

Oman joins countries around world to mark blood donor day

98 percent of donations in Oman were voluntary, reflecting a growing sense of social responsibility among individuals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Saturday joined countries around the world in celebrating World Blood Donor Day, which falls on June 14th every year.

The day is held under the slogan: "Donate Blood, Give Hope: Together We Save Lives." The day is held to honour those who contribute to saving the lives of others through their voluntary and continuous blood donations, and to enhance community awareness of the importance of this noble humanitarian act.

Mohsen bin Saif Al-Sharyani, Head of the Donor Affairs Section at the Blood Bank Services Department at the Ministry of Health, told the Oman News Agency: "Last year, the Central Blood Bank in Bausher witnessed a 4 percent increase in the number of blood units compared to 2023. The number of blood units collected through the Ministry of Health's blood banks reached 83,694, with Omanis constituting 90 percent of the total donors."

He explained that the number of blood component donations last year at the Central Blood Bank in Bausher amounted to



2,636 donations, while the number of blood donation campaigns amounted to 381.

He noted that 40 percent of blood donations were in the donation campaigns, while 60 percent were in the Central Blood Bank building in Bausher.

He emphasised that 98 percent of donations were voluntary, reflecting a growing sense of social responsibility among individuals.

The percentage of new donors reached 46 percent, demonstrating the expansion of the donor community.

He added that the blood types most in demand in the Sultanate of Oman vary according to clinical conditions, explaining that type O- is the most important in emergency cases, as it can be given to any patient, regardless of their blood type.

He pointed out that blood donation is a fundamental pillar of support for the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman, particularly with regard to organ transplants

carried out recently.

He emphasised that these operations rely heavily on the availability of blood components, particularly platelets, due to their vital role in maintaining the stability of patients' health after transplantation.

He explained that the continued flow of voluntary blood donations directly contributes to supporting such delicate and sensitive medical procedures.

Blood transfusion services in the Sultanate of Oman are vital services that receive continuous support and monitoring from the Ministry of Health.

All blood units undergo rigorous laboratory testing to ensure their safety and freedom from infectious diseases before being transferred to patients in need.

Branch blood banks located throughout the Sultanate of Oman's governorates and referral hospitals receive blood donors to meet their blood type needs.

Field donation campaigns are

also organised periodically in government and private institutions, universities, and colleges, in cooperation with volunteer teams and community initiatives.

Adel bin Ali Al-Maashari, Campaigns Supervisor of the Oman Blood Donor Team, told the Oman News Agency that blood donation campaigns constitute a vital link between blood banks and members of the community, as they effectively contribute to reaching a wide range of citizens and residents in various locations such as universities, shopping malls, and government and private institutions.

He pointed out that these campaigns are not limited to collecting blood units, but rather play a significant role in raising awareness and health education.

He emphasised that blood donation campaigns are an effective awareness platform for disseminating accurate medical information about the benefits of blood donation, in addition to correcting

Indian ambassador attends blood donation camp



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Indian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, G V Srinivas, attended a blood donation camp organised by Indian Social Club, Oman under the aegis of Embassy of India, Muscat at Central Blood Bank, Bausher on

14 June 2025, highlighting the importance of donating blood, and donating often.

In a statement, the ambassador said: "It was an honour for me to join in complimenting all the donors and those that facilitate this noble cause today, 14 June, celebrated as World Blood Donor Day."

Salalah mourns death of ex-resident in plane crash

Ranjitha Gopakumar, was among the 241 victims killed in tragic crash of a London-bound Air India Dreamliner shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A deep sense of sorrow has gripped Salalah's Indian community as residents mourn the loss of Ranjitha Gopakumar, a former long-time resident of the city who was among the 241 victims killed in Thursday's tragic crash of a London-bound Air India Dreamliner shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad.

Ranjitha, a 38-year-old nurse from Kerala, had lived and worked in Salalah for nearly a decade before moving to the UK in search of

better prospects. She had returned to India recently to complete formalities for renewing her job at a government hospital in Pathanamthitta, her hometown in Kerala.

Dr Sandeep Ojha, General Secretary of the Indian Social Club (ISC) in Salalah, expressed the community's shock and grief. Speaking to Times of Oman, he said:

"Ranjitha Gopakumar worked in Sultan Qaboos Hospital for around nine years and left Salalah about two years ago. At that time, her mother and two children were staying here with her. The children

studied in Indian School Salalah. It is very tragic. Our heartfelt condolences to her family and to all families who lost their near and dear ones in the terrible tragedy in Ahmedabad on Thursday."

He added, "There were quite a few families who remembered her as a soft-spoken and helpful lady. We are all devastated by the accident and mourn the loss of a long-time resident."

After relocating to the UK, Ranjitha had continued her career in nursing. According to media reports, she was in the process of collecting her release cer-

tificate from her hospital in the UK and had plans to settle back in Pathanamthitta with her two young children, who are currently with her mother.

On the day of the crash, she was on a connecting journey from Chennai to Ahmedabad, intending to fly onward to London. Her dream of reuniting with her children in a new home she was building now lies shattered.

The tragedy has not only left her family and friends in Kerala in mourning, but also touched many in Salalah who remember her warmth and dedication as a healthcare worker and community member.

The crash has claimed the lives of 241 people, including 169 Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese nationals, and one Canadian national. Tributes have poured in from across the world, including from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who posted on X:

"We are all devastated by the air tragedy in Ahmedabad. The loss of so many lives in such a sudden and heartbreaking manner is beyond words...Om Shanti." Former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar also shared his condolences on X paying tribute to Ranjitha as one of the victims from Kozhencherry.

NCSI

Residential property prices rise by 7.3%



MUSCAT: Data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed a 7.3 percent increase in the residential property price index in the Sultanate of Oman in the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter of 2024.

Residential apartment prices also rose by 17 percent, followed by villas at 6.4 percent, while other home prices rose by 2.2 percent.

The general index of residential real estate prices also recorded a 5.5 percent increase in the first quarter of 2025, compared to the fourth quarter of 2024.

The residential land price index rose by 5.5 percent, while apartment prices rose by 4.3 percent and villa prices by 4.5 percent. Other housing prices also increased by 13.4 percent.

At the governorate level, Muscat Governorate recorded the highest growth rate in residential land prices in the first quarter of 2025, at 17.4 percent, compared to the same quarter of 2024.

Musandam Governorate followed with a 12.8 percent increase, followed by North Al Batinah Governorate with 7.3 percent, South Al Batinah Governorate with 6.1 percent, and Dhofar Governorate with 6 percent.

Meanwhile, South Al Sharqiyah Governorate recorded a 3.4 percent increase.

In contrast, Al Buraimi Governorate recorded a 35.1 percent decline in residential land prices, followed by Al Dhahirah Governorate with a 25.3 percent decline, then Al Wusta Governorate with a 20.4 percent decline, while Al Dakhiliyah Governorate witnessed a 3.7 percent decline, and North Al Sharqiyah Governorate saw a slight decline of 0.8 percent. -ONA

3-KILOMETRE PATH

Longest tourist walkway project unveiled in Nakhal

NAKHAL: The longest tourist walkway in the Wilayat of Nakhal, South Al Batinah Governorate, was unveiled on Thursday. The 3-kilometre path will connect the historical Nakhal Fort with Ain Al Thawra Park, passing by numerous natural springs, aflaj (traditional irrigation systems), and agricultural villages along Wadi Nakhal, adding aesthetic value to the wilayat.

Sheikh Khalifa Saleh Al Busaidi, Wali of Nakhal, emphasised that the project aims to boost tourism in the wilayat while showcasing

the scenic and natural attractions of the villages and farms along the route. He added that the walkway will be implemented in multiple phases, with the first phase spanning one kilometre, followed by subsequent phases.

The total cost of the project, including service facilities, is expected to exceed OMR1 million. It will feature lighting, stone or interlocking pavement, and several public amenities.

The Wali explained that local farmers whose lands the walkway traverses will be empowered

to establish their own tourism projects in coordination with relevant authorities.

These may include eco-lodges, cafes, and electric tourist vehicles to transport visitors from the fort to Ain Al Thawra Park. This initiative is expected to reduce traffic congestion at the park while generating job opportunities for the locals.

The main supervisory committee for the project has already held its first meeting to approve the action plan and form sub-committees to begin implementation. -ONA



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COMMENTARY

Will employees pay for visa, hiring costs when resigning during probation in Oman?

Many employees wonder whether they must repay visa or recruitment costs if they resign during their probation period in Oman. The answer is clear under the Omani Labour Law.

Speaking exclusively to the Times of Oman, a representative from Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, a leading law office in the Sultanate of Oman, explained that under Article 31, employers or recruitment agencies are not allowed to charge any amount to the employee for recruitment.

This includes visa fees, hiring costs, medical tests, or any other employment-related expenses. These costs are strictly the employer's responsibility.

When it comes to the probation period, "Article 37 of the Labour Law allows either the employer or the employee to terminate the employment contract during probation, if it is found that it is unsuitable to continue the employment.

A minimum of seven days'



DR. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL ZADJALI,
Founding partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm



notice must be given by either party. However, there is no legal requirement for the employee to repay any visa or hiring costs if they decide to resign during this period," explained Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Founding Partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm.

Another spokesperson from



the law firm added that, "some companies may try to include clauses in employment contracts requiring the employee to pay back visa or recruitment costs if they leave early.

However, according to Article 4 of the Labour Law, any clause in the employment contract that contradicts the law

Employees facing such demands should document and report the matter to the Ministry of Labour, as such practices are considered clear violations subject to legal penalties, the expert said.

(Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established 18 years ago and is serving clients through its offices in Muscat and Sohar, as well as operating on a request basis in other areas. It offers legal representation across a wide range of practice areas that include Labour Law, Corporate, Commercial, Contracts, Banking and Finance, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Insurance, Maritime Law, Construction and Engineering Contracts, International Arbitration, Intellectual Property and more).

Industrial exports to Saudi rise by 28.3%

Omani industrial exports have expanded significantly across various regional markets, reflecting the growing presence of Omani industries on the regional trade map



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani industrial exports recorded an 8.6% growth in the first quarter of 2025, reaching OMR1.618 billion, compared to OMR1.490 billion during the same period in 2024.

According to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information in May 2025, Omani industrial exports have expanded significantly across various regional markets, reflecting the growing presence of Omani industries on the regional trade map.

Notably, Saudi Arabia's imports of Omani industrial products surged by 28.3%, reaching OMR259 million, reaffirming the strong economic ties between the two nations and the increasing demand for Omani goods in the Saudi market.

Nusra bint Sultan Al-Habsi, Director-General of Trade at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, highlighted the accelerated trade exchange between Oman and Saudi Arabia is a direct result of ongoing cooperation, underscoring the deepening economic integration across various sectors.

She explained that the Economic, Trade, and Industry Committee of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council has worked consistently since its inception to address trade exchange challenges, unify customs procedures, and facilitate land transportation through border crossings.

Additionally, it has focused on linking commercial systems electronically between the two countries, enabling the seamless flow of goods and services while enhancing trade movement through the Rub' Al Khali border, which has become a vital new artery for commerce between the two nations.

Speaking to Omani News Agency (ONA), she revealed that the committee is currently working on various initiatives, including cooperation in intellectual property, e-commerce, anti-monopoly regulations, and export development between Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Efforts are also underway to strengthen industrial and investment partnerships through regular meetings between the private sectors of both countries and the organisation of joint economic forums, focusing on promising opportunities in manufacturing industries, renewable energy, supply



Nusra bint Sultan Al-Habsi,
Director-General of Trade at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.



Mazin bin Hamid Al-Siyabi,
Assistant D-G of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.

chains, and food security.

She noted that Saudi Arabia is now Oman's second-largest GCC trade partner, with future aspirations pointing towards deeper industrial and trade integration.

Oman welcomes more Saudi investments, particularly in special economic zones and free zones, which offer advanced infrastructure and competitive investment incentives, fostering greater collaboration in alignment with the strategic objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and Saudi Vision 2030.

Meanwhile, Mazin bin Hamid Al-Siyabi, Assistant Director-General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, emphasised that recent months have witnessed growing momentum in coordination and engagement between industrial sector officials in both nations.

This has been evident in a series of meetings, exchange visits, specialised workshops, and direct engagements between investors and entrepreneurs.

Speaking to ONA, he stated that these efforts have expanded areas of industrial cooperation, particularly in priority sectors such as manufacturing, advanced technologies, and supply chains, while helping to identify promising investment opportunities and develop joint industrial initiatives aimed at enhancing competitiveness and localising technical expertise, thereby reinforcing industrial integration between Oman and Saudi Arabia.

He pointed out that this new dynamic in industrial relations reflects the alignment of visions between the two nations. The shared focus on industrial sector development as a pillar for economic diversification has proven to be a successful strategy, with its impact now visible in the growth of Omani industrial exports to Saudi Arabia and other regional markets.

Al Siyabi concluded that the accelerated growth of Omani industrial exports in recent months serves as a tangible indicator of the success of industrial policies pursued by the ministry. These policies prioritize export market diversification, improved production efficiency, enhanced competitiveness of Omani products, and the achievement of economic diversification goals, fostering a resilient industrial base capable of adapting to global shifts.

Oman Air, SalamAir cancel some international flights

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In light of ongoing regional tensions, two major Omani carriers, SalamAir and Oman Air, have announced the suspension of several international flights.

SalamAir has temporarily suspended all flights to and from Iran, Iraq, and Azerbaijan until 20 June 2025. The airline also confirmed that transit passengers through Muscat International Airport with final destinations in any of these three countries will not be accepted for travel from their original departure points until further notice.

Passengers are urged to ensure their contact details are up to date via the "Manage Booking" portal at SalamAir.com to receive timely flight updates.

The airline is closely monitoring the situation and will resume services as soon as conditions permit. Affected travellers will be contacted directly to explore alternative travel options. SalamAir's customer support remains available 24/7 via +968 2427 2222 or customer-care@salamair.com.

Meanwhile, Oman Air has also cancelled its Muscat-Amman (Jordan) flights WY411 and WY412, scheduled for 14 and 15 June 2025, citing the same ongoing regional developments. The airline has apologised for the inconvenience and is currently assisting impacted passengers.

In a statement, Oman Air reaffirmed: "The safety of our guests and crew remains our top priority as we continue to monitor the situation closely. We appreciate your understanding and patience."

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PHONE INTERVIEWS

NCSI to conduct public survey for decision-making

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) will begin conducting a public opinion survey on Sunday, focusing on employment, social protection, sports, and entertainment. The survey will continue until June 25 as part of the center's ongoing efforts to provide accurate data that reflects societal realities and aids in policymaking and decision-making.

Saada bint Abdullah Al-Maawali, Director of the Information Reports Department at NCSI, stated that the survey aims to measure Omanis' perspectives on the labour sector and examine trends in sports participation and recreational activities. Additionally, it seeks to assess public satisfaction with available tourism services across various governorates.

In a statement, she explained that the survey targets Omani men and women aged 18 and



above, with data being collected through phone interviews.

She urged all targeted citizens to participate and share their opinions objectively, emphasising that their input will contribute to the development of the services provided to them.

Al-Maawali reaffirmed that all collected data will be handled with strict confidentiality in accordance with Royal Decree No. 55/2019, particularly Article (11), which mandates that individual statistical data remains confidential and may only be used for statistical purposes in an aggregated form.

Dhofar Municipality unveils details of Dhofar Khareef Season 2025

With its breathtaking nature and exceptional summer climate, Dhofar's Khareef season remains a standout annual tourism attraction in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dhofar Municipality held a press conference in Salalah on Saturday to unveil the details of Dhofar Khareef Season 2025

For the Khareef Season set to begin on June 21 and continue until September 20, the President of Dhofar Municipality, announced that this year's festivities will take place across five main locations: Atin Square, "Return to the Past" in Al Saada, Awqad Park, the Modern Front in Atin Plain, and Salalah Public Park.

Each site will offer unique activities that reflect the rich cultural and natural diversity of Dhofar.

He also highlighted that Dhofar Khareef Season 2025 will feature an array of public and cultural events, along with major international and national sports competitions such as Salalah International Cycling Tour, Salalah Marathon, and the Dhofar Autumn Traditional Weapons Contest.

Additionally, there will be theatrical performances and cultural seminars, enriching the artistic and intellectual landscape of the season.

With its breathtaking nature and exceptional summer climate, Dhofar's Khareef season remains a standout annual tourism attraction in Oman, expected to draw a large number of visitors.

Dr. Ahmed Mohsen Al Ghassani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, said: "This year's Dhofar Khareef season comes with a renewed vision that seeks to consolidate the position of Dhofar Governorate as an integrated tourist and cultural destination."

He noted that each site has a distinct identity, providing visitors with a rich experience that reflects the governorate's diversity and its natural and cultural richness.

He emphasised the readiness of these sites, which have been developed with diverse designs and content, meticulously and professionally paying attention to detail, in cooperation with various supporting entities and institutions.

He explained that this year's Dhofar Khareef season includes a number of accompanying sites that will witness public and cultural events, such as the frankincense market, the "Al-Gharf" event in one of Salalah's farms, in addition to the "Osara" and "Afsinia" events on Raysut Beach in Salalah. In addition, various events will be implemented in the Wilayats of Taqah, Mirbat and Sadah, as well as at the Al-Hafa Beach Market and Samharam Village in Salalah, and artistic mural displays in the Al-Nahda Tower, which will be presented using modern visual techniques and methods that reflect the creative nature of the season.

The aim is to broaden the participation base and enhance Dhofar Governorate's position as a destination for quality sporting events.

A variety of theatrical performances and cultural seminars will be held at Al Murooj Theatre in Salalah, with the participation of a number of creative thinkers and intellectuals from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman, as part of the efforts to support local, regional, and international cultural content.

It's worth noting that Dhofar Municipality is keen to allocate a large area during the autumn season to support small and medium-sized Omani enterprises, enabling business owners to present their products to visitors. This enhances growth opportunities and highlights the local character of the tourism experience.



The aim is to broaden the participation base and enhance Dhofar Governorate's position as a destination for quality sporting events





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Stranded whale rescued in Shinas

The stranded mammal was a blue whale, approximately 8 metres long

Times News Service

SHINAS: The Environment Authority (EA) in North Al Batinah Governorate received a report about a whale stranded in Shinas region. A stranded whale was found near Al Dwanij beach in Shinas. Specialised teams from the Environment Department in North Al Batinah Governorate began dealing with the incident. Due to the sea being at low tide, the situation was monitored until it changed to high tide. The whale was returned to the sea on Friday in good condition with efforts from the EA. It is worth noting that the stranded whale was a blue whale,



approximately 8 metres long. Rescue teams from the Environment Department in North Al Batinah Governorate have made great efforts to rescue it and return it to its natural environment.



