointed out that the municipality has also commenced implementing a project for the construction and paving of 50 kilometres of internal roads distributed across the wilayats of Sadah, Shaleem & Al Hallaniyat Islands, Rakhyut, Dhalkut, and Al Mazyunah, in addition to paving 15 kilometres of internal roads in the Wilayat of Maqshan.

Dr. Ahmed affirmed that these projects are part of the government's plan to implement service projects that directly impact the lives of citizens and contribute to achieving balanced urban development covering various wilayats of the governorate, in line with national plans for infrastructure development in the Sultanate of Oman's governorates.

It is worth noting that Dhofar Municipality continues to carry out its work in a participatory approach that considers community needs and enhances the efficiency of municipal services and developmental projects in various sectors. -ONA

PLYOS

Omani designers take part in Russian fashion show

Times News Service

PLYOS: Two Omani fashion and dress designers Hana bint Said Al Ma'ashani and Asfar bint Hamran Khamis have participated with a number of international designers in the 18th edition of the Fashion Festival, organised in the Russian tourism city of Plyos.

The festival saw a good participation of designers from worldwide. Asfar bint Hamran Khamis, owner of Lecci Fashion Store (Lecci Dhofar), said that her collection at the event is inspired from the Omani heritage.

She said that the designs were made on velvet fabric which is part of the traditional heritage in Dhofar and manually woven.

The collection is developed by introducing the crystal and the Swarovski, while the models wore traditional jewellery made of silver and gold common for the Omani woman.

Hana bint Said Al Ma'ashani said that her new collection titled" International fashion with Omani sprit" displayed the Dhofar dress with modern style that cope with the international fashion.

The GCC designers participation in the festival contributed to boosting the cultural cooperation between Russia and the GCC States.

OMAN KITE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF FROM BARR AL HIKMAN SHORES

Recognised as one of the region's leading events in adventure tourism and water sports, the festival offers an immersive experience for both participants and spectators.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Kite Festival 2025 was launched on Tuesday on the shores of Barr Al Hikman in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, welcoming more than 90 athletes from Oman and around the world.

The festival is organised by Omran Group, in collaboration with Oman Sail, Visit Oman, and the Oman Adventure Centre.

It aims to position Oman as a premier destination for sports and adventure tourism, while showcasing the country's rich natural landscapes and pristine coastal environment.

Recognised as one of the region's leading events in adventure tourism and water sports, the festival offers an immersive experience for both participants and spectators.

The official opening ceremony and race launch took place on the shores of Barr Al Hikman, in the presence of Dr. Hashil bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, Chief Executive Officer of Omran Group, and Dr. Khamis bin Salem Al Jabri, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Sail, along with the festival participants.

On this occasion, Sultan bin Sulaiman Al Khudoori, Assets Manager at Omran Group, highlighted the significance of the festival in enriching Oman's tourism offerings.

He stated: "Organising such sporting events contributes to delivering unique experiences that allow visitors to explore the beauty of Oman's coastline and strengthen its position as a leading international tourist destination. The festival also reflects ongoing efforts to harness the Sultanate's unique natural assets in line with the objectives of the National Tourism Strategy 2040."

He further noted the vital role of SMEs and home-based businesses in offering innovative, sustainable tourism experiences with a strong adventure and eco-focus — helping attract adventure seekers while enhancing local content.

Shaima Said Al Asmi, Events Specialist at Oman Sail, echoed this position, stating that Oman's unique natural landscapes and coastal assets can drive growth in the sports and adventure tourism sector while highlighting the potential within each governorate to promote diverse and localised tourism offerings. The festival will bring together over 90 athletes. .This signature race unfolds in four stages: from Barr Al Hikman to Masirah Island, from Masirah Island via Ras Al Ruwais, then from the Pink Lagoons to Al Ashkharah, and finally from Ras Al Jinz to Ras Al Hadd. In addition to the Downwinder, the festival will also feature several specialised kite races, including the Kite Course Race at Barr Al Hikman, the Coastal Race at Masirah Island, and the Slalom Race at Ras Al Hadd. Complementing the sporting events, the festival will host a range of family-friendly activities and an exhibition for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at the Ashkharah Municipal Park. Oman Kite Festival 2025 is proudly registered as a Clean Regatta with Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana, an international standard for sustainable water-based events.

Going beyond the wind, the initiative has partnered with the Environment Society of Oman to give back to the nation and promote the importance of marine conservation.

Through a series of beach and marina clean-ups, underwater ghost net removals and hands-on sessions with the youth focused on protecting the Sea Turtles, the Oman Kite Festival 2025 aims to empower Oman's coastal communities to be part of the change and continue caring for the environment.

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.

Building on the success of the 2024 Oman Downwinder, the festival aims to position key coastal destinations as premier global kiteboarding venues.

It also contributes to the promotion of experience-driven tourism in underexplored areas, supports domestic travel, fosters community development, and raises awareness of Oman as a leading destination for adventure and outdoor experiences

Omran says notable progress made in its Salalah agritourism project

Janaen Salalah development forms part of Oman's broader strategy to diversify its economy by integrating sustainable tourism with agriculture-based investments

Times News Service

SALALAH: Omran Group, the executive arm of the Sultanate of Oman for tourism development, announced notable progress in the early-stage development of Janaen Salalah—a pioneering agritourism project located in Arzat, Salalah. This initiative forms part of Oman's broader strategy to diversify its economy by integrating sustainable tourism with agriculture-based investments.

As part of the ongoing development efforts, H.H. Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, and Dr. Saud bin Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, conducted a field visit to the project site, accompanied by senior officials from the Group and other key stakeholders.

During the visit, they were briefed on the project's key components, development phases, and latest updates. The visit also included the ceremonial planting of the first coconut trees, marking the beginning of the initial cultivation phase. This milestone represents a key step in the broader vision to transform the site into a productive landscape that aligns with the project's agritourism goals.

Developed under the Agritourism Development Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Omran Group, Janaen aims to position Sultanate of Oman as a regional leader in agritourism by combining agricultural activity, hospitality, recreation, and community living in one integrated setting.

Spanning over 5.5 million square metres, the project's masterplan outlines a well-integrated mix of components, including farm-based accommodations, coconut and papaya processing facilities, educational and recreational areas, and a retail village—all thoughtfully designed to create a dynamic and immersive agritourism experience for both residents and visitors.

In preparation for the official construction launch, several foundational activities have been completed as part of Phase 1. These include the finalisation of the concept masterplan design, which outlines the strategic integration of agricultural and tourism components. A comprehensive feasibility study has confirmed the project's viability, leading to a formal commitment to initiate Phase 1. Additionally, the project has secured an Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC) licence from the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism—a key milestone that allows for foreign ownership and enhances investment potential. An experienced agriculture contractor has also been appointed, and initial plantation works are now underway.

Once completed, Janaen Salalah will comprise 250 residential units, a 5-star hotel with 128 keys, and purpose-built zones for eco-recreation, edutainment, and wellness. These features will be complemented by vibrant public spaces and year-round programming that highlight Oman's agricultural heritage and natural landscapes—offering a destination that balances lifestyle, learning, and leisure.

"This development reflects our ongoing commitment to pioneering sustainable tourism models that drive investment, support local agriculture, and create engaging visitor experiences rooted in Oman's natural heritage," said Mundher Al Moosawi, Board of Managers Member at Janaen.

The development aligns with Oman Vision 2040, particularly under the Competitive Economy and Environmental Sustainability pillars. It contributes to national priorities such as economic diversification, governorate development, public-private partnerships, and environmental stewardship—positioning Janaen Salalah as a model for responsible, value-driven tourism growth.

As Omran Group approaches the launch of the next phase of the Janaen Salalah development, efforts are accelerating to position it as a model destination that embodies innovation, enhances added value, and contributes to sustainable economic returns in collaboration with our strategic partners.

WORK PERMITS

Ministry of Labour makes certification compulsory for finance professionals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has announced that, effective 1st September 2025, a Professional Classification Certificate in accounting, finance, and auditing will become a mandatory requirement for the issuance and renewal of work permits for all individuals employed in relevant positions.

Consequently, all current employees in this field, as well as any individuals to be employed in the future, must obtain this certificate from the Sector Skills Unit for Accounting, Finance, and Auditing. The Ministry will only issue work permits upon submission of the approved certificate, in accordance with the specified roles.

Work permits will not be granted after the aforementioned date without the required certificate. All establishments are urged to ensure compliance and take the necessary steps for implementation.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AT DUQM

Special sessions for tenant community announced

Times News Service

DUQM: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) is launching four focused sessions throughout August that tackle questions its tenant community is grappling with - how to implement AI effectively, build resilient supply chains, develop adaptive workforces and create workplace cultures where people want to stay and grow.

The Duqm Summer Series (DSS) recognises that 2025 demands something more substantive than the usual business event formula.

Rather than generic presentations that promise transformation but deliver little you can use, these sessions bring together people who've done the work to share strategies they've actually implemented.

"Our tenant community operates in a fast-moving business environment where practical experience matters more than theoretical frameworks," said Eng. Ahmed Akaak, CEO, Sezad. "The four DSS sessions feature speakers who've successfully navigated the challenges they're discussing – people who can share not just what worked, but how they made it work and what obstacles they encountered along the way."

The opening session on 5 August tackles artificial intelligence and automation.

Rather than another presentation on ChatGPT's potential, attendees will hear from those who've moved beyond experimentation to actual deployment, complete with the messy realities of workforce transitions and the ethical considerations that emerge when algorithms start making decisions previously reserved for humans.

The second session on 12 August explores workforce development through the lens of organisations that have successfully balanced talent growth with cultural continuity.

Rather than broad leadership theories, the discussion centres on practical approaches to developing people while maintaining the elements that make them want to stay and advance – particularly important in a region where retaining skilled professionals can determine an operation's success.

