



ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN



RAFO begins recruitment for pilot and air officer candidates

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, has commenced the evaluation and acceptance procedures for individuals seeking to join military service as pilot and air officer cadets.

Applicants will undergo several evaluation stages in line with RAFO's established recruitment

procedures to reach the final acceptance phase.

The RAFO is dedicating all its expertise and capabilities to provide the necessary administrative and technical support to facilitate the enrollment process, allowing qualified individuals to join the ranks of national honor and duty.

These dedicated efforts by the Sultan's Armed Forces aim to absorb citizens, in accordance with established plans and programs for employing Omanis.

The goal is to provide the branches of the Sultan's Armed Forces and other departments within the Ministry of Defence with competent national cadres. -ONA

'Khareef Dhofar 2025 Explorer' project launched



The launch ceremony was held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar



TAQAH: The "Khareef Dhofar 2025 Explorer" project was launched on Sunday evening at Darbat Park in Dhofar Governorate.

The initiative aims to enhance the experience of visitors of Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season through an interactive digital platform that documents their participation in events.

It also supports digital transformation in event management, provides accurate data on visitor patterns and distribution, encourages family participation, and reduces reliance on paper materials.

The launch ceremony was held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

Sumayyah Abdullah Al Ramadhani, CEO of Elif Entrepreneurship, the project's implementing

company, stated that the launch of the "Explorer" represents the first digital experience of its kind in Oman. It combines entertainment, exploration, and digital transformation during tourism seasons and enables small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in the rich and diverse tourism landscape.

Mohammed Mohsin Al Maamari, an investor at Darbat Park, noted that the project is a qualitative addition to the Khareef Dhofar season. He said it promotes sustainable tourism by integrating technology and entertainment, opening up new horizons for domestic tourism.

The launch event included a visual presentation of the initia-

tive and the launch of the "Dhofar Khareef 2025 Explorer" digital platform. The platform allows visitors to receive a digital stamp upon attending any event. It also enables users to manage multiple explorers within a single account and provides instant, accurate analytics to support strategic planning and decision-making.

The project is a collaboration with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Dhofar Municipality. It aims to integrate modern technologies into events, enhance environmental sustainability, reduce waste, and support digital transformation by automating attendance registration and analysing visitor behaviour. -ONA

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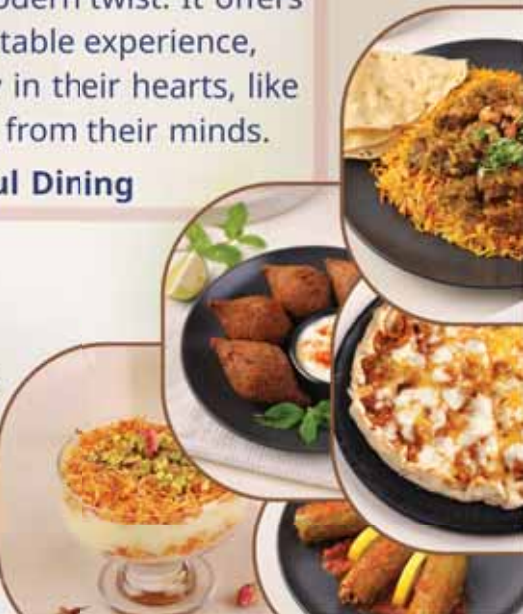
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MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Forged professional certificates to attract legal action

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has warned individuals and companies against submitting forged Professional Classification and Licensing Certificates, stressing that such violations will lead to legal accountability and action.

In a statement, the Ministry said it has detected repeated cases of forged certificates and reminded that only licences issued by authorised Sector Skills Units, licensed by the Ministry, are valid. Any classification or licence obtained from unapproved training institutes or assessment centres will be deemed invalid.

The Ministry added that monitoring of these institutes will be intensified, and any violations will result in legal consequences.

It emphasised that professional classification and licensing are not formalities but essential to ensure quality and efficiency of work, strengthen employer and client confidence, protect professions from unqualified practices, and enhance employment opportunities both locally and internationally.