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

ASU's Tender Committee is pleased to invite specialized companies to participate in the following auctions:

TENDER DETAILS:

Auction No.	Description	Document fees	Document Collection Deadline	Site Visit	Bids Submission Deadline
ASU/37/24/25	The main restaurant in the Student Services Center	OMR 10	19/06/2025	23/06/2025 at 09:00 AM	26/06/2025
ASU/41/24/25	A shop specializing in shawarma and falafel in the new female dormitory	OMR 10	19/06/2025	23/06/2025 at 10:00 AM	26/06/2025
ASU/42/24/25	A Shop selling health and beauty products in the new female dormitory	OMR 10	19/06/2025	23/06/2025 at 11:00 AM	26/06/2025
ASU/45/24/25	Vending machines for refreshments, beverages, and other items	OMR 10	19/06/2025	23/06/2025 at 12:00 PM	26/06/2025

Specialized companies interested in participating in the auctions should obtain the auction document during official working days from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Auction collection process: The interested companies shall follow the following steps:

1. The payment should be made directly to ASU under the following bank account

Account Name	AL SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY
Account Number	0423010693610011
SWIFT CODE	BMUSOMRX

2. After payment, send the receipt to (abdullah.al-harhi@asu.edu.om) or via WhatsApp at +968 25401118.

3. The auction document will be sent to the company via email.

4. Companies that hold Riyadh certificate are exempted from auction document fees. They should send a copy of the riyadh certificate and the commercial registration to the email or WhatsApp number mentioned in the announcement.

ASU general terms and conditions of tenders shall apply on all submitted bids.

http://www.asu.edu.om/downloads/purchase_terms_conditions.pdf

The required experience to participate in the auctions is no less than one year in the service provision field.

Please scan the QR code to access the bidding guide to learn about the procedures followed in the auctions process.

For further details, please don't hesitate to contact us at: abdullah.al-harhi@asu.edu.om or 25401118.





NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Oman International Development and Investment Company SAOG (the Company) is pleased to invite all shareholders to attend the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) scheduled to be held virtually through the electronic platform for general meetings accessible through the MCD's website (www.mcd.om), on 30 June 2025 at 15:00.

In the event the required quorum is not met to hold the first meeting, the second meeting shall take place on 1 July 2025 via the same electronic platform set out above at www.mcd.om to discuss the following agenda items:

1. To approve the amendment of the Conversion Ratio of the Mandatory Convertible Bonds issued on 27 May 2024 with the value of OMR 13,367,308.500 (the Bonds) so that each Bond will be mandatorily converted to 0.35 equity shares at the fixed price of 286 baiza per share (Reserved Matter).

2. To approve certain amendments to the Conditions of the issuance and rights inherent in the Bonds within the Declaration of Agency, as are necessary or desirable to implement and give effect to proposal item 1 and to ensure compliance with the relevant laws (specific amendments are more particularly detailed in the attachments hereto).

3. To approve the sale of the balance of the aggregate fractional entitlement of the shares collated by the Issuer on the open market and the subsequent deposit of the sale proceeds into the accounts of shareholders in the investor protection account in the unclaimed fund of the Financial Services Authority, upon mandatory conversion.

In accordance with the Commercial Companies Law (RD 18/2019) and the Financial Services Authority Rules Governing General Meetings through electronic means, please note the following:

The meeting shall not be quorate unless it is attended by representatives who, together, hold at least seventy five per cent (75%) of the shares of the Company's issued share capital.

For the agenda items to be approved, each item requires approval by a majority of shareholders holding, together, three quarters of the shares represented in that meeting, provided that such majority shall, at the same time, exceed half of the representatives of all of the shares of the Company's issued share capital.

Only a juristic / corporate entity may appoint a natural person to act on its behalf in connection with the meeting and any adjournment of the meeting, provided that the authorisation should be made in writing using the proxy form available at MCD or the Company and must be submitted electronically not less than 48 hours before the scheduled time of start of the meeting, i.e. 15:00 on 28 June 2025 and the proxy should have an Investor Number from the MCD in order to vote.

The voting on any of the items on the agenda shall begin through the online MCD platform from 15:00 on 27 June 2025 and until the voting is completed on the day of the meeting.

The specific amendments are more particularly detailed in attachments hereto which will be circulated to the shareholders and will be available at the offices of the Company from the date of this notice to the conclusion of the Meeting (or any adjourned Meeting).

For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Hana Al Maani on +968 92886444 or email: Legal@ominvest.com.

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NOTICE AND AGENDA OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Notice and agenda of the General Meeting of the holders of Mandatory Convertible Bonds with the value of OMR 13,367,308.500 (to be referred to as the "Bonds" and the holders of such Bonds to be referred to as "Bondholders") issued by Oman International Development and Investment Company SAOG (the "Company").

The agent of the Bondholders, Muscat Clearing & Depository SAOC ("MCD"), has the pleasure to invite all Bondholders to attend the General Meeting ("GM") of the Bondholders scheduled to be held virtually through the electronic platform for general meetings accessible through the MCD's website (www.mcd.om), on 30 June 2025 at 17:00.

In the event the required quorum is not met to hold the first meeting, the second meeting shall take place on 1 July 2025 via the same electronic platform set out above at www.mcd.om to discuss the following agenda items:

1. To approve the amendment of the Conversion Ratio of the Bonds so that each Bond will be mandatorily converted to 0.35 equity shares at the fixed price of 286 baiza per share (Reserved Matter).

2. To approve certain amendments to the Conditions of the issuance and rights inherent in the Bonds within the Declaration of Agency, as are necessary or desirable to implement and give effect to proposal item 1 and to ensure compliance with the relevant laws (specific amendments are more particularly detailed in the attachments hereto).

3. To approve the sale of the balance of the aggregate fractional entitlement of the shares collated by the Issuer on the open market and the subsequent deposit of the sale proceeds into the accounts of shareholders in the investor protection account in the unclaimed fund of the Financial Services Authority, upon mandatory conversion.

In accordance with the Declaration of Agency, the agreements and the Financial Services Authority Rules Governing General Meetings through electronic means, please note the following:

Only a juristic / corporate entity may appoint a natural person to act on its behalf in connection with the meeting and any adjournment of the meeting, provided that the authorisation should be made in writing using the proxy form available at MCD or the Company and must be submitted electronically not less than 48 hours before the scheduled time of start of the meeting, i.e. by 17:00 on 28 June 2025 and the proxy should have an Investor Number from the MCD in order to vote.

The voting on any of the items on the agenda shall begin through the online MCD platform from 17:00 on 27 June 2025 and until the voting is completed on the day of the meeting.

The specific amendments are more particularly detailed in attachments hereto which will be circulated to the Bondholders and will be available at the offices of the Company and the Bondholders' Agent from the date of this notice to the conclusion of the Meeting (or any adjourned Meeting).

For any inquiries, please contact Mr. Abdullah Al-Mandhari at MCD on +968 24822267 or Abdullahm@mcd.om.

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MIDDLE EAST

Sayyid Badr calls to halt Israeli attacks

< FROM A1 The tension has been triggered by Israel's direct attacks on Iranian territory since the early hours of Friday morning. Over these calls, Sayyid Badr underscored the importance of halting the aggression and deterring the aggressor through peaceful means, based on international law and justice, in order to prevent further bloodshed, destruction, and loss of life, and to safeguard the security, stability, and the supreme interests of the region and its peoples. Meanwhile, Iran has announced

its withdrawal from the sixth round of nuclear negotiations with the United States, which was scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 15, 2025 in Muscat, Oman. Oman News Agency and Iranian state television reported that the talks have been suspended until further notice, the diplomatic efforts that aimed at restricting Iran's nuclear program. The decision follows recent Israeli airstrikes in Iran. The cancelled session was expected to address disagreements over uranium enrichment limits and U.S. sanctions relief.



Armenia announces new visa-free travel for citizens and residents of Oman

This significant development aims to enhance Armenia's attractiveness as an accessible and welcoming destination within the South Caucasus



ism, and facilitate business opportunities between Armenia and the GCC member states. This significant development aims to enhance Armenia's attractiveness as an accessible and welcoming destination within the South Caucasus, particularly appealing to visitors from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. The new visa free policy will apply to all passport holders from GCC member states, enabling travel for tourism, leisure, or business purposes without a visa for stays of up to 90 days within any

180-day period. Additionally, individuals holding valid residency permit issued by any of the GCC countries with at least 6 months of validity from the date of entry to Armenia, will also be eligible for visa-free entry, thereby broadening the accessibility for a substantial segment of the GCC expatriate communities. Officials have highlighted the timeliness of this decision, noting the growing interest among GCC nationals and residents in exploring nearby destinations that offer authentic experiences, diverse culture, and natural beauty. With

Armenia's rich historical heritage, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culinary scene, the country is well-positioned to attract a growing number of travellers and business visitors from the Gulf region. "This milestone reflects our dedication to making Armenia more accessible to regional travellers," said Lusine Gevorgyan, Chairman of the Tourism Committee of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia. "We look forward to welcoming more guests from the GCC who seek meaningful travel experiences - whether through our ancient monasteries, vibrant food scene, or immersive cultural festivals." The Tourism Committee of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia anticipates that the visa waiver will further stimulate collaboration with the GCC. The initiative supports Armenia's broader tourism strategy, which includes enhanced air connectivity, improved visitor infrastructure, and dynamic destination marketing across global markets.



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Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT

Surge in 11A seat requests

< FROM A1 In her comments to *Times of Oman*, she said: "I've told my husband to ask the travel agent to book 11A. I know these things don't always make sense logically, but what we saw on TV — the way that one passenger emerged alive — gives us hope that miracles do happen." She added: "Even though seat layouts change from flight to flight, I just want to book 11A. It symbolises something positive in an otherwise dark event."