By 19 August, the conversation turns to global trade and supply chains.

Duqm's strategic location between Europe, Asia and Africa means little if businesses can't effectively navigate the complexities of modern logistics.

This session brings together those who've learned to manage risk and diversify suppliers through the hard-won experience of keeping operations running during disruptions.

The final session on 26 August addresses workplace culture and well-being, topics that might have seemed soft five years ago but now represent fundamental business imperatives.

The discussion moves beyond wellness buzzwords to examine how companies are creating genuine connection and supporting mental health in ways that actually improve both performance and retention.

Each session starts at 1:00pm and runs for an hour at Sezad's headquarters, respecting the reality that busy professionals need events that deliver value within clear time constraints. The format combines expert presentations with interactive discussions, creating an environment for meaningful exchanges between industries.

"Duqm's strength lies in the diversity of industries operating here, from renewables and manufacturing to fisheries and logistics," remarked Eng. Akaak. "When a logistics manager learns supply chain strategies from someone in fisheries, or a renewable energy company shares workforce solutions with manufacturing executives, that's when real innovation happens. DSS sessions are designed to make these connections happen. We're bringing together professionals who have practical experience to share and real challenges to solve."

WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NAMA WATER SERVICES

Efforts to improve key water projects in Seeb discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Within the framework of cooperation and strengthening community partnership between government entities and private institutions, His Excellency Ahmed bin Ali bin Hamdan Al Shehhi, Wali of Seeb, discussed with representatives of Nama Water Services the progress of the implemented projects in Al Sharadi area, Al Ghushaiba on Tuesday.

During the meeting, several topics of common interest and challenges faced in implementing current projects were reviewed. As well as, appropriate solutions to solve them to ensure the projects' continuance and fulfil the population's requirements.

Both sides agreed to implement various supportive procedures to develop the services and achieve the desired purposes according to the highest standards.

These efforts reflect the interest of the relevant entities to improve the quality of water services and its sustainable offering.

Thus contributing to fulfil the requirements of citizens and residents in various regions, supporting comprehensive development efforts and enhancing the quality of life.

Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

No	Subject	Tender number	Last date for Inquiries	Last date to submit the tender	Tender documnet price
1	SUPPLY OF CARTRIDGE AND TONER FOR THREE YEARS	21/2025	11/08/2025	18/08/2025	893 RO
2	SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT SOCKS FOR THE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS	22/2025	04/08/2025	11/08/2025	800 RO

2. Tenders terms and documents may be obtained through MOD TABSEET e-Services portal at the following link: **https://eservices.tabseet.gov.om**
3. Tender fees must be paid electronically via the aforementioned portal for each respective tender.
4. Bids must be submitted electronically through TABSEET portal in accordance with instructions provided.
5. For further information or inquiries, kindly contact us via email: **modit.pur@mod.gov.om** or via call center: 24300038

OMAN/WORLD

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

< FROM A1

Ministry stresses the importance of digitising all government services

The discussion also touched on challenges related to obtaining land usufruct rights for conducting economic activities in vehicle repair and maintenance, as well as financing difficulties for projects in this sector, including personal and housing loans for entrepreneurs. The importance of digitising all government services was also highlighted.

Mubarak Mohammed Al Dohani, Director General of Planning at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, emphasised that this meeting aligns with the Ministry's policy of opening direct dialogue channels with economic activity owners. A series of meetings will be held in the coming period with entrepreneurs from various sectors to understand their challenges and proposals for developing and enhancing the national economy.

He noted that the vehicle repair and maintenance sector represents a key link in the value chain of Oman's automotive market, offering vast opportunities for entrepreneurship and self-employment.

He added that the Ministry is keen on activating the business environment and improving the competitiveness of service activities, including vehicle repair, in which citizens account for over 93% of participation. The Ministry, in coordination with its partners in industrial cities such as Khazaen, is working to facilitate the transition to organised and sustainable work environments that enable SMEs to grow and thrive.

Entrepreneur Nasser Nasrallah Al Fahdi presented a working paper detailing his personal experience in establishing and managing a vehicle repair workshop, along with the challenges he faced since starting in 2016.

He also shared his success story and continuous efforts to develop his workshop to keep pace with market advancements, despite financial and regulatory hurdles.

Additionally, representatives of Khazaen Economic City delivered a visual presentation highlighting investment opportunities available in the Khazaen Market for vehicle spare parts, repair, and maintenance. This integrated project aims to regulate the sector, provide an ideal and safe environment for workshops and craftsmen, and link services with modern logistical facilities.

The presentation also noted the market's comprehensive infrastructure, which includes dedicated auto repair units, spare parts showrooms, and support services, all within a regulatory framework that accounts for population and urban growth in South Al Batinah Governorate and neighbouring areas. Data released by the Information and Statistics Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion indicates that the number of licensed companies in vehicle repair and maintenance activities exceeded 13,500 by June 2025, distributed across various governorates of Oman.

Muscat Governorate leads with 3,690 establishments, followed by North Al Batinah (2,226 establishments) and Dhofar (1,941 establishments).

The data also reveals that the most common activities are vehicle electrical repair (3,651 establishments), vehicle mechanics (2,363 establishments), and oil change services (1,441 establishments). Meanwhile, full Omani ownership accounts for over 95% in most of these activities.

This meeting is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to support entrepreneurs and foster a flexible, fair business environment that keeps pace with market developments and supports the commercial aspirations of Omani citizens. — ONA

Times OF OMAN

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ACADEMY FOR STRATEGIC AND DEFENCE STUDIES

National Defence College holds graduation ceremony

MUSCAT: The Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies on Tuesday celebrated the graduation of the 12th cohort of the National Defence College.

The cohort included senior officers from the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other military and security units, alongside officials from various ministries, authorities, government institutions, and civil entities.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, and was attended by Major General Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

During the event, a visual presentation highlighted the course's comprehensive curriculum, practical applications, relevant study visits, and lectures and seminars delivered by specialists and decision-makers.

Following the presentation, the Minister of Economy distributed certificates to the graduating participants.

The graduation ceremony saw the attendance of several official, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces and military and security units, members of the State Council, senior officers from the Sultan's Armed Forces and other military and security units, a gathering of retired senior officers, and members of the college's steering committee. — ONA

BY JULY 21

India's DGCA asks airlines to check fuel switches on Boeing aircraft

NEW DELHI: India's civil aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday issued an urgent directive mandating Indian operators of specific Boeing aircraft models to conduct inspections of the engine fuel control switch locking mechanisms by July 21.

The move comes days after report of preliminary investigation into the crash of Air India flight AI 171 in Ahmedabad in which killed 260 people.

The directive enforces compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA)'s Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) NM-18-33, issued in December 2018, which warned of the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature in operators of Model 737 airplanes Boeing aircraft, as mentioned in AI 171 preliminary report. The fuel control switch design, including the locking feature, is similar on various Boeing airplane models including part number 4TL837-3D which is fitted in B787-8 aircraft VT-ANB, the preliminary report added.

The fuel control switch design--including the locking feature--is shared across several Boeing aircraft families, including the 737, 747, 757, 767, 777, and 787, the report said.

AAIB's findings reignited concern over why many airlines had delayed or skipped the inspections, even after the issue had been flagged internationally.

The order mandates all affected operators to complete inspections in line with the FAA's SAIB NM-18-33 and submit their inspection plans and final compliance reports to both the DGCA and relevant regional offices. The DGCA noted in its directive that several international and domestic operators had voluntarily begun compliance following the FAA bulletin.

The order explicitly refers to India's Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) M-M.A. 301, which obligates operators to comply with safety directives from aircraft manufacturers or regulators of the aircraft's state of design, in this case, the U.S. FAA.

"Strict adherence is essential for continued airworthiness and safety of operations," the DGCA stated.

India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) released the preliminary report into the tragic crash of Air India flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 aircraft, which crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on June 12.

The crash killed 260 people, including 229 passengers, 12 crew members, and 19 people on the ground. — ANI

UN

More than 14 million children unvaccinated in 2024: Joint report

NEW YORK: More than 14 million children remained completely unvaccinated in 2024, the UN said on Tuesday.

In Europe and Central Asia, average childhood vaccination rates stagnated or fell by 1%, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF said in a joint report.

Officials warned that widespread misinformation and severe international aid cuts are widening coverage gaps, putting millions of children at risk.

Preventable diseases rising in Europe

In Europe, cases of whooping cough tripled to nearly 300,000 in 2024, while measles infections doubled to over 125,000, WHO said, amid falling vaccine coverage.

Meanwhile, just nine countries — Nigeria, India, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Angola — accounted for over half of the world's unvaccinated children.

"Millions of children remain without protection against preventable diseases," UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said in a statement. "That should worry us all."

Measles cases surge across US

The health report comes at a time when, 25 years after the WHO had declared measles eliminated from the United States, the country is having its worst year for the disease.

The US has now had 1,288 measles cases in 2025 as the vaccine-preventable illness spreads, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported last week.

According to the UN, vaccines prevent 3.5 million to 5 million deaths a year. — DW

GUADALUPE RIVER BASIN

Texas flood: Rescue operations hindered by heavy rain forecast

TEXAS: Search and rescue operations in Texas were hampered by rain forecasts for the second day in a row after the devastating July 4 floods killed at least 131 people.

Most rescue crews were held off or ordered to stop amid worries of more heavy rain and the possibility of more flooding.

Meanwhile, authorities lowered the tally of people unaccounted for to 101, with 97 still missing in Kerrville and four more in neighboring counties.

Officials have begun draining nearby reservoirs in a bid to locate submerged vehicles and victims.

No one rescued alive since July 4

The floods, which swept through the Guadalupe River basin after over a foot of rain fell in less than an hour, have left entire trailers buried or missing.

Most of those killed were children at Camp Mystic, an all-girls Christian summer retreat.

Authorities say no one has been rescued alive since July 4, when the flooding caught residents and tourists off guard before dawn.

Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly said on Monday that it has been difficult to know how many tourists were in the area when the flooding occurred.

"We don't know how many of them there are," Kelly said.

Authorities face flak and threats

As the disaster has also raised questions about readiness, Governor Abbott has called for a special legislative session later this month to investigate the emergency response and preparedness measures leading up to the flood.

Kerr County lacked a flash-flood warning sirens, and officials are now facing mounting criticism and even threats.

The high death toll, in one of the deadliest floods in the US in decades, has sparked concerns over the lack of warning sirens in Kerr County and staffing shortages at the National Weather Service after staffing cuts under the Trump administration.

"They're just playing a blame game," said Kerr County Commissioner Rich Paces, who reported receiving death threats.

Heavy rains are forecast to continue through Tuesday, with up to six inches expected in parts of central Texas, including already-hit areas. — DW

WORLD

Russia must make peace with Ukraine in 50 days or face 100% tariff: Trump

The US President unveiled the plan during an Oval Office meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, stating that Europe would bear the cost of advanced American weaponry, including Patriot missile systems

WASHINGTON: In a significant policy shift, US President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced fresh military support for Ukraine and threatened sweeping tariffs on Russia's trading partners, in a bid to pressure Moscow into ending its war within 50 days, according to media report.

According to The Hill, Trump unveiled the plan during an Oval Office meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, stating that Europe would bear the cost of advanced American weaponry, including Patriot missile systems, which are vital to defend Kyiv from intensified Russian air assaults.

"These weapons can move quickly to Kyiv," Trump said, while stopping short of offering specific timelines. The move follows NATO's recent decision to boost collective defense spending, the outlet noted.

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in 2022, the United States has provided over $175 billion in aid to Ukraine—most of it during the Biden administration. The Hill reported that Trump, in contrast, had briefly halted intelligence sharing and suspended defensive weapons deliveries during his current term, raising questions about the consistency of US support.

Despite previously calling Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky "ungrateful," Trump appears to have shifted tone. On Monday, he sharply criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin, accusing him of misleading American leaders and continuing attacks on Ukrainian cities.

"I always hang up and say ... 'Well that was a nice phone call,' and then missiles launch into Kyiv or some other city," Trump told reporters. "That happens three or four times, you realize the talk doesn't mean anything."

The Hill's Niall Stanage noted that Trump has recently intensified his rhetoric against Putin, labelling him a "tough guy" and expressing disappointment during an interview with the BBC. "I trust almost no one," Trump said when asked if he trusted the Russian leader.

Meanwhile, Zelensky on Monday met with Trump's special envoy for Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, in Kyiv. In a statement, Zelensky said he was "grateful to President Trump for the important signals of support," and added that Ukraine values the "support of the American people."

Ukraine hawks within the GOP welcomed the announcement. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) described the weapons and tariff threats as a "turning point" in the war, according to The Hill.

However, Trump's moves may face resistance from his own base. The Hill reported that parts of the MAGA-aligned GOP remain skeptical of US involvement in Ukraine, and Trump is already facing internal backlash over unrelated controversies involving the Justice Department and FBI.

In Congress, bipartisan support for punishing Moscow is growing. A Senate bill proposing 500 percent tariffs on Russia and its allies has 85 co-sponsors. Trump said he discussed the legislation with Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.), but indicated he might not rely on it. "I'm not sure we need it, but it's certainly good they're doing it," he said.

The Hill reported that Trump's own plan includes secondary tariffs--up to 100 percent--on Russian economic partners if a ceasefire is not reached within two months. The president warned the measures would severely impact Russia's already fragile economy. — ANI

UN REPORTS

Attacks on Palestinians intensify in West Bank

GENEVA: The UN Human Rights Office has raised the alarm over a sharp rise in attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Al Quds (Jerusalem).

According to the office in Geneva, 96 Palestinians were injured in June alone - the highest monthly figure in over two decades. Hundreds of homes were also destroyed.

Since the beginning of this year (2025), the UN has documented 757 settler attacks that resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage - a 13% increase compared to the same period in 2024, a spokesman said on Tuesday.

These actions, the spokesman added, are contributing to the ongoing consolidation of Israel's annexation of parts of the West Bank, a practice deemed illegal under international law. The forced displacement of civilians in occupied territories may constitute a crime against humanity, the office warned.

Israeli security forces have used force against unarmed individuals in the West Bank, the UN office said.

The spokesman cited the case of a 2-year-old Palestinian child who was shot in the head and killed in January by Israeli settlers, and a 61-year-old man who was fatally shot while riding a bicycle in July.

Since 7 October 2023, Israeli occupation forces and armed extremist settlers have killed 964 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, according to UN figures. Nearly 3,000 homes have been demolished, often on the grounds that they lacked building permits, even though such permits are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile in Gaza, at least 11 Palestinians were killed and several others injured in a series of Israeli airstrikes targeting various neighborhoods in Gaza City since early Tuesday, according to medical sources. — Agencies

FROM A RENTAL CAR

Beyoncé's music stolen in Atlanta

ATLANTA: Police in the southeastern US city of Atlanta have issued a warrant for an unnamed suspect after computer drives containing unreleased music by pop star Beyonce along with plans related to her concerts were stolen on July 8 from a rental car used by her choreographer.

The theft came two days before Beyonce kicked off the Atlanta leg of her "Cowboy Carter" tour. Beyonce's choreographer, Christopher Grant, told police that when he returned to his rental car, he found that its rear window had been smashed and all the luggage in the vehicle stolen. — DW

SPORTS

Australia skittle Windies for 27

The visitors won by 176 runs to complete a 3-0 series victory after bowling out the hosts to the lowest Test total for 70 years

KINGSTON: Australia bowled out West Indies for just 27 - the second lowest score in Test history, and the worst since 1955 - to complete a 176-run win and series clean sweep in Jamaica.

The Windies total on the third day of the day-night Test in Jamaica was just one run more than New Zealand's 26 all out against England in 1955. The previous lowest total by West Indies was the 47 they managed against England in 2004.

Australia pace bowler Mitchell Starc, playing in his 100th Test, took 6-9 in figures that included five wickets in 15 balls.

It is the fastest five-wicket haul in Test cricket and also took Starc past the 400-wicket mark in the longer form of the game.

Seamer Scott Boland also weighed in with a hat-trick as the tourists won the series 3-0.

"It's heartbreaking to be in a position where we think we can win the game and then come out and have that poor batting display," said Windies captain Roston Chase, whose side needed 204 for victory having bowled out the tourists for just 121 in their first innings.

"It's something that has been recurring for the whole series - that makes it even more disappointing."

Australia had resumed day three of the day-night pink-ball Test on 99-6 but only added 22 runs as Alzarri Joseph took 5-27 for the hosts. The Windies reply started with left-armer Starc, 35, dismissing John Campbell with the first delivery before he trapped Kevlon Anderson leg-before and bowled Brandon King with his fifth and sixth balls respectively as all three went without scoring.

Starc took out Mikyle Louis, who had scored four, and Shai Hope (2) in his third over to leave the hosts on 7-5 after 4.3 overs.

Josh Hazlewood removed Roston Chase for a duck to reduce the West Indies to 11-6 before Boland's hat-trick.

The right-armer dismissed Justin Greaves, who top-scored with 11 of the 27, Shamar Joseph and Jomel Warrican in the 13th over.

A misfield allowed West Indies a run with the score on 26 before Starc bowled Jayden Seales to end the hosts' innings and give him his 402nd Test wicket, while also reaffirming his status as the best exponent of pace bowling with the pink ball in Test cricket.

"It's been a fantastic series," said Starc, who became the fourth Australian to pass the 400-wicket mark as he followed Nathan Lyon, Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne in reaching the landmark.

Brief scores: Australia 225 (Smith 48; S Joseph 4-33) & 121 (Green 42; A Joseph 5-27) beat West Indies 143 (Campbell 36; Boland 3-34) & 27 (Greaves 11; Starc 6-9). - Agencies

DEFEAT AT LORD'S

Gill 'extremely proud' of India's lower-order fight

LONDON: India captain Shubman Gill took pride in his team's resilience during the gripping final day of the Lord's Test.

After India were reduced to 82 for 7 just before lunch, their lower order fought valiantly to drag the game into the final session. India eventually fell short by 22 runs as England took a 2-1 lead in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

"I'm extremely proud, this is as close as a Test match can get," Gill said at the post-match presentation. "Five days of hard-fought cricket, comes down to the last session, last wicket. I'm extremely proud."

When Shoaib Bashir dismissed Mohammed Siraj to seal victory, Ravindra Jadeja was left stranded on 61, a heroic vigil that lasted 181 deliveries, with the standout aspect being his marshalling of the lower order. He put on 30 with Nitish Kumar Reddy, 35 with Jasprit Bumrah, and 23 with Siraj.

"He's very experienced," Gill said of Jadeja. "We didn't want to give him any message. He was batting brilliantly with the tail. Wanted him and the tail to bat as long as possible."

Gill said India had let themselves down late on the fourth day when they lost three quick wickets - Karun Nair, Gill himself and nightwatcher Akash Deep - in a dramatic last half-hour, slipping from 42 for 1 to 58 for 4. Gill felt that one "50-run partnership" from the top order could have helped them knock off the target.

"The last one hour that we played [on day four], I think we could have applied ourselves a bit better, especially the last two wickets that fell," Gill said. "Even this morning, the way they came up with a plan, we were hoping for one 50-run partnership, if we got it from the top order, it would've been easy for us."

Did they have any hope after Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul and Washington Sundar all fell in the first half-hour on Monday? "There was always hope, as long as there's batting," he said. "[Needed] one 50-run partnership. The target wasn't massive, one 50-60-run partnership and we were right back into the game."