Surge in seat requests

Airline staff and travel agents have noted a modest but noticeable increase in passengers specifically requesting 11A, a seat that was previously seen as just another window option in the forward economy cabin. On travel forums and social media, screenshots of boarding passes marked "11A" are being shared with captions like "miracle seat" or "chosen one." For some, it's a show of faith; for others, its part tribute, and part talisman. Despite the wave of emotional attachment to 11A, aviation experts and safety professionals are cautioning against placing too much belief in the idea of a "safe seat."

"There is no hard and fast rule that any particular seat — including 11A — offers greater safety in the event of a crash," said a retired commercial pilot on a social media platform. Indeed, historical crash data shows no consistent pattern in terms of seat-based survivability. While some studies suggest rear seats may offer slightly higher survival rates in certain crash scenarios, experts stress that no conclusions should be generalised. Behavioural psychologists believe the fixation on seat 11A stems from a human tendency to seek control and meaning in the face of disaster. "People want something to hold on to — a symbol, a ritual, a belief — especially when logic and reason can't explain how one person survived and so many others didn't," Dr. Preeti Jain, a psychologist based in New Delhi, India, told *Times of Oman*. "For some, choosing 11A is not about superstition; it's about emotional comfort," she added. While airlines aren't endorsing or discouraging such seat choices, the phenomenon reflects a deeper truth about modern air travel — that even in the age of science and safety, emotion and symbolism still fly with us.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Effective July 1, 2025, Armenia will introduce visa-free entry for citizens and residents of Oman and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as part of a strategic initiative to strengthen economic relations, boost tour-

REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Oman's minister sheds light on one health policy in Tunis

TUNIS: Oman participated on Saturday in the activities of the Regional Conference for One Health for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region hosted by the Tunisian Republic. The Sultanate participated as guest of honour by an official delegation chaired by Dr. Hilal bin Ali bin Hilal Al Sabti, Minister of Health. Dr. Al Sabti gave a speech in which he reviewed the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman in implementing the one health policy. He said that the conference comes at a significant time and represents a vital platform for exchange of expertise and optimal practices which contributes to boosting the collective efforts and regional and international cooperation in the field. In his speech, the minister shed light on the Sultanate's efforts in implementing the one health policy. He added that the Sultanate has established several national mechanisms supportive to the one health policy and formed



teams in various sectors to further cement integration between the various sectors. The minister also described the leading role the Sultanate has played in the international arena in the antimicrobial resistance dossier by hosting the third high-level international ministerial meeting for the first time in the MENA region in Muscat in 2022. He said that the Muscat conference and its final declaration signed by 47 countries represents the foundation for the preparations for the high-level meeting in the UN to discuss the microbes' resistance issue held in New York on 26 September 2024. The Minister also pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman has launched the carbon neutrality (zero carbon) project, which represents a strategic pillar supportive to environmental health. The conference discussed a number of issues within the one health framework such as the basic principles and the global significance of the issue and implementation of the one health method and protection of nature under climate change conditions among other issues. — OMA.

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Israel and Iran launch new waves of missile attacks on each other



Iran has targeted Israel with several long-range missiles in retaliation for Israel's strikes on its nuclear sites

TEHRAN: Sirens are warning of incoming rockets in dozen's of communities in Israel's north. The Israel Defence Forces said the rockets were coming from Iran. A woman has died in Iran's missile strikes on Israel, according to Israeli media. The woman had been taken on Friday to Beilinson Hospital,

which has now confirmed her death, media report. More than 60 others were injured in Friday's missiles strikes on Gush Dan, according to Israel's emergency responders, Magen David Adom. **Three more nuclear scientists killed in Israeli strikes**

Three more Iranian nuclear scientists have been declared killed in Israeli attacks, the semi-official Tasnim news agency and state television reported on Saturday. The scientists were identified as Ali Bakaei Karimi, Mansour Asgari, and Saeid Borji, Tasnim said. It was not immediately clear when the three were killed. Six other nuclear scientists were reported by Iran to have been killed in strikes by Israel early on Friday. Israel has sought to justify its attacks on Iran by pointing to the country's nuclear programme, which Israel says is aimed at producing nuclear weapons. Iran has denied that it wants nuclear weapons, although the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday condemned

Iran says nuclear talks with US now 'meaningless' after Israeli strike

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday said that any talks with the United States over Tehran's nuclear programme are now "meaningless" following Israel's recent attack on Iranian territory, according to a report by Mehr News Agency (MNA). Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh stated that the US cannot claim to be negotiating while allegedly permitting Israel to carry out military strikes. "The other side (the US) acted in a way that makes dialogue meaningless. You cannot claim to negotiate and at the same time divide work by allowing the Zionist regime (Israel) to target Iran's territory," MNA, citing Baghaei, reported. Baghaei also accused the US of supporting the Israeli attack. He said that the Israeli regime "succeeded in influencing" the diplomatic process and claimed the strike would not have happened without Washington's permission.

Iran had previously accused the United States of being complicit in the Israeli military action. The sixth round of US-Iran nuclear talks was scheduled to take place on Sunday in Muscat. However, following the Israeli strikes, it remains unclear whether the meeting will proceed. Mehr News Agency, citing Reuters, reported that US President Donald Trump said he and his team were aware that the Israeli attacks were going to happen, but still believed there was a possibility for an agreement. Meanwhile, hours after the first Israeli strike, Trump issued a warning to Iran, urging it to strike a deal "before it is too late." In a statement shared on Truth Social, Trump said: "I gave Iran chance after chance to make a deal. I told them, in the strongest of words, to 'just do it,' but no matter how hard they tried, no matter how close they got, they just couldn't get

it done. I told them it would be much worse than anything they know, anticipated, or were told, that the United States makes the best and most lethal military equipment anywhere in the World, BY FAR, and that Israel has a lot of it, with much more to come - And they know how to use it. Certain Iranian hardliners spoke bravely, but they didn't know what was about to happen." "They are all DEAD now, and it will only get worse! There has already been great death and destruction, but there is still time to make this slaughter, with the next already planned attacks being even more brutal, come to an end. Iran must make a deal before there is nothing left, and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire. No more death, no more destruction. JUST DO IT, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. God Bless You All." POTUS added. Trump's comments come amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran. -ANI

Iran for its lack of compliance. Israel is widely believed to already possess several nuclear weapons, something which it has never publicly admitted. **Equipment at Iran's Fordo nuclear facility moved to safety ahead of attack: Iran** Iran moved equipment and materials at the Fordo nuclear facility to secure areas ahead of an attack on the site by Israel, the spokesman for the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, Behrus Kamalvandi, said on Saturday. The facility, some 100 kilometres southwest of the capital, Tehran, is located deep underground and is equipped with anti-aircraft guns. The site houses centrifuges used

for uranium enrichment, among other functions. Iranian authorities did not inform the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), of the facility's existence until 2009, two years after it was built. Intelligence agencies from the US and its Western allies had previously been aware it had been constructed. Iran state radio said on Saturday that another two generals were killed in Israeli strikes on Friday, bringing to eight the total number of senior military officers who have lost their lives. It said General Gholamreza Mehrabi, the intelligence deputy for the armed forces' general staff, and General Mehdi Rabbani, its deputy chief of operations, were both killed in Israeli bombings.

Among the other top military leaders killed, whose names were announced earlier, were armed forces chief General Mohammad Bagheri, the head of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, General Hossein Salami, and the Guard's ballistic missile programme chief, General Amir Ali Hajizadeh. **Israel's army chief announces Tehran attacks** Eyal Zamir, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of the General Staff, said that the Israeli military would start attacking "targets in Tehran," according to Israeli media. In a meeting with the IDF's Air Force head, the two said that the "route to Iran has been paved," referring to Israel's attacks on several military targets across Iran. -aw

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

US Democratic politician and husband shot dead in Minnesota

NEW YORK: Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said that US Democratic politician Melissa Hortman, a former state House Speaker, and her husband were killed in a politically motivated shooting. "My good friend and colleague, Speaker Melissa and her husband, Mark were shot and killed early this morning in what appears to be a politically motivated assassination," Walz announced on Saturday. A second lawmaker, State senator John Hoffman, and his wife Yvette were shot and wounded in a separate attack, the governor added. He said that officials remained "cautiously optimistic" that they would recover. "This was an act of targeted political violence," Walz said. "Peaceful discourse is the foundation of our democracy. We don't settle our differences with violence or at gunpoint." According to Walz, the gunman went to the Hortmans' home af-



ter shooting Hoffman and his wife multiple times. Meanwhile, law enforcement authorities said the gunman was dressed as a police officer. He escaped after exchanging fire with police who went to the Hortmans' home. A major search was underway for the suspect, who fled on foot after firing at police and abandoning a vehicle. According to law enforcement officials, officers found a "mani-

festo" in the vehicle. Both Hortman and Hoffman were mentioned in the suspect's writings alongside other legislators and officials. US President Donald Trump said he had been briefed on the "terrible shooting that took place in Minnesota, which appears to be a targeted attack against state lawmakers." "Such horrific violence will not be tolerated in the United States of America," he added. -aw

AHMEDABAD PLANE CRASH

Jaishankar in touch with Portugal, Canada, UK foreign ministers

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that he is in touch with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel, and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand regarding the Air India Flight AI171 crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Further, Jaishankar offered profound condolences to the families

and offered full support in this hour of grief. "In touch with FS @DavidLammy of the UK, FM @PauloRangel.pt of Portugal and FM @AnitaAnandMP of Canada regarding the Ahmedabad plane crash. Expressed our profound condolences and offered fullest support in this hour of grief," Jaishankar wrote on X. The Air India Boeing 787-8