Gill also identified Pant's run out in the first innings, by a direct hit from Ben Stokes, as a pivotal moment in the game.

Pant and Rahul had added a century partnership, putting India on track for a sizeable lead. However, in a bid to get Rahul on strike so he could reach his century before lunch, Pant attempted a quick single only to be run out for 74.

"Definitely," Gill said when asked if the run out proved crucial. "At one point, I thought if we get a lead of 80-100, it might be crucial. We knew on the fifth day on this wicket, it won't be easy to chase 150-200. Thought if we can get a lead of 80-100, we would be in a good position."

Pant "should be fine" in time for the fourth Test against England at Old Trafford from July 23 after scans revealed "no major injury" to the index finger of his left hand, according to Gill.

England recall Dawson for fourth Test

Spinner Liam Dawson is in line to play his first Test for eight years after being called into the England squad for the fourth Test against India at Old Trafford.

Left-armer Dawson, 35, is recalled after off-spinner Shoaib Bashir was ruled out of the rest of the series with a broken finger.

Dawson's selection means fellow left-armer Jack Leach, who has an England central contract, has been overlooked. - Agencies

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2025 reaching $70.35, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by $2.24 from the price of Monday, which was $72.59. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,612.52 points, down by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.93% at 444.99 points. Oman Oil Marketing, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Asyad Shipping , down 8.46%, was the top loser.

Bank Muscat posts net profit of OMR125.82mn

Net Interest Income from Conventional Banking and Net Income from Islamic Financing stood at OMR206.44 million for the six months period ended 30 June

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, announced its preliminary unaudited results for the six months ended 30 June 2025. The bank posted a net profit of OMR125.82 million for the period compared to OMR112.12 million reported during the same period in 2024, an increase of 12.2 per cent.

The key highlights of the results for the period are as follows:

1) Net Interest Income from Conventional Banking and Net Income from Islamic Financing stood at OMR206.44 million for the six months period ended 30 June 2025 compared to OMR190.63 million for the same period in 2024, an increase of 8.3 per cent.

2) Non-interest income was OMR81.83 million for the six months period ended 30 June 2025 as compared to OMR75.27 million for the same period in 2024, an increase of 8.7 per cent mainly due to growth in business volumes and higher investment income.

3) Operating expenses for the six months period ended 30 June 2025 was OMR108.08 million as compared to OMR102.13 million for the same period in 2024, an increase of 5.8 per cent.

4) Net impairment losses on financial assets for the six months period ended 30 June 2025 was OMR30.16 million as against OMR29.96 million for the same period in 2024.

5) Net Loans and advances including Islamic financing receivables increased by 5.1 per cent to OMR10,727 million as against OMR10,208 million as at 30 June 2024.

6) Customer deposits including Islamic Customer deposits increased by 3.3 per cent to OMR9,879 million as against OMR9,563 million as at 30 June 2024.

The full results for the six months period ended 30 June 2025 along with the complete set of unaudited financial statements will be released following the approval of the Board of Directors of the Bank at its meeting scheduled later during July 2025.

TILL MAY 2025

Oman's total oil exports exceed 126 million barrels

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's total oil exports declined by 2.3% by the end of May 2025, reaching 126,056.900 barrels, compared to 128,991.500 barrels during the same period in 2024, according to preliminary data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) .

The data showed that the average price of crude oil dropped by 6.9%, reaching USD 75.2 per barrel by the end of May 2025, down from USD 80.8 in the same period last year.

Data also showed that average daily oil production decreased to 987,600 barrels per day by the end of May 2025, compared to 996,100 barrels per day during the same period in 2024. The total oil production of the Sultanate of Oman declined by 1.5%, reaching 149,133.700 barrels till the end of May 2025, compared to 151,401.200 barrels in the same period last year. -ONA

OMR63 MILLION FACILITY

Sohar International, Liva Group sign consolidated loan agreement

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to enabling strategic partnerships that support sustainable business growth, Sohar International has signed a consolidated loan agreement with Liva Group, a leading multi-line insurance provider operating across the GCC.

The OMR63 million facility reflects Sohar International's growing role as a trusted financial partner for regional corporates seeking to optimise capital structures and scale with resilience. The signing ceremony took place at Sohar International's Waterfront Office and was attended by Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, and Martin Rueegg, Chief Executive Officer of Liva Group.

Commenting on the strategic partnership, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, stated: "At Sohar International, we are focused on fostering strategic partnerships that create long-term value. Our agreement with Liva Group is a testament to our commitment to supporting ambitious, high-performing organizations with customized financial solutions that drive sustainable growth. This facility not only enhances Liva's financial flexibility but also reflects our shared commitment for regional progress, innovation, and long-term value creation. We are proud to partner with Liva on its journey to scale, diversify, and lead with purpose."

The facility consolidates Liva's existing borrowings into a single, streamlined structure—reducing financing costs, enhancing cash flow management, and increasing agility in capital deployment across the Group's operations. The agreement also provides a robust financial framework aligned with Liva's long-term growth strategy, particularly as it expands its presence across key regional markets.

Martin Rueegg, Chief Executive Officer of Liva Group, added: "This agreement is about more than refinancing; it represents a proactive step in strengthening our capital efficiency and readiness for the future. Sohar International stood out as a strategic partner that understands our operational landscape and shares our ambitions around regional integration, digital innovation, and customer-centric growth."

This partnership further strengthens Sohar International's growing regional presence and aligns with its aspirations to support clients expanding into high-growth markets such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—where both institutions share ambitious strategic goals. This partnership further strengthens Sohar International's growing regional presence and aligns with its aspirations to support clients expanding into high-growth markets such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This collaboration sets the stage for broader financial engagement, including the delivery of advanced, tailored banking solutions that support Liva Group's evolving priorities across its core markets.

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Oil Marketing, up 10%, was the top gainer while Asyad Shipping, down 8.46%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,612.52 points, down by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.93% at 444.99 points. Oman Oil Marketing, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Asyad Shipping, down 8.46%, 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 2614 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR24.2 million, with more than 153.05 million shares changing hands. Out of 62 traded securities, 21 advanced, 22 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 192K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 191K, followed by foreign investors for RO 1K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,053.48 points, up 0.13%. Prices of Muscat Insurance, Takaful Oman, Bank Muscat, Al Madina Investments, National Bank Oman were up by 9.37%, 8.51%, 3.31%, 2.33%, 1.61% respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, DIDIC, Sohar International Bank, Al Anwar Investment, Ominvest were down by 5.46%, 3.45%, 1.43%, 1.16%, 0.90% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,762.11 points, down 0.72%. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Oman Cement, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 4.53%, 2.56%, 1.04%, 0.90% respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy, Al Anwar Ceramics were down by 6.93%, 3.56%, 2.33%, 1.13% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.8% before closing at 1,686.59 points. Prices of Oman Oil Marketing, Sembcorp Salalah, Shell Oman Marketing, Phoenix Power, Salalah Port Services were up by 10.00%, 9.65%, 7.02%, 5.06%, 2.08% respectively.

Prices of SMN Power Holding, Muscat Gases, National Gas, Renaissance Services, Ooredoo were down by 7.39%, 5.36%, 4.76%, 3.26%, 3.23% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,623.73	4,591.90	4,612.52	4,626.57	-14.05	-0.30
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,053.48	8,006.09	8,053.48	8,042.98	10.50	0.13
Industry Index	6,870.05	6,762.11	6,762.11	6,810.98	-48.87	-0.72
Services Index	1,698.72	1,665.91	1,686.59	1,700.21	-13.62	-0.80
MSX Shariah Index	449.17	444.29	444.99	449.17	-4.18	-0.93
MSX TR INDEX	6,839.57	6,792.48	6,822.99	6,843.77	-20.78	-0.30
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,567.81	9,511.52	9,567.81	9,555.34	12.47	0.13
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,442.26	8,309.61	8,309.61	8,369.67	-60.05	-0.72
SERVICES TR IDX	2,166.27	2,124.44	2,150.80	2,168.18	-17.37	-0.80
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,204.48	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
153,053,133	24,204,384	2,614	28,473,635,340	21	22	19	62