Dreamliner from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick with 242 passengers crashed in Meghaninagar area at 1:39 pm (IST) shortly after it took off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. 241 people were killed in the crash. As per Air India, the passengers comprised 169 Indians, 53 British nationals, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals. -ANI



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Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology



إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

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

Tender Number	Tender Name	Date of Publishing	Last date to Purchase Tender Document	Submission Date	Companies who should participate in this Tender	Document Price
100/2025/ MTCIT	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BREAKWATER, A FIXED QUAY, AND RECLAMATION WORK AT PORT SULTAN QABOOS	12-6-2025	26-6-2025	24-7-2025	Experienced companies and registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board (Excellence & First Class)	(300/-) Three Hundred Omani Rial (Local, Regional and International companies) (20/-) Twenty Omani Rial (for Sme) Non-refundable

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

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:
Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

www.mtcitoman

www.mtcit.gov.om

Internal Tenders Committee

GCMA HOLDS CONFERENCE

The Gulf Capital Market Association (GCMA) on Thursday held a conference in Muscat to review major investment challenges and opportunities in regional capital markets and ways to develop a more attractive investment environment. **>B2**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



NBO LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN

The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has announced a limited-time campaign in partnership with Landmark Group, giving customers 20% bonus Shukrans when they convert their NBO Rewards for the first time. From 2 to 29 June 2025, the campaign rewards customers who link their NBO Rewards account with the Shukran loyalty programme. **>B2**

2.6 TIMES OVERSUBSCRIPTION

ahlibank successfully leads OMR100mn Sovereign Sukuk issuance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Demonstrating its growing leadership in Oman's capital markets, ahlibank, together with its Islamic window ahli is-lamic, has successfully led the issuance of an OMR100 million Sovereign Sukuk for the Government of Oman, in collaboration with other local institutions.

The transaction, which closed on 4 June 2025, was significantly oversubscribed by 2.6 times, with the final orderbook reaching OMR260 million.

Through a well-executed investor engagement strategy, ahlibank was able to tighten the average



yield to 4.625%, lower than the initially set profit rate of 4.65%, thereby securing optimal pricing

and outcomes for the Ministry of Finance.

This transaction marks a major

milestone for ahlibank as it represents the bank's first sovereign Sukuk issuance mandate from the Ministry of Finance.

Executed in under two weeks, the issuance highlights ahlibank's strong institutional relationships and its capacity to mobilise the market swiftly and efficiently.

The Sukuk attracted robust demand from a diverse investor base, including retail investors, conventional and Islamic banks, insurance companies, and pension funds. The robust investor response underscores the market's strong confidence in the Government of Oman's fiscal discipline, prudent economic policies, and

stable macroeconomic frame-work.

Led by ahlibank's Corporate Finance expertise, this issuance reinforces the bank's strategic role in supporting the government's funding objectives and contributing to the ongoing development of Oman's capital markets.

In a statement on the successful issuance, Hanaa Al Kharusi, Senior General Manager, Wholesale Banking at ahlibank, commented: "We are pleased to have partnered with the Ministry of Finance on this landmark issuance, which reflects our deep market expertise and strong execution capabilities. This successful transaction fur-

ther solidifies ahlibank's position as a trusted advisor in the Islamic capital markets and underscores our strategic focus on supporting national funding objectives. It also reinforces our commitment to building long-term partnerships with key government entities, paving the way for future collaborations that contribute to the continued development of Oman's financial sector."

This achievement further positions ahlibank as a dependable partner for large-scale public issuances and demonstrates its ability to deliver timely and impactful results in a dynamic market environment.

NCSI DATA



Postpaid mobile phone subscriptions in Oman increase by 5.8%

MUSCAT: The telecommunications sector in the Sultanate of Oman witnessed remarkable growth, with active postpaid mobile phone subscriptions rising by 5.8 percent by the end of April 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, reaching 1,235,884 subscriptions.

Statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) show that the number of active prepaid mobile phone subscriptions declined by 0.6 percent, reaching 5,280,057, indicating a gradual shift toward postpaid services with expanded benefits.

Internet of Things (IoT) subscriptions achieved exceptional growth of 121 percent, reaching 1,552,577 subscriptions by the end of April 2025. This reflects the expansion in the use of smart technology in the logistics, industrial, and smart city sectors, as the Sultanate of Oman moves towards complete digital transformation.

The total number of mobile phone subscriptions in the Sultanate of Oman reached 8.68 million subscriptions by the end

of April 2025, registering a 12.3 percent increase compared to the end of April 2024. The total number of active mobile broadband Internet subscriptions reached 5.37 million by the end of April 2025.

Active fixed broadband subscriptions increased by 2.5 percent to reach 587,144 subscriptions by the end of April 2025, compared to the same period in 2024. Fibre optic services increased by 11.9 percent to reach 337,138 subscriptions. Fixed 5G subscriptions increased by 2.6 percent to reach 215,217 subscriptions by the end of April 2025, while fixed 4G subscriptions declined by 36.9 percent to record 21,103 subscriptions.

In contrast, some traditional services recorded a significant decline, with ADSL subscriptions declining by 52.6 percent to 12,536, and satellite subscriptions declining by 44.8 percent to 368 by the end of April 2025. Total active fixed-line subscriptions also declined by 0.6 percent to 439,662 by the end of April 2025, compared to the same period last year. **-ONA**

Madayn is currently home to 98 food industry projects across its various industrial cities, occupying over 1.5 million square metres and providing employment for more than 3,600 workers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total investment in the food sector within the industrial cities under the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) has now exceeded OMR164 million, marking a major milestone in supporting national food security and economic diversification.

Madayn is currently home to 98 food industry projects across its various industrial cities, occupying over 1.5 million square metres and providing employment for more than 3,600 workers. This achievement reflects Madayn's



continued efforts, in collaboration with related bodies, primarily the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, to enhance local and foreign investment opportunities and attract quality projects that support the Sultanate's food security goals in alignment with Oman Vision 2040.

Khalid Al Salehi, Director General of Marketing and Commercial Affairs at Madayn, stated that Madayn has successfully localised 13 new projects in the food industries sector during 2025, attracting a total investment exceeding OMR14 million. These projects will be established across more than 224,000 sqm area, covering activities such as the production of vegetable oils, flour, tuna, bottled

water, food packaging, and logistics projects. Al Salehi added that efforts are ongoing to localise more projects in this sector throughout 2025, with several contracts currently under review.

As part of its strategic focus on the food industry, Madayn continues to allocate dedicated plots within its industrial cities. Additionally, agricultural zones have been designated in Madayn's new industrial cities in Al Mudhaibi, Thumrait, and Al Suwaiq to support integrated agri-industrial development. Among Madayn's key initiatives to support this sector is the "Madayn Agriculture" project in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. The initiative aims



to establish greenhouses in selected industrial cities to promote local food production, encourage entrepreneurship, enhance food security, and support trade balance by boosting exports and reducing imports.

In a step toward international collaboration, Madayn has also signed a memorandum of understanding with a South Korean company to develop a specialised food industry project in the Sultanate. The project will focus on establishing smart farms for growing Korean fruits and the launch of a café centered around farm-produced goods.

Al Salehi emphasised that Madayn has recently intensified its promotional efforts for investment opportunities in the food industry sector, both locally and globally, through targeted marketing campaigns and participation in specialised exhibitions.

The food industries sector represents one of the key pillars of the Sultanate's industrial base, being a fundamental component of the national food security system in conjunction with other production chains, and a vital sector for achieving economic diversification in line with Oman Vision 2040.

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

Daily trading volume on MSX rose by 19.2% during the week

MUSCAT: Daily trading volume at the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) rose by 19.2 percent during the week, as investors bought shares of companies affiliated with the Oman Investment Authority (OIA), following improved financial results. Local investment funds and institutions were also active in buying shares.

The daily trading average last week reached OMR13.1 million, compared to OMR11 million the week before. The week witnessed three trading days, compared to four trading days the week before, coinciding with the Eid Al Adha holiday.

Trading data released by the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) showed an increase in trading on OQ Basic Industries shares, which witnessed trades worth OMR7,694,000, representing 19.5 percent of the total trading value. OQ Gas Networks witnessed trades worth OMR6,107,000, while OQ Exploration and Production shares traded at OMR6,073,000. Asyad Shipping Company's shares witnessed trades worth OMR4,694,000. The four companies accounted for 62.4 percent of the total trading



value witnessed by the MSX during the week, which amounted to OMR39.3 million.

Local investment institutions were net buyers, accounting for 69.3 percent of the total trading value, while sales accounted for 65.1 percent of the total trading value. At the indices level, the Muscat Stock Exchange's main index fell 35 points last week, closing at 4,543 points, breaking a six-week upward trend amid profit-taking following gains in the shares of several leading companies over the past weeks.

The industrial sector index recorded losses of 94 points, the

financial sector index declined by 44 points, the services sector index lost 12 points, and the Sharia index recorded a decline of approximately 3 points, closing at 441 points.

The market capitalisation of the MSX rose to OMR28.88 billion at the end of trading on Thursday, recording weekly gains of OMR82 million. This rise was supported by the share of OQ Exploration and Production, the largest company listed on the MSX in terms of market capitalisation at OMR2.496 billion. **-ONA**

Full story at timesofoman.com/business

Oman's stock market falls in weekly trading

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market posted a negative performance during the week, declining by 0.78%. Its performance was similar to other markets in the region, with a fall on the last day of trading impacted by the latest geopolitical developments, according to an industry expert.