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JULY 15

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	86,000	35,690	16	0.415	0.415	0.415	0.415	0.397	0.018	4.534	0.415	0.410	0.420	0.100	51,832,653
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	22,386,361	6,228,669	311	0.273	0.285	0.272	0.281	0.272	0.009	3.309	0.281	0.270	0.279	0.100	2,109,297,574
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,535,000	470,075	33	0.305	0.315	0.305	0.315	0.310	0.005	1.613	0.315	0.300	0.315	0.100	512,173,102
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	279,307	243,443	34	0.871	0.876	0.870	0.876	0.870	0.006	0.690	0.876	0.872	0.876	0.100	657,000,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	116,800	7,165	7	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.060	0.064	0.100	22,079,892
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	26,250	11,340	7	0.432	0.432	0.432	0.432	0.432	0.000	0.000	0.432	0.432	0.433	0.100	51,840,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	743,698	74,560	32	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	225,932,256
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	95,713	7,657	7	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.082	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	547,503	43,800	18	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	53,990,994
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	249,048	19,924	16	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	57,152,507
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	4,164,473	628,480	134	0.151	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.153	-0.001	-0.654	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	658,254,836
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	368,521	81,256	35	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.220	0.222	-0.002	-0.901	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.100	205,856,551
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	17,499	3,145	8	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.182	-0.002	-1.099	0.180	0.170	0.185	0.100	7,711,738
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	121,315	21,274	15	0.176	0.176	0.174	0.175	0.177	-0.002	-1.130	0.175	0.174	0.175	0.100	38,500,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	5,942,109	814,983	77	0.138	0.139	0.136	0.138	0.140	-0.002	-1.429	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.100	913,179,985
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,123,461	286,539	40	0.258	0.258	0.255	0.255	0.259	-0.004	-1.544	0.255	0.255	0.256	0.100	196,401,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	83,453	70,897	32	0.880	0.880	0.840	0.840	0.860	-0.020	-2.326	0.840	0.800	0.840	0.100	78,635,056
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	186,300	38,337	41	0.202	0.210	0.200	0.210	0.217	-0.007	-3.226	0.210	0.210	0.208	0.100	136,698,288
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	315,787	92,901	68	0.307	0.307	0.285	0.297	0.307	-0.010	-3.257	0.297	0.286	0.295	0.100	70,213,770
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,808	4,158	1	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.385	-0.085	-3.564	2.300	2.300	2.395	0.100	206,310,000
Total	20	38,390,406	9,184,292	932												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	111,201	77,360	29	0.695	0.704	0.695	0.704	0.640	0.064	10.000	0.704	0.700	0.704	0.100	43,137,600
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	1,706,570	211,117	74	0.114	0.125	0.114	0.125	0.114	0.011	9.649	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.100	119,321,494
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	1,400	1,112	2	0.794	0.794	0.794	0.794	0.726	0.068	9.366	0.794	0.794	0.794	1.000	8,753,887
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	1,192,758	60,255	56	0.049	0.051	0.049	0.051	0.047	0.004	8.511	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.100	12,750,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	2,195	1,317	6	0.570	0.610	0.570	0.610	0.570	0.040	7.018	0.610	0.571	0.610	0.100	57,950,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,302,986	104,613	41	0.080	0.083	0.079	0.083	0.079	0.004	5.063	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.100	121,395,921
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	3,351	268	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.078	0.002	2.564	0.080	0.071	0.085	0.100	15,814,154
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	104,002	4,315	6	0.042	0.044	0.041	0.044	0.043	0.001	2.326	0.044	0.040	0.044	0.100	3,740,000
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	1,325	325	1	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.240	0.005	2.083	0.245	0.240	0.260	0.100	44,060,163
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	351,644	35,868	1	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	0.002	2.000	0.102	0.000	0.102	0.100	17,748,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	58,120,659	7,508,393	471	0.130	0.131	0.128	0.131	0.129	0.002	1.550	0.131	0.135	0.131	0.040	453,193,301
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	74,849	36,226	15	0.483	0.484	0.483	0.484	0.479	0.005	1.044	0.484	0.484	0.485	0.100	160,142,392
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	79,000	17,656	13	0.223	0.224	0.222	0.224	0.222	0.002	0.901	0.224	0.225	0.224	0.100	10,251,539
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	8,200	976	2	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.001	0.847	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.100	17,850,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	4,201	502	3	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.001	0.840	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	70,972,426
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,000	313	5	0.156	0.157	0.156	0.157	0.156	0.001	0.641	0.157	0.155	0.157	0.100	368,896,222
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	1,550	721	2	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.000	0.000	0.465	0.440	0.465	0.100	29,045,325
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	256,700	18,230	16	0.073	0.073	0.070	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.071	0.079	0.100	1,533,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	279,660	35,276	14	0.129	0.129	0.125	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.125	0.129	0.100	392,134,011
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	3,500	3,238	3	0.925	0.925	0.925	0.925	0.925	0.000	0.000	0.925	0.900	0.925	0.100	63,825,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	20,000	2,960	2	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	247,072,680
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	8,400	487	3	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.058	0.059	0.100	12,889,920
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	150	44	1	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.000	0.000	0.295	0.000	0.295	0.100	20,765,050
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	26,644	2,212	12	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.086	0.100	53,832,996
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	200	25	1	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.128	-0.001	-0.781	0.127	0.128	0.128	0.100	9,591,294
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	188,282	23,712	12	0.125	0.127	0.125	0.126	0.127	-0.001	-0.787	0.126	0.124	0.126	0.100	76,623,944
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,612,205	139,459	33	0.086	0.087	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.086	0.085	0.100	25,376,999
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	3,960,906	1,266,927	140	0.320	0.320	0.319	0.319	0.323	-0.004	-1.238	0.319	0.319	0.330	0.010	2,552,000,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	44,479	9,237	15	0.209	0.209	0.206	0.206	0.209	-0.003	-1.435	0.206	0.206	0.211	0.100	32,960,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEVE. & INVE.	3,000	841	4	0.281	0.281	0.280	0.280	0.290	-0.010	-3.448	0.280	0.280	0.300	0.100	138,895,719
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	238,919	18,875	29	0.080	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.084	-0.004	-4.762	0.080	0.076	0.084	0.100	6,800,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	23,800	2,568	6	0.110	0.110	0.106	0.106	0.112	-0.006	-5.357	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	3,180,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	633,467	33,146	18	0.053	0.054	0.052	0.052	0.055	-0.003	-5.455	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.100	15,971,609
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	21,510	10,404	12	0.493	0.493	0.470	0.470	0.505	-0.035	-6.931	0.470	0.470	0.477	0.100	77,726,250
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	206,288	39,723	44	0.200	0.200	0.188	0.188	0.203	-0.015	-7.389	0.188	0.188	0.190	0.100	37,531,493
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	43,379,957	5,296,447	555	0.127	0.127	0.119	0.119	0.130	-0.011	-8.462	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	619,840,569
Total	36	113,975,958	14,965,148	1,649												

SUPPLY CONCERNS

Oil prices decline amid ongoing concerns over US tariffs

SINGAPORE: Oil prices fell after US President Donald Trump's lengthy 50-day deadline for Russia to end the Ukraine war and avoid sanctions eased immediate supply concerns. Brent crude futures fell 25 cents to $ 68.96 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell 34 cents to $66.64.Both contracts settled more than $1 lower in the previous session. Tariffs risk slowing down economic growth, which could sap global fuel demand and drag oil prices lower.

Gold rises

Gold inched higher, ahead of the release of US inflation data later in the day that could shed more light on the Federal Reserve's interest rate path. Spot gold was up 0.1% at $3,346.94 per ounce, US gold futures were flat at $3,355.60. Traders' focus now shifts to the US consumer price data for June on Tuesday. Elsewhere, spot silver gained 0.3% to $38.24 per ounce, platinum rose 0.3% to $1,368.30, and palladium edged 0.1% higher to $1,194.52. -DNA

GOVT DATA

India's trade deficit narrows sharply to $3.51 billion from $7.30 billion in June

NEW DELHI: India's overall trade deficit (merchandise and services) narrowed significantly to $3.51 billion in June 2025, down from $7.30 billion in June 2024, as exports outpaced imports on a year-on-year basis, government data showed on Tuesday.

The decline in the trade deficit reflects stronger export performance, aided by resilient demand in key global markets and robust service sector growth.

The data suggests that overall exports (merchandise and services) rose to $67.98 billion in June 2025, compared to $63.83 billion in the same month last year, with a jump of nearly 6.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, overall imports also saw a marginal rise, reaching $71.50 billion in June 2025 compared to $71.14 billion in same period of the last year, indicating stable domestic demand and softening global commodity prices.

The improved trade balance is a positive sign for India's current account position and broader economic fundamentals.

The country's trade deficit in May had also narrowed to $6.62 billion from $9.35 billion same month last year.

In May 2025, India's overall exports, merchandise and services combined, were reported at $71.12 billion, marking a 2.77 per cent rise on a yearly basis. The total exports in May 2024 were pegged at $69.20 billion.

Among various steps the government took to increase exports include the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in 14 sectors, including electronic goods, telecom, EVs battery to name a few.

The production linked incentive (PLI) scheme of the government has helped India's export growth and make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investments, enhance exports, integrate India into the global supply chain and reduce dependency on imports.

The government has set a target of $1 trillion of exports in the current financial year 2025-26.

The free trade agreements (FTA) signed and under negotiations with various countries will boost exports.

The most recent FTA was signed with the United Kingdom and the UAE.

Commerce and Industry Secretary Sunil Barthwal had on Monday said at an Industry summit highlighted the importance of FTAs, Barthwal noted that the "India-UK" FTA has a special chapter on Innovation, thereby strengthening innovation corridors between partner countries.

He further added that FTAs ensure regulatory practices and institutional mechanisms between two sets of partners that can be harmonised and sustained. -ANI

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Indian male, Chief Accountant, Commerce graduate with 14 yrs of experience in Oman. Seeking suitable position. Contact: 96242858

Indian male Accountant M.Com 12 yrs exp. in Oman with DL/NOC looking for suitable job. Contact: 95061334. Email: eliyasbeig87@gmail.com

Indian male, Accountant, 9yrs experience of accounts & finance, looking for job. Contact: 94713034 Email: rajithv999@gmail.com

Indian (M), graduated with exp 4 yrs in accounts & finance, valid D/L. Contact: 79852884

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EDUCATION/TRAINING

Chemistry teacher with 7 yrs experience of teaching IGCSE chemistry (Pakistani). Currently in Oman. Contact: +968 78684306.

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email: induchandran01@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Senior Engineer 20+ yrs exp in Elec. & Mech. projects in design, supervision & execution. Available with NOC, OSE membership & D/L. 99148940, jobluk.om@gmail.com

Diploma in Electrical Engineering looking for Fire Fighting site supervisor/suitable job. Contact: 95933453, Email: haquefaizan3786@gmail.com

Project Manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience ,valid D/L and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786

Experienced Biomedical Engineers seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvl@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225

Sr.Project engineer MEP 18yrs [14 yrs GCC] experience in MEP construction. Contact/WA: 97135658

Bsc in Civil Engineer, looking suitable position in Muscat,having 12 yrs experience in Oman and D/L. Contact: 93326947, Email: emsa5054@gmail.com

ENGINEER

B. Tech Civil Engineer with 15+yrs experience. PDO HSE and Oman society engineering certificate,valid Omani D/L. Looking for a suitable position. Available for immediate join. NOC available. Mob: 78790123

Indian male, B.Tech Mechatronics engineer, 24yrs, having 1yr experience. Interested in MEP, HVAC, electromechanical & robotics jobs. Presently in Oman. Contact: 92027064. Email: syedarshiyan90@gmail.com

Indian male, automobile engineer, 10 yrs experience in dealership workshop operations and supervision, seeking job opportunity. Contact +96878406449.