"This led to a risk-off behaviour, prompting investors to move towards safe-haven assets," said George Pavel, General Manager at Naga.com Middle East.

This week's performance came after six consecutive weeks of positive recovery in the market, which followed a long period of decline. "While this week's losses were limited, the escalations in the regional geopolitical sphere indicate



potential for continued fear and pressure in the market next week," said George Pavel. "Oil prices experienced a strong jump this week, especially following military operations in Iran. While a higher oil price could be beneficial to the economies in the region, geopolitical risks could continue to weigh on stocks," he added.

The downturn was felt across all sectors, with the Industrial sector leading the losses with a 1.44% decline.

Significant drops were seen in Al Anwar Ceramic, which plunged 6.09%, and Al Maha Ceramics, which decreased by 4.21%. Gulf Mushroom Products also contributed to the sector's negative performance with a 0.45% fall.

Similarly, the Services sector registered a 0.79% loss. Among its constituents, OQ Gas Networks was notably active as one of the week's most traded stocks, closing 1.27% lower. Other decliners included National Gas with a steep 6.45% drop, Asyad Shipping which fell by 1.6%, and Oman Telecom which was down 0.71%.

The Financial sector also contributed to the market's negative trend, recording a 0.56% decline. This drop was influenced by a 6.21% fall in Bank Dhofar's shares.

MARKET

Sohar International named as the ‘Middle East Best Employer Brand’

Representing the bank at the ceremony, Mahira Saleh Al Raisi, Chief People Officer at Sohar International, attended the event and received the award on behalf of

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its position as a distinguished employer of choice in the region, Sohar International was recently awarded the prestigious ‘Middle East Best Employer Brand’ award, an accom-



plade conferred by the World HRD Congress in association with the Employer Branding Institute.

Multi-tiered selection process
Known for its rigorous and multi-tiered selection process—comprising expert recommendations, independent research, and jury evaluation by global industry leaders—the Employer Branding Awards celebrates organisations that exemplify excellence in talent strategy and forward-thinking people practices.
Sohar International's recognition underscores its steadfast commitment to fostering a performance-driven, inclusive culture—anchored in the belief that human capital is central to long-term value creation and institutional growth.
Representing the bank at the ceremony, Mahira Saleh Al Raisi, Chief People Officer at Sohar International, attended the event and received the award on behalf of the bank—further highlighting the leadership's active

role in driving the bank's people agenda forward.
Commenting on the achievement, Mahira Saleh Al Raisi, Chief People Officer, at Sohar International stated, “Our people are integral to every milestone we achieve and every transformation we lead. At Sohar International, we believe that sustained performance stems from an environment where talent is nurtured, ideas are valued, and purpose is shared. We approach human capital with the same clarity and ambition that drives our business strategy—ensuring our people grow as the organisation evolves. From fostering inclusive leadership to building next-generation capabilities, our focus on empowering individuals at every level is a strategic imperative that supports our broader goals of being a resilient and future-forward institution. This recognition reaffirms that the investment we place in our people is both meaningful and measurable.”
Sohar International's selection for the award was based on its ability to deliver impact-driven

HR practices aligned with the bank's overarching transformation agenda.
The jury commended the bank's integrated talent strategy—ranging from proactive recruitment models and competency-based development pathways to inclusive leadership pipelines and retention mechanisms designed to future-proof the workforce.
Notably, the bank's structured efforts toward fostering diversity, and women's empowerment have set a regional benchmark. In parallel, Sohar International has embedded robust health, wellness, and recognition initiatives that cultivate a high-engagement culture, while its broader social responsibility efforts reflect a values-based approach to growth.
The award underscores Sohar International's holistic and progressive approach to workforce development, reflecting a careful balance between operational excellence and human capital sustainability, as well as organisational ambition and long-term societal impact.

LOYALTY PROGRAMME

NBO launches exclusive summer bonus with Shukran

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has announced a limited-time campaign in partnership with Landmark Group, giving customers 20% bonus Shukrans when they convert their NBO Rewards for the first time. From 2 to 29 June 2025, the campaign rewards customers who link their NBO Rewards account with the Shukran loyalty programme, unlocking added value on their summer shopping.
As part of the offer, customers converting their NBO Rewards to Shukrans for the first time will receive

an additional 20% in bonus Shukrans, with a maximum cap of 10,000 Shukrans per customer. The bonus is credited immediately and is valid for 90 days, offering ample time to enjoy added savings across Landmark Group's wide network of brands.
Maha Al Raisi, Assistant General Manager and Head of Retail Products at NBO, said: “We are excited to enhance our collaboration with Landmark Group through this summer campaign. By offering our customers 20% extra Shukrans on their first conversion,

we are adding value to their shopping experience and giving them more ways to enjoy the benefits of their loyalty. It reflects our ongoing commitment to rewarding customers with convenient and engaging financial solutions that meet their lifestyle.”
To participate, customers must register with both NBO Rewards and Shukran. Once linked, they can complete their first conversion directly through the NBO App and instantly enjoy the summer bonus.
Shukran is the region's leading retail loyalty programme, of-

fering customers the chance to earn and redeem rewards across popular Landmark brands including Centrepoin, Max, Home Centre, Babyshop, Splash, Lifestyle, E-max, and Oasis Mall. This partnership builds on NBO's commitment to customer-centric innovation and convenience in digital banking.
Founded 50 years ago with a single store in Bahrain, Landmark Group has grown into a retail and hospitality giant headquartered in Dubai. The Group operates over 2,200 retail stores and more

than 160 leisure and hospitality outlets. Landmark's portfolio includes 25 homegrown brands and numerous franchises, establishing a significant presence across the GCC, Middle East, India, Southeast Asia, and Africa. Landmark's extensive brand portfolio includes Centrepoin, Babyshop, Shoemart, Lifestyle, Splash, Max, Home Centre, Home Box, Shoexpress, and hospitality brands such as Fitness First and Citymax Hotels. For more information, please visit our website or follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram.



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A PREMIUM SUV

Own the new luxury Lincoln Nautilus for OMR19,999 with summer campaign benefits

MUSCAT: Luxury vehicle enthusiasts can now own the luxury Lincoln Nautilus for a rare price of OMR19,999 and also avail exclusive summer campaign benefits such as 5 Years / 100,000 km Service (whichever is earlier), 5 Years / 100,000 km Manufacturer's Warranty, Free Registration, Free 3M Paint Protection Film and Free Accessory Package. (Conditions apply. Visit the Lincoln showroom in Wattayah for details.) The offer ends on 23rd July 2025.
Sharing his thoughts on the new Nautilus, a spokesperson from Arabian Car Marketing Company said, “To make a vehicle of this calibre available at such a rare price is our way of giving customers the opportunity to own not just a premium SUV, but a true expression of luxury, design and technology.”
With its confident stance and refined elegance, the Lincoln Nautilus turns every arrival into a statement. From its contemporary silhouette and signature grille to the sculpted rear fascia and elegant full-width light bar, the Nautilus is a study in sophistication. A newly designed spoiler adds both flair and aerodynamic efficiency, while the Reserve trim ups the ante with stunning

21" bright machined aluminium wheels, highlighting prestige from every angle.
Inside, the Nautilus is an oasis of serenity. Ambient lighting, acoustic side glass and high-end materials create a tranquil, immersive experience.
The redesigned steering wheel is wrapped in premium Wollsdorf leather, with precision European stitching that elevates the touchpoints of every drive. At the heart of the cabin sits a high-definition 11.1-inch LCD Capacitive Touchscreen, offering intuitive control over infotainment and navigation systems. The Nautilus is not just about luxury, it is built to perform. A 2.0-liter turbocharged engine delivers an impressive 250 hp and 380 Nm of torque, perfectly paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission and Lincoln's intelligent all-wheel-drive system. Adaptive suspension and AWD

disconnect ensure a composed and responsive ride, while Auto Start-Stop technology adds to its efficiency.
Equipped with Lincoln Co-Pilot360, the Nautilus brings intelligent safety to the forefront. From BLIS with Cross-Traffic Alert to Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection and Lane-Keeping System, every drive is underpinned by proactive protection. Add in Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop-and-Go and Lane Centering, and long journeys become as effortless as they are enjoyable.
In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co. LLC. Please log on to www.lincolnoman.com, or www.facebook.com/lincolnoman or www.instagram.com/lincoln_oman for the latest news, test drive requests and the latest press releases.