Indian male Diploma civil site engineer with 27 yrs experience in Oman looking for a job. Contact 99423274. Email: mmthomasvarghese@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Psychology postgraduate (MSc) seeks role in clinical, NGO, research setting. Experience in behaviour therapy (Autism, ADHD). Contact: +968 98020224. Email: vaidehisharma2108@gmail.com

Female microbiologist, lab technician with MOH license including 6 yrs experience in Oman seeking suitable placement. Contact: 93515501

Indian, 4 yrs experience in medical social work (MSW postgraduate), looking for a suitable job in hospitals or institutions. Contact: 77030210, 99573353

HOSPITALITY

Indian male with 11 yrs of experience in hospitality industry including UK NHS looking for job. Contact 98793138

MANAGER

Indian male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch Manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact : 98132055

IT

Indian female, MSC Computer Science, 2 yrs IT trainer experience. Looking for entry junior level job Looking career growth only no salary expectation, ready to join immediately. Contact /WA- +968 71681279

IT

Indian female, 2 yrs experience in web development in service based company. Searching for a suitable position as system engineer. Contac: +968-95220137.Email ashnanidabn@gmail.com

Experienced systems administrator with 12+yrs in UAE healthcare. Bachelors in IT with certifications in AWS, Microsoft & Cisco. Skilled in SAP & Dhamani. Currently in Oman seeking new opportunities in Oman. Contact: +968 98377611. Email: rajnkri71@gmail.com

PROCUREMENT/ PURCHASE

Looking for job in purchase 11yrs relevant field experience currently in Oman contact 94358072/76461907 email:hussi5@yahoo.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 9456 6786

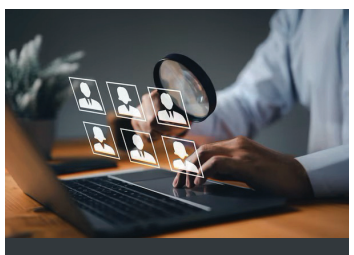
Indian male with 2 yrs experience in sales & marketing jobs with valid D/L. Contact: 95917751

Indian male, 17 yrs experience in sales marketing in Oman with valid D /L. (FMCG, electrical, sanitaryware). Contact 99508485

Senior Sales executive with 20 yrs experience in Oman with valid D/L, associated with reputed companies, seeks suitable placement. Contact 96440275. Email: divineshiju1@gmail.com.

B.Com with knowledge of excel, MS office, MS word, etc. looking for suitable job, having Omani D/L. Contact: 76396024

Indian male (35) MBA in Oman with 10 yrs exp in marketing, BDM position in multiple industries with D/L. Contact: 78607549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ACTIVE LIFESTYLE AT ANY POINT IN ADULTHOOD MAY EXTEND LIFESPAN

LIFESTYLE

Adopting a physically active lifestyle at any stage of adulthood significantly lowers your risk of dying from any cause, especially from cardiovascular disease.

A sweeping analysis of 85 studies confirms that those who stay active consistently reduce their mortality risk by 30-40%, while even those who become active later in life enjoy a 20-25% reduction. The study has been published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

The findings prompt the researchers to conclude that switching to a more active lifestyle at any point in adult life may extend the lifespan, and that it's never too late to start.

Currently, it's recommended that adults should aim for 150-300 weekly minutes of moderate intensity physical activity, or 75-150 weekly minutes of vigorous intensity physical activity, or a combination of the two, note the researchers.

But while these recommendations were based on the best evidence available, most of it captured measurements of physical activity at only one point in time, which might hide the potential impact of changing patterns during adulthood, they add.

The researchers therefore wanted to find out if differing patterns of physical activity, as well as its cumulative impact during adulthood, might be associated with a lower risk of death from all causes, and specifically from cardiovascular disease and cancer.

They scoured research databases for relevant studies that assessed physical activity at two or more points in time, and included in their review 85 studies published in English up to April 2024, with sample sizes ranging from 357 to 6,572,984 participants.

The findings prompt the researchers to conclude that switching to a more active lifestyle at any point in adult life may extend the lifespan, and that it's never too late to start

Fifty nine of the studies looked at long term patterns of physical activity across adulthood; 16 looked at the average benefits of different physical activity levels; and 11 explored the potential impact of cumulative physical activity on risk of death.

To overcome the challenges posed by different analytical methods used, the researchers carried out separate analyses for each of them.

Pooled data analysis of the study results showed that, overall, a higher level of physical activity was associated with lower risks of all the included outcomes.

Consistently active people (32 studies) had around a 30-40% lower risk of dying from any cause, while those who increased their levels of physical activity (21 studies) from below those recommended had a 20-25% lower risk of death from any cause.

Specifically, participants who switched from being physically inactive to being active were 22% less likely to die from any cause than those who remained inactive, while those who increased their leisure time physical activity levels were 27% less likely to do so.

On the other hand, swapping an active lifestyle for an inactive one wasn't associated with a lower risk of death from any cause.

Generally, the associations observed between a high level of physical activity and a lower risk of death were more evident for cardiovascular disease than for cancer.

Compared with participants who were consistently inactive over time, those who were consistently active, overall, or only in their leisure time, were around 40% and 25% less likely to die from cardiovascular disease and cancer, respectively.

But in general, the evidence for the associations between physical activity patterns and death from a specific cause remained inconclusive, especially for death from cancer. The pooled data suggested that people who were consistently active or who became active had lower risks of death from any cause, and specifically from cardiovascular disease, when meeting the recommended weekly physical activity levels.

But being consistently physically active and clocking up more than the recommended maximum weekly amount of moderate to vigorous intensity exercise was associated with only a small additional reduction in risk.

Maintaining or increasing physical activity at levels below the recommended weekly amount, however, was associated with appreciable health benefits, indicating that some physical activity is always better than none, say the researchers.

The researchers acknowledge some limitations to their findings, including that most of the studies included in the pooled data analyses relied on subjective assessments of physical activity, which may not always have been accurate. - ANI

SPORTS

Al Harthy's Team WRT battles to points finish in Sao Paulo

Omani star and team-mates Rossi and van der Linde drive faultlessly to finish 10th

MUSCAT: Ahmad Al Harthy and Team WRT returned to the FIA World Endurance Championship points at Interlagos circuit in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo on Sunday, after delivering a determined and tactically sharp performance in the Rolex 6 Hours of Sao Paulo – round five of the 2025 season.

Driving alongside team-mates Valentino Rossi and Kelvin van der Linde, Al Harthy's Team WRT overcame a tough start to the Brazilian weekend to finish 10th in the LMGT3 class, securing a valuable championship point and finishing as the top BMW entry in the race.

The Omani, proudly backed by OQ Group, Sohar International, Omantel, Oman LNG, BMW Oman, Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, and Experience Oman, said it was a result earned through sheer execution, teamwork, and perseverance.

"I think it was a very strong race for us," said Al Harthy. "We managed to make up so many positions throughout the six hours and to finish with a championship point makes all the effort worth it. We know we're not the most competitive car at the moment but hopefully things can change quickly for Austin."

From the outset, the iconic 4.3km Interlagos circuit posed a challenge. Qualifying didn't go to plan, with Al Harthy narrowly missing out on a top-10 Hyperpole spot by just two-tenths of a second – placing the No.46 BMW M4 LMGT3 14th on the grid.

Taking the start of the race, Al Harthy was squeezed down to 17th in the opening laps. But showing typical composure and racecraft, the Muscat-born driver clawed back to 13th by the end of the first hour after a smooth stint and early pit stop.

From there, South African ace van der Linde and nine-time MotoGP World Champion Rossi played vital roles in pushing the team forward, with clean overtakes and a well-executed multi-stop strategy. The car rose as high as third overall in LMGT3, before slotting into the top six during mid-race shuffles.

In his second stint, Al Harthy again showed consistency and pace, climbing into the top eight. As strategies unfolded, the Omani handed the car over to Rossi, who maintained track position before van der Linde took the final stint and brought the car home in 10th.

"We executed a perfect race, one of the best in terms of team performance," Al Harthy added. "That's something we're very proud of – all three drivers were consistent, and the team's pit strategy was flawless. It shows that when everything clicks, we can fight among the best."

After a tough outing at Le Mans and a hard-fought return to the points in Brazil, Al Harthy and Team WRT now look ahead with optimism to round six of the championship – the Lone Star Le Mans at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, on 6th–7th September.

Following the race, Al Harthy remains 14th in the LMGT3 Drivers' Championship with 22 points. "It's always an honour to represent Oman on this stage," he said. "We've had ups and downs, but the team is strong, and I believe we can continue building from here."

Rolex 6 Hours of Sao Paolo LMGT3 race result: 1 Jose Maria Lopez / Clemens Schmid / Petru Umbrarescu(Akkodis ASP Team / Lexus RC F), 2 Charlie Eastwood / Tom Van Rompuy / Rui Andrade (TF Sport / Corvette Z06), 3 Eduardo Barrichello / Valentin Hasse Clot / Anthony McIntosh (Racing Spirit of Leman / Aston Martin Vantage AMR), 10 Ahmad Al Harthy / Valentino Rossi / Kelvin van der Linde (Team WRT / BMW M4).

2025 FIA WEC LMGT3 Driver standings (after round five): 1 Riccardo Pera / Richard Lietz / Ryan Hardwick, 89pts, 2 Alessio Rovera / Francois Heriau / Simon Mann, 76pts, 3 Ben Keating / Daniel Juncadella / Jonny Edgar, 66pts, 14 Ahmad Al Harthy / Valentino Rossi / Kelvin van der Linde, 22pts.