CONFERENCE IN MUSCAT

Investment opportunities reviewed

MUSCAT: The Gulf Capital Market Association (GCMA) on Thursday held a conference in Muscat to review major investment challenges and opportunities in regional capital markets and ways to develop a more attractive investment environment. The conference was attended by 150 participants, including senior executives from financial institutions, asset managers, representatives of investment funds

and analysts from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad.
The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.
The conference laid emphasis on the importance of economic diversification, means of enhancing financial stability and the role of institutional reforms in supporting sustainable development. Panel discussions at the confer-

ence discussed developments in regional credit ratings, corporate financing mechanisms (through debt instruments, notably in the small and medium enterprises sector) and opportunities for integration among GCC financial markets.
The conference also underscored the growing role of technology and AI in developing investment tools and expanding the base of investors. — OMA

LIFESTYLE



A new study confirms what many parents already knew:
children give life meaning. The price that parents pay is lower life satisfaction,
especially for mothers — but some countries fare better than others

Once heard someone say, “Having a child is like outsourcing a vital organ that runs around outside all by itself and climbs trees.” Having a child is as fascinating and meaningful as it can also be worrying and exhausting. A new study on parental satisfaction confirms this apparent contradiction. Compared to people who are childfree, parents feel their lives are more fulfilled. However, parents are not more satisfied with their lives than non-parents. On the contrary: they are often more dissatisfied. These are the findings of the sociologists Marita Jacob and Ansgar Hudde from the University of Cologne, published this month in the specialist Journal of Marriage and Family. The researchers based their study on data from the European Social Survey, which had more than 43,000 respondents from 30 countries. Scandinavia: Hardly any difference between parents and childfree “Parents in challenging life situations are less satisfied,” says Marita Jacob, a sociology profes-

sor at the University of Cologne. Challenging might mean, for example, that they are a single parent, young, with low educational qualifications. Hardly surprising, you might think, that they are less satisfied. But Jacob says it is not inevitable. “In Scandinavian countries, the differences between social groups are far less pronounced,” she says. In these countries, the difference in life satisfaction between parents and child-free people is also far less than, for example, in central and eastern Europe. **Family policy measures** Childcare, financial support for parents, parental leave — these family policy measures work very well in the Scandinavian countries, says Jacob. “My speculation is that these measures impact on society as a whole, meaning that children are not seen solely as their parents’ problem, but as a responsibility for the community as a whole.” This attitude is also reflected in Scandinavian business culture, Jacob says. She explains that it is

more normal there for parents to start and leave work early, as well as for important meetings to be scheduled around the rhythm of family life. **Greater gender equality leads to greater satisfaction** Family life is still primarily taken care of by women. In Germany, one in two women reduces her working hours in order to be able to look after her children. Just under 6% of German men who work part-time do so for family reasons. The majority of parental leave in Germany is also taken by mothers. Another factor that may help to explain why parents in Finland are more satisfied than parents in Germany is gender equality. Equal pay in the Scandinavian countries, and a smaller gender pay gap as a result, means women there are more satisfied, says Jacob. She adds that this also has positive effects on the partnership, and thus also on the family. “A child is not a project you can manage all by yourself” Marita Jacob says that when

her children were small, she banded together with other parents. “We would each always pick up several children from the kindergarten.” Anyone who has small children knows that an extra half-hour, or half an hour less, can absolutely determine whether or not the day will end in a nervous breakdown. This is why Jacob recommends that parents should not only offer each other more support, but should also accept it when offered. Children are important — not only to counterbalance our ageing society, which won’t be able to look after all its senior citizens without a young generation. As Marita Jacob stresses: “Children also have intrinsic value. They bring liveliness, new ideas and innovations to society.” This is why the sociologist believes that the bulk of the responsibility for them lies with policymakers. “Children shouldn’t be their parents’ problem when childcare is unreliable, or there are problems with the school,” she says. “Children are the responsibility of society as a whole.” -dw

SPORTS

Burns in lead as Scheffler, McIlroy make US Open cut

Only three players out of a field of 156 are under par at the halfway stage of the tournament at the Oakmont Country Club

PITTSBURGH: America's Sam Burns hit a sensational five-under 65 to seize the lead on three under on an attritional second day at the US Open, underway at the Oakmont Country Club.

Only three players out of a field of 156 are under par at the halfway stage with Burns making six birdies and just one bogey in a morning round that looked better as the day progressed.

Overnight leader JJ Spaun, who was the only player to go bogey-free in round one, hit a two-over 72 and is second on two under, while Norway's Viktor Hovland is one under after a 68.

The glacial pace of play and arrival of a late storm meant 13 players were unable to complete their second rounds and will return to do so on Saturday.

The world's top two players Scottie Scheffler and Rory McIlroy were among those battling to make the weekend and both did enough to make the cut, which is projected to be seven over and will see the top 60 and ties play the final two rounds.

US PGA Championship winner

Scheffler scrapped to a 71, mixing four birdies with five bogeys to finish on four over par, seven shots off the lead.

As for McIlroy, he recovered from a nightmare start where he double-bogeyed two of his first three holes to shoot a 72, birdieing the last to finish at six over par.

Tyrrell Hatton is the best-placed Englishman on three over after a 70. Scotland's Robert MacIntyre and England's Aaron Rai are a shot further back, while American world No.3 Xander Schauffele, who has never finished outside the top 15 in his eight appearances, is six over.

Defending champion Bryson DeChambeau is heading home though after a round that included eight bogeys and a double bogey left him 10 over.

While the field toiled on a day for golfing purists, Burns proved Oakmont could be tamed by making a mockery of its grisly challenge.

Sensational from tee to green, he actually missed decent opportunities down the stretch to add to his 11 birdies over the first two



rounds before holing a 22-foot putt to save par at the final hole.

If he continues with his usually reliable putting stroke - he is first on the PGA Tour this season for strokes gained on the greens - he will be well placed to fight for his maiden major title.

Another in that bracket is Hovland who, playing alongside Scheffler, lit up the front nine with some excellent iron play.

Australia's Adam Scott, winner of the Masters in 2013 and playing in his 96th consecutive major, is the only player to shoot level par

or better in both rounds with a pair of 70s.

Two-time US Open champion Brooks Koepka has shown glimpses of his impressive major-winning credentials but was scrappy in a round of 74 to drop to two over par.

Two shots further behind, the 2021 champion Jon Rahm saw his challenge falter, having impressed on day one.

DeChambeau was a shadow of the player who stormed to victory at Pinehurst last June as his title defence faded with a whimper.

Sweden's Ludvig Aberg and England's Tommy Fleetwood are also heading home, finishing at eight over and nine over respectively.

Six-time runner-up Phil Mickelson, who suggested this may be his last US Open, missed a birdie putt on the last to end up on the wrong side of the cut line.

Meanwhile, France's Victor Perez had a hole-in-one at the par-three sixth and a triple-bogey eight in a level-par 70 that kept him at one over and inside the top ten. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Real Madrid sign Argentina record-breaker Mastantuono

MADRID: Real Madrid have signed Franco Mastantuono, the youngest player to ever feature in a competitive match for Argentina, from River Plate.

River Plate will receive 45m euros (£38.5m) after the 17-year-old's release clause was triggered, which sets a new record for the Argentine club.

The attacking midfielder has regularly played for River Plate's first team over the past two seasons and is the youngest player to have scored in their derby with Boca Juniors.

Last week, he became Argentina's youngest debutant in a competitive fixture when he was brought on as a late substitute in a 1-0 World Cup qualifying win against Chile.

His six-year deal begins on 14 August, the day he turns 18. He is Real's third signing of the summer, following the arrivals of defenders Trent Alexander-Arnold from Liverpool and Dean Huijsen from Bournemouth. - Agencies



FRENCH LIGUE 1



Pogba eyes return with Monaco after doping ban

PARIS: Former Manchester United and Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba is in advanced talks with top-flight French Ligue 1 club Monaco as he seeks a return to football after a doping suspension.

The French World Cup winner, 32, is moving towards a return to his homeland with the Ligue 1 side.

BBC Sport understands discussions have revolved around the midfielder signing a two-year contract with Monaco,

who hope to close the deal in the coming days.

Talks have been ongoing for a number of weeks, with Pogba training before pre-season as he plots his return to action.

Pogba was provisionally suspended after being randomly tested following Juventus' opening game of the 2023-24 season against Udinese. He later received a four-year ban which was slashed to 18 months in October following an appeal.

He agreed a mutual termina-

tion of his contract with Juventus in November and has been free to recommence his career since March.

In the Court of Arbitration for Sport's final judgement on his case it was confirmed that Pogba did inadvertently take DHEA, a substance that boosts testosterone and is on the World Anti-Doping Agency's banned list.

Crucially, however, the ruling stated that DHEA only has an effect on performance for females. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool agree £116m deal for Florian Wirtz

LONDON: Premier League champions Liverpool have agreed a £116m deal to sign Germany attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz from Bayer Leverkusen.

The fee for the 22-year-old includes a guaranteed £100m and a further £16m in add-ons.

Those bonus payments would only become payable if the Reds achieve a sustained level of success - which would then make it a British record.

The British record for an initial fee remains Chelsea's £107m signing of Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez from Benfica in 2023.

Chelsea also brought in Brighton midfielder Moises Caicedo for an initial £100m fee, which could rise to £115m.

The move will, however, be a club record fee for Liverpool.

Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez was brought in from Benfica in a deal worth an initial £64m and rising to a potential £85m with add-ons, while they paid £75m to sign centre-back Virgil van Dijk from Southampton in 2018.

Manchester City had been keen on Wirtz before cooling their interest because of the costs involved in the deal, while Bayern Munich were also linked with him.

Wirtz is believed to have made it clear that his preference was a move to Anfield, with Liverpool negotiating a deal which is below Leverkusen's valuation of about £126m.

Wirtz made his debut for Leverkusen at the age of 17, scoring 57 goals in 197 games for the club, and helped them win the Bundesliga for the first time in 2024.

He has scored seven goals in 31 appearances for Germany since



making his international debut in 2021. Wirtz is set to become the second player Liverpool have bought from Bayer Leverkusen this summer, with right full-back Jeremie Frimpong having arrived in a £34m deal.

The Reds will now turn their attention to securing a deal for Bournemouth left-back Milos Kerkez, with talks taking place about a deal of between £45m-£50m.

Liverpool, having won the 2024-25 Premier League title in manager Arne Slot's first season, have sought to bolster their squad - and the level of their outlay is believed to have been helped by limiting their spending in previous transfer windows.

In terms of departures, Liverpool have sold Republic of Ireland keeper Caoimhin Kelleher to Brentford for an initial £12.5m, which could rise to £18m. - Agencies

KING CHARLES BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Former England captain Beckham awarded knighthood

LONDON: David Beckham was awarded a knighthood in King Charles' Birthday Honours.

The former England football captain, 50, was earlier appointed an officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2003.

Beckham played 115 times for his country as well as for Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan, retiring in 2013.

Beckham was reportedly first nominated for a knighthood in 2011. The former footballer married singer and fashion designer Victoria Beckham in 1999.

The couple share four children -

Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz and Harper Seven.

Beckham played a key role in securing the London 2012 Olympics, and has been an ambassador for Unicef since 2005.

He is also part-owner of League Two side Salford City, as well as president and co-owner of Major League Soccer team Inter Miami in the United States.

Among the other sports stars included in the King's birthday's honours list were darts players Luke Littler and Luke Humphries, who became MBEs, while women tennis star Virginia Wade is made a CBE and knighthood was con-



firmed for Billy Boston.

Former tennis player Wade, meanwhile, is the only British woman to have won titles at all

four majors. She is honoured for her services to the sport and charity.

Motorcyclist Michael Dunlop

- the winner of a record 33 Isle of Man TT races, will become an MBE. The Northern Irish rider has carried on racing after the death of his father, brother and uncle in road accidents.

Aston Villa striker Rachel Daly - capped 84 times by England - is another to become an MBE, along with golfer Trish Johnson, BBC gymnastics commentator Christine Still, Bury FC chair Marcel de Matas and former Great Britain basketball player Julius Joseph.

Boxer Natasha Jonas, former Great Britain ice hockey captain Saffron Lane and wheelchair tennis player Andy Lapthorne are also

honoured along with former England cricketers Steven Davies, external and David 'Syd' Lawrence.

Deta Hedman - the winner of more than 200 titles and the first black woman to play in the PDC World Darts Championship - is made an OBE, as is former England cricketer Devon Malcom.

Retired Paralympic swimming champion and volleyball player Monica Vaughan and two-time Olympic triathlon champion Alistair Brownlee are also anointed OBEs. So too is Oldham Athletic owner Frank Rothwell, for charitable services to dementia research. - Agencies

FEATURES



2024-2025 season NBA Finals: Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Indiana Pacers
Obi Toppin (top right) of Indiana Pacers goes for a layup during game four of the 2024-2025 season NBA Finals between Oklahoma City Thunder and Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis, Indiana, the United States. — Xinhua



Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City
This picture shows a squirrel in Chapultepec Zoo, Mexico City, capital of Mexico. Chapultepec Zoo, located in the heart of Mexico City, is one of the most popular zoos in Latin America and is open to the public free of charge. — Xinhua



Typhoon Wutip makes 2nd landfall in south China
An aerial drone picture shows boats berthing in Zhanjiang City, south China's Guangdong Province. Typhoon Wutip, the first typhoon of this year, made its second landfall near Leizhou City in south China's Guangdong Province, according to the provincial meteorological observatory. — Xinhua

Medieval Festival held in Hameenlinna, Finland
Participants dressed in medieval-style costumes pose for a photo at the Medieval Festival in Hameenlinna, Finland. The southern Finnish city of Hameenlinna hosts its annual Medieval Festival. — Xinhua



Dhanush, Rashmika Mandanna during a song launch event of upcoming movie 'Kuberaa'
Actors Dhanush, Rashmika Mandanna and Nagarjuna pose for a picture during a song launch event of their upcoming movie 'Kuberaa', in Mumbai. — ANI Photo



Highlight of World Aquatics Artistic Swimming World Cup 2025-Super Final
Gold medalists Lin Yanjun/Xu Huiyan of China (centre), silver medalists Higa Moe/Sato Tomoka of Japan (left) and bronze medalists Txell Ferre Gaset/Lilou Luis Valette of Spain pose on the podium during the awarding ceremony for the women duet technical event at the World Aquatics Artistic Swimming World Cup 2025-Super Final in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. — Xinhua



Highlight of 2025 Tianjin Fashion Week
Humanoid robot models present creations at the 2025 Tianjin Fashion Week in north China's Tianjin. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Royal Oman Police & Bank Muscat: Continued partnership to combat risks of financial electronic fraud

Recently, three awareness videos were launched across various media and social media platforms, delivering crucial messages about emerging types of fraud that utilise suspicious websites, links, and electronic transactions



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat and the Royal Oman Police (ROP) continue the successful awareness campaign aimed at educating the community about the risks of electronic financial fraud and effective prevention strategies.

Recently, three awareness videos were launched across various media and social media platforms, delivering crucial messages about emerging types of fraud that utilise suspicious websites, links, and electronic transactions. The campaign emphasises the importance of safeguarding personal informa-

tion, particularly the risks associated with sharing PIN numbers during these transactions.

The first video warns against suspicious websites that exploit users' personal data, urging caution when interacting with digital platforms that masquerade as legitimate services.

The second video addresses the dangers of fake links promising jobs or products, which can lead to data theft. While the third video focuses on the importance of not sharing financial data or bank account credentials, highlighting the



need for vigilance in the face of rising cybercrime.

This collaboration between ROP and Bank Muscat reflects a commitment to enhancing community safety by equipping individuals and businesses with the knowledge to recognise fraudulent schemes. The campaign aims to inform the public about various fraud types and the ever-evolving tactics used by fraudsters, while also providing practical advice on how to protect their financial information. It emphasises the necessity for users to verify the credibility of any website, link, or

platform before disclosing sensitive personal or financial information, to prevent falling victim to fraud and identity theft.

Bank Muscat is dedicated to strengthening partnerships with various institutions, including the ROP and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, to combat electronic financial fraud.

The Bank seeks to empower the public with essential information to identify and avoid fraud.

For any inquiries regarding electronic fraud, individuals can contact the Royal Oman Police at 80077444.

GENERAL AUTOMOTIVE COMPANY



Stay cool with Mitsubishi's exclusive summer campaign

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, is making summer driving more rewarding with its exclusive Summer Campaign, offering unbeatable value across the Mitsubishi lineup.

With low EMI options, now is the perfect time to upgrade your ride. The Montero Sport delivers exceptional comfort and control, powered by a 3.0L V6 petrol engine and 8-speed automatic transmission. Advanced safety features such as Forward Collision Mitigation and 7 SRS airbags provide peace of mind, while luxury touches like a sunroof and plush leather seats elevate the driving experience. EMI starts from RO 165 with free service up to 5 years or 100,000 km.

For those seeking city-friendly

versatility, the ASX offers a compact yet spacious design with an advanced 4WD system for superior grip. Enhanced safety features, LED lighting, and keyless entry ensure a secure and effortless drive. EMI starts from RO 89, with free service for 5 years or 100,000 km.

The L200, available in Double CAB and Single CAB variants, combines rugged capability with modern comfort.

Featuring a 2.4L petrol engine, Active Stability and Traction Control, and a heavy-duty suspension, it ensures optimal performance in any condition. Spacious interiors, keyless entry, and high-grade fabric seats make every journey more convenient. EMI starts from RO 89 for SCAB and RO 99 for DCAB, with free service for 2 years or 30,000 km.

Along with special financing,

customers can enjoy free insurance and registration, Llumar window tint, a RO 50 gift voucher, and Mitsubishi's 6-year unlimited kilometre warranty, providing long-term peace of mind.

"This summer, savings take centre stage as we bring customers unbeatable value on the Mitsubishi range," said Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC. "Whether it's thrilling road trips or everyday drives, our campaign ensures financial flexibility and support to maximize summer enjoyment—with confidence and comfort."

This limited-time offer is available across Mitsubishi's full range. Visit your nearest Mitsubishi showroom in Athaiba, Mabela, Barka, Sohar, Nizwa, Ibri, Sur, Jalan Bani Bu Ali, or Salalah, or contact 24 500 500 via call or WhatsApp for more details.

ACROSS OMAN

OAB's Tumouhi initiative hits the road with SME development workshops

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) has announced the launch of its SME Development Training Roadshow, a dynamic two-day programme set to take place in Nizwa from June 17 to 18 under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Dr. Faisal bin Ali bin Rashid Al Zidi, Wali of Manah.

Held under the umbrella of the Bank's Tumouhi initiative, the roadshow is tailored to equip small and medium enterprise (SME) owners with essential business skills, financial knowledge, and networking opportunities to fuel their growth.

Most notably, this is the third workshop after the Muscat and Sohar events, with the bank's aim to continue to cover all regions in the Sultanate of Oman.

The workshop will be hosted at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hall in Nizwa and is open to SME owners and aspiring entrepreneurs across the Sultanate.

With a comprehensive agenda covering financial literacy, strategic planning, human resources, and marketing, participants will gain hands-on insights to help scale their ventures.

Commenting on the initiative, Sulaiman Al Harthi, CEO of Oman Arab Bank, said, "At Oman Arab Bank, we believe SMEs are the backbone of our economy. Through the Tumouhi initiative, we are committed



to empowering entrepreneurs with the skills and tools they need to thrive. The roadshow ascends being a mere training program. Truly, it is a platform for inspiration, connection, and sustainable growth."

The Tumouhi SME Roadshow reflects OAB's broader commitment to national economic devel-

opment through targeted support for small businesses. The initiative also aligns with Oman Vision 2040 by fostering a resilient private sector powered by innovation, inclusion, and enterprise. Interested participants can register via the official OAB website. Seats are limited and early registration is encouraged.

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800 50800
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@changanoman
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