VENUE TO BE FAIRGROUNDS STADIUM

Cricket at 2028 LA Olympics to start on July 12

LOS ANGELES: Cricket's return to the LA Olympics 2028 will begin on July 12, with the medal matches scheduled to be played on July 20 and 29. All the matches will be held at the Fairgrounds Stadium, a temporary, purpose-built venue in the city of Pomona, about 50km from LA.

Six teams each in the men's and women's sections, and a total of 180 players, will compete in the T20 format. Each team can name a 15-member squad for the competition. Most match days will be double-headers, while there are no matches slotted on July 14 and 21. The matches will begin at 9.00am and 6.30pm local time. It will be the same for the medal matches as well.

The Fairgrounds Stadium, officially known as Fairplex, is a nearly 500-acre complex that has hosted the LA County Fair since 1922 and regularly serves as a venue for concerts, trade shows, sporting events, and cultural gatherings.

"When the world comes here for these Games, we will highlight every neighbourhood as we host a Games for all and work to ensure it leaves a monumental legacy," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said in a statement. "We are already delivering that legacy as we announce there have been more than one million enrollments in PlayLA.

"I want to thank LA28 and the International Olympic Committee for making these programs possible and for their continued work to host the greatest Games yet."

This is the first time that cricket will feature in the Olympics since 1900. Then, only two teams, Great Britain and France, had competed in a two-day match, with Great Britain winning the gold medal.

Women's cricket made its CWG debut in Birmingham in 2022, while both the men's and women's games have been part of the Asian Games in 2010, 2014 and 2023.

BARCELONA STAR

Yamal to be probed over dwarfism row

BARCELONA: Spain's Ministry of Social Rights has asked the country's prosecutor's office to investigate Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal after he reportedly hired people with dwarfism to perform at his 18th birthday party.

Lamine Yamal hosted a party on Sunday at a rented property in Olivella, a small town 50 kilometres north west of Barcelona, with guests including YouTubers, influencers, and several Barcelona team-mates.

It is alleged Lamine Yamal hired a group of entertainers with dwarfism, something the Association of People with Achondroplasia and other Skeletal Dysplasias in Spain (ADEE) described as "unacceptable in the 21st century".

"The ADEE has filed a complaint, so this ministry has asked the prosecutor's office to investigate to see if the law has been violated and, therefore, the rights of people with disabilities [have been]," Spain's Ministry of Social Rights told the AFP news agency.

The ADEE said it "publicly denounces the hiring of people with dwarfism as part of the entertainment," and said it would take legal action as it "perpetuates stereotypes, fuels discrimination, and undermines the image and rights" of people with disabilities.

However, Spanish radio station RAC1, broadcasted an interview with someone claiming to be one of the entertainers present at the party who defended Lamine Yamal. "No-one disrespected us, we worked in peace," said the artist, who asked to remain anonymous.

"I don't understand why there's so much hype. We're normal people, who do what we want, in an absolutely legal way.

"We work as entertainers. Why can't we do it? Because of our physical condition?

"We know what our limit is and we will never exceed it: we are not fairground monkeys." The performer said it lasted one hour, and afterwards the entertainers joined in with the party. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

City agree record 10-year kit deal worth £1bn

LONDON: Manchester City have extended their kit partnership with Puma for at least another 10 years, with the contract understood to be worth a minimum of £1bn, making it the largest deal in the Premier League.

City initially signed a £65m-a-year deal with the German kit manufacturer in 2019 but the parties have agreed an extension until at least 2035, worth a record £100m a year to the club.

That figure surpasses the £90m deal signed by rivals Manchester United with Adidas in 2023, while champions Liverpool will also be with the same manufacturer from this season after agreeing a reported, external £60m a season.

City have enjoyed an unprecedented period of success since 2019, claiming four Premier League titles as well as the Treble two years ago, but finished last season without a major trophy.

The two parties have achieved club record sales globally, according to City.

In their accounts up to 30 June 2024, City announced a Premier League record revenue of £715m, while commercial revenue increased from £341.4m to £344.7m.

City Football Group (CFG) chief executive Ferran Soriano said: "We joined forces with Puma with the ambition to challenge ourselves and go beyond the expectations. We have achieved this and more over the last six seasons."

CROATIAN STAR

Modric completes AC Milan move on one-year deal

MILAN: Luka Modric on Monday completed a move to AC Milan on a free transfer after 13 successful years at Real Madrid.

The 39-year-old midfielder has signed a contract until June 2026, with the Italian side having the option to trigger a one-year extension.

Modric announced in May he would be leaving Spanish giants Real after the Club World Cup in the United States.

Speaking to Milan's social media, he said he was very happy "to be starting a new chapter" of his career.

"Very happy to be here to start a new chapter in my career," said Modric, who turns 40 in September, in an Instagram video shared by Milan.

Milan said Modric will wear the No.14 shirt, which he previously wore during his four years at English side Tottenham Hotspur to honour Dutch great Johan Cruyff.

"It's an immense honour for them to compare me to (Cruyff)... I wore the no. 14 at Tottenham in honour of him, and because the no. 10 wasn't available," Modric had said after winning the Ballon d'Or award in 2018.

Massimiliano Allegri, who has returned for a second stint as Milan boss after replacing Sergio Conceicao, called Modric an "extraordinary player" when confirming the Croatia captain would join earlier this month.

Modric won 28 trophies - including six Champions Leagues and four La Liga titles - with Real after his move from Tottenham in 2012, making him the club's most decorated player.

He scored 43 goals in 597 games at Real and his final match was their 4-0 semi-final defeat by Paris Saint-Germain in the FIFA Club World Cup last week.

Modric is keen to play at next year's World Cup, which takes place in Canada, Mexico and the US.

Modric has made 188 appearances for Croatia and scored 28 goals

Milan finished eighth in Serie A last season and missed out on a spot in Europe.

Born in Zadar, Croatia, on September 9, 1985, Modric's journey to football stardom began early. At 16, he joined Dinamo Zagreb's youth system, honing his skills through loan spells at Zrinjski Mostar and NK Inter Zapresic. Returning to Dinamo in 2004, he played 128 matches, scored 32 goals, and helped secure three league titles, two Croatian Cups, and a Croatian Super Cup.

In 2008, Modric moved to Tottenham Hotspur, where he netted 17 goals in 159 appearances. His 2012 transfer to Real Madrid cemented his legacy, with 43 goals in 597 games and 28 titles, including six Champions Leagues, five Club World Cups, and four LaLiga titles.

His 2018 Ballon d'Or win solidified his status as one of football's all-time greats. - Agencies

IN PICTURES

World Aquatics Championships held in Singapore
Performers from Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS) perform during the opening ceremony of the World Aquatics Championships 2025 held in Singtel Waterfront Theatre in Singapore. Xinhua

Tourists visit Lao Art Museum in Vientiane
A tourist visits the Lao Art Museum in Vientiane, Laos. The Lao Art Museum features an array of traditional Lao woodcarvings, highlighting the intricate craftsmanship that is a cornerstone of the nation's cultural identity. It also provides a platform to showcase creativity across generations, promoting sustainability, environmental awareness, and cultural preservation. Xinhua

Displaced Palestinians wait to receive free food in Gaza City
Displaced Palestinians wait to receive free food from a food distribution centre in Gaza City. Xinhua

11 missing after speedboat capsizes off Mentawai Islands in Indonesia's West Sumatra
This photo shows a rescuer holding a flashlight during a search and rescue mission after a speedboat capsized off the coast of the Mentawai Islands in Indonesia's West Sumatra province. Xinhua

Women's doubles round of 32 match at Japan Badminton Open 2025
Otake Mizuki (L)/ Takahashi Miyu celebrate scoring during the women's doubles round of 32 match between Li Yijing/Luo Xumin of China and Otake Mizuki/Takahashi Miyu of Japan at the Japan Badminton Open 2025 in Tokyo, Japan. Xinhua

US imposes 17.09% duty on Mexican tomatoes, withdrawing from 2019 agreement
People buy tomatoes at a public market in Mexico City, capital of Mexico. The US Department of Commerce announced that it is immediately placing a 17.09 percent duty on most fresh tomatoes imported from Mexico, marking a withdrawal from the 2019 agreement between the two countries to suspend the anti-dumping investigation on fresh tomatoes. Xinhua

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ROUND-UP

GMC Oman launches its latest nationwide summer campaign

The campaign includes a wide line-up of GMC's most sought-after models: the robust Sierra, the commanding Yukon, and the sophisticated Acadia

MUSCAT: GMC Oman, represented by Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co., has launched its latest nationwide summer campaign under the theme "Elevate Your Summer Drives with Unbeatable GMC Drive."

This seasonal campaign underscores GMC's legacy of power, refinement, and premium features, while delivering exceptional value to customers across the Sultanate.

The campaign includes a wide line-up of GMC's most sought-after models: the robust Sierra, the commanding Yukon, and the sophisticated Acadia. Each model is known for its advanced technology, signature GMC styling, and engineering designed for Oman's diverse driving terrain — from highways to mountain passes.

As part of the campaign, the starting prices across the GMC range now come inclusive of:

First-Year Registration

First-Year Insurance

3 Years / 60,000 KM Scheduled Service

5 Years Unlimited Mileage Warranty

VAT-Inclusive Pricing

These benefits are designed to provide complete ownership confidence, allowing customers to focus on what truly matters — enjoying every journey with peace of mind. Whether it's a weekend getaway or a long-distance drive across Oman's breath-taking landscapes, GMC vehicles are engineered to deliver performance without compromise.

The GMC Sierra SLT Crew Cab 5.3L, starting from OMR 27,799, continues to set the standard for rugged utility and premium comfort. With a bold presence, trailering capabilities, and interior sophistication, the Sierra is built for both work and leisure.

For families and adventure seekers, the GMC Yukon lineup offers both style and substance. The Yukon SLE 5.3L begins at OMR 24,899, while the off-road ready Yukon AT4 starts from OMR 30,899, combining aggressive design with capability-focused enhancements.

Meanwhile, the all-new GMC Acadia is available in two standout trims. The Acadia AT4 2.5L AWD begins at OMR 21,999, while the top-tier Acadia Denali — synonymous with luxury and advanced safety — is priced from OMR 24,599. Both variants offer spacious interiors, intuitive technology, and powerful road presence, making them ideal for families looking to elevate their summer drives.

"At GMC Oman, our goal is to continuously deliver experiences that exceed expectations — both in the vehicles we offer and the ownership journey that follows," said Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, Head of Marketing & CRM at Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. "This campaign ensures that customers not only gain access to GMC's iconic lineup but also enjoy peace of mind through value-added pricing and support services."

ISLAMIC BANKING

Muzn facilitates easier travel plans with travel finance

MUSCAT: NBO Muzn Islamic Banking has made travel easier and more convenient this summer with its Sharia-compliant Travel Finance solution, designed for customers planning to travel to any destination worldwide.

Available to both existing and new customers, the Muzn Islamic Banking's Travel Finance provides comprehensive financing for all travel-related expenses including flights, accommodation, meals, airport transfers, excursions and sightseeing. Customers can select their preferred travel agency, request a quotation, and submit it to their nearest Muzn Islamic Banking branch to initiate the financing process.

Commenting on this offer, Salima Obaid AlMarzoqi, Assistant General Manager and Chief Islamic Banking Officer at NBO, said, "As a trusted Islamic banking partner, we recognise the importance of creating financial solutions that align with our customers' evolving lifestyles. This offering is part of our effort to make travel easier and more accessible this summer, while reinforcing our commitment to flexible, value-driven options that meet our customers' needs and expectations."

The solution also offers easy payment options and competitive profit rates starting from 5.25 percent, giving customers the freedom to plan their holidays without financial strain.

UNCOMPROMISING STANDARDS

Mercedes-Benz Oman offers exceptional value through Certified Pre-Owned vehicles

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman introduced its latest range of Certified Pre-Owned vehicles, delivering exceptional value without compromising on luxury, performance, or assurance.

Each model in this curated collection is rigorously inspected and certified to meet the brand's uncompromising standards, ensuring customers enjoy the confidence and quality expected of the Mercedes-Benz brand.

Available models begin with the Mercedes-Benz A-Class 200 Sedan Special Edition 2025, which features a Night Black exterior and ARTICO man-made leather/MICROCUT microfibre interior options in Bahia Brown. This automotive luxury for everyday model combines superior sportiness with luxury-class comfort. At OMR 18,995 including VAT, it has a negligible mileage of 6,065 kilometres.

The 2024 Mercedes-Benz CLA 200 Coupé Special Edition is progressive, expressive, and beautiful,right down to the last detail. Featuring a Mountain Grey elegant coupé silhouette exterior and a leather two-tone Red Pepper/Black interior, the CLA 200 is only 10,207 kilometres driven and costs OMR 18,995, including VAT.

Mercedes-Benz GLA 200 Special Edition 2024 combines innovative dynamics with timeless elegance and the typical off-road character of an SUV. Priced at

OMR 18,995, including VAT, this 7,176-kilometre mileage car features a Polar White exterior and an Artico man-made leather/Microcut microfibre Black interior.

The iconic Mercedes-Benz E-Class 200 Tactical Edition 2024 combines digital and on-the-go luxury. It is nearly brand-new and has a mileage of 2,422 kilometres, with an OMR 23,995 price tag, including VAT. The sophisticated E200 model features a Polar White exterior and an ARTICO man-made leather interior in Macchiato Beige.

The 2023 Mercedes-Benz S 450 4MATIC L Special Edition is a distinguished variant of the S-Class lineup, combining advanced technology, refined performance, and exclusive luxury features. This model features a Designo Diamond White Bright exterior and leather upholstery in Sienna Brown/Black interior, comes with 10,012 kilometres of mileage, and is priced at OMR 48,995, including VAT.

All vehicles come with Mercedes-Benz's Certified Pre-Owned benefits, including comprehensive warranty coverage, multi-point inspection, and verified service history, offering confidence with every mile.

MHD AUTOMOBILES

Exclusive Jeep movie night held for customers

MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles, the exclusive distributor of Jeep in Oman, recently brought its Jeep community together for an unforgettable evening at Jeep Movie Night. Over 300 guests — including customers, their families, and friends — were invited to a private screening of the highly anticipated film Jurassic World: Rebirth at VOX Cinemas, Mall of Oman.

The event underscored MHD Automobiles' commitment to delivering meaningful customer experiences, celebrating the spirit of Jeep ownership and the strong relationships built with its growing community. Customers were personally invited by the sales team, who engaged directly with guests on the night — making the event more than just a movie, but a shared moment of appreciation and connection.

"Our customers are at the heart of everything we do," said Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles. "Jeep is more than a vehicle — it represents lifestyle, freedom, and a spirit of adventure. This event was a chance to thank our customers and bring that spirit to life."

The film, Jurassic World: Rebirth, was a fitting choice, as Jeep has long been associated with the Jurassic franchise, starting with the iconic Wrangler's appearance in the original Jurassic Park. Known for its Trail Rated capability, the Wrangler continues to symbolize rugged performance, capable of taking on the most extreme environments — cinematic or real.

Attendees left the venue with smiles, laughter, and shared memories that reflected the camaraderie of the Jeep community.

"It wasn't just a movie night — it felt like a family gathering," shared Ahmed Al Riyami, a long-time Jeep Grand Cherokee owner who attended the event with his wife and children. "You could tell MHD really values its customers. From the warm welcome to the excitement of watching the Jurassic movie, it was a truly thoughtful experience that brought all of us closer."

MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE

Kia Carens: An ideal 7-seater MPV for successful start-ups

MUSCAT: The Kia Carens is a bold and spacious multi-purpose vehicle, packed with class-leading features that ensure practicality and maximum output for small and upcoming business owners, designed to put their worries at bay.

With its SUV-inspired styling and innovative features, the Kia Carens offers exceptional utility for small and medium-sized businesses alike. It's a versatile option for a wide range of enterprises, pertaining to supplies and deliveries of trading material such as Bakery, Laundry, Coffee shop goods, etc. Carens is an ideal go-getter for SME's & Souq shop owners who need ferrying of their items from purchase to delivery.

Designed with comfort in mind, the Carens brings much needed functionality to the 7 seater MPV category. The 7 seater's rear two seat rows can be folded to provide ample that cargo space perfect for deliveries or picking up essentials for bakery and laundry, etc establishments. At the same time, the Carens seamlessly transforms into the perfect family vehicle to carry 7 persons, combining conveniences, comfort, and safety for all passengers of all sizes, equipped with steering audio controls, rear view camera, smart key, roof AC vents and remote

engine start, making it one of the most unique MPVs in its segment.

From smart connectivity to flexible seating, the Carens is loaded with thoughtful additions, including a dashboard pop out cup holders and tray, the Carens truly redefines automotive practicality, Inside the cabin, it boasts a range of useful connectivity features: an 8-inch Audio Display system with Android Auto, Apple CarPlay and Bluetooth, USB and type C Charging points and Auto Cruise Control functions, offering the driver enhanced control of the vehicle.

Equipped with, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Rear parking Assist System and downhill brake control that make every family journey smooth and pleasure.

With its extensive list of convenience features, the Kia Carens is setting a new benchmark in the B2B mobility space. Already trusted by small- to medium-sized business owners, the Kia Carens is raising the bar and capturing attention of those who are ready to upscale and take charge of their business transportation needs.

Experience the dynamic and practical appeal of the Kia Carens at your nearest Kia Oman Showroom. Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the official distributor of Kia in Oman, is committed to delivering an exceptional ownership experience.

FOURTH EDITION

Jindal Steel launches 'Losers Win Challenge' in collaboration with Aster Al Raffah Hospital

MUSCAT: Jindal Steel has announced the launch of the fourth edition of its flagship employee wellness initiative, the Losers Win Challenge 2025.

This 90-day health and fitness programme, conducted in collaboration with Aster Al Raffah Hospital, Sohar, is part of the company's broader vision to promote a culture of health, balance, and holistic well-being among its workforce. The initiative is championed by Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd, and supported by Harssha Shetty, Chief Executive Officer of Jindal Steel, Oman.

A total of 95 employees are participating in this wellness challenge, which is designed to help them adopt healthier lifestyles through a structured approach to physical and mental health. The programme includes two comprehensive body composition analyses, BMI assessments every 15 days, personalised diet plans, and one-on-one consultations with dietitians and internal medicine specialists.

All medical assessments and nutritional support are being delivered under the supervision of healthcare professionals at Aster

Al Raffah Hospital, Sohar. The hospital is playing a central role in delivering end-to-end care, including health screenings, dietary consultations, and the implementation of evidence-based wellness practices throughout the challenge.

Commenting on the initiative, Harssha Shetty stated, "The Losers Win Challenge is a focused wellness initiative aimed at helping our people become healthier, fitter, and more fulfilled. With this edition, we aspire to create wellness champions who will inspire hundreds more to embrace fitness as a way of life. We are grateful to Aster Al Raffah Hospital for designing a programme that aligns with our specific needs. This collaboration demonstrates the powerful impact that can be achieved when healthcare providers and responsible corporates work together to promote public health and community well-being."

Speaking on the collaboration, Shailesh Guntu, Deputy CEO of Aster Hospitals, UAE and Oman, said, "At Aster, we believe prevention and wellness are essential to long-term health. We are pleased to support Jindal Steel's progressive wellness initiative and remain committed to ensuring all participants receive the highest standard of care and guidance throughout their journey."

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