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COMMENTARY

When Artificial Intelligence controls our world



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

When I told my students that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not new and it is as old as the beginning of the universe, they thought I was going crazy. They said those days there were no computers or mobile phones and even satellite channels to send images and voices from one place to another. What's more, they explained, AI can find you information for you in a matter of seconds. They thought, as their teacher, I was behind the time and I had no right to teach them about AI and the wonders of technology. Obviously, they were not impressed about me. I smiled at them but I knew I had to back my claim quickly before they started walking out of the class. Then I asked the ques-

tion. "How your voices, images and music are sent quickly from one place to another in real time?" One of them, with a frown on her face, told me by "having our devices like phones and computers connected to the wifi." I thought I should not waste their time and go straight to the point because obviously technology has not taught them much. For the next five minutes, I told them what carry our information from one area to another, is the light. Then I explained light travels at an incredible speed and that's why the devices transmit "live" information instantaneously. They asked, "so what?" I asked them, "do you believe in angels?" Without a delay they said "yes." Then I asked them that if they believe that the job of the angels is to record all our earthly deeds to that giant database somewhere in the universe so we can be judged in the last day of judgement. They said "yes" again. "And that is AI," I told them with a smile, "it is transmitting our deeds to that big computer on a daily basis." That means, I added, AI has been used since the creation of the universe. It was then I saw them smile and acknowledge it. I am sure now, every time

they get online to search for information, they will have that in mind. After the class, one of the students told me that in a remote village that he lived somewhere in Oman, the villagers have no use of Artificial Intelligence. Their lives are simple. They work in their farms in the morning, gather to talk in the evening and go to sleep early in the night. Almost all of them there do not have mobile phones. They don't miss much either. They are busy with their surrounding and the most important thing, grateful what they have. They don't have much because they do not need much. But it is a different case in the cities where no one dares go out without their mobile phones. It is an ammunition of their daily routine. They look at their phones as they walk and do not see much but the electronics world. Statistics show that about 70 percent of the traffic accidents are caused by drivers tinkering with their mobile phones as they drive. While their cars navigate the roads, their minds are deep into the distant world. Well, enough has been said about Artificial Intelligence. The word "artificial" says it all. It is not real but imaginary and we are deeply embroiled in it.

'SHABAB OMAN II' DEPARTS FROM BREMERHAVEN

The Royal Navy of Oman vessel (RNOV) "Shabab Oman II" departed the port of Bremerhaven in Germany on Sunday, moving towards the port of Ijmuiden in the Netherlands. While sailing towards the Netherlands, RNOV "Shabab Oman II" will participate in the SAIL Amsterdam festival as part of its seventh international voyage, "Glories of the Seas 2025." -ONA



Over 150,000 people visit Jabal Akhdar Festival

The festival aligns with the objectives of "Oman Vision 2040," which aims to diversify the national economy, boost the tourism sector's contribution



JABAL AKHDAR: The Jabal Akhdar Festival 2025 has attracted more than 150,000 visitors from within Oman and abroad since its launch on 1 August till 15 August, with expectations that the total number will exceed 300,000 by the festival's conclusion at the end of August. The festival aligns with the objectives of "Oman Vision 2040," which aims to diversify the national economy, boost the tourism sector's contribution, and support local content. The event features an integrated programme designed to revitalise Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, promote the natural and cultural assets of Jabal Akhdar, and empower the local community. This includes the participation of 65 small and medium enterprises (SMEs), 10 farmers, and the creation of 60 temporary job opportunities through diverse activities that enrich the tourism experience and stimulate economic activity. Sheikh Hilal Said Al Hajri, Governor of Al Dakhiliyah, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the governorate continues to implement a series of developmental and investment projects in Jabal Akhdar, with government and private investments exceeding OMR13 million. These efforts focus on infrastructure development, enhancing tourism attractions, and improving quality of life. He added that these projects include Jabal Akhdar Park, costing over OMR1.1 million riyals, and completed internal road projects worth OMR1.37 million, with an additional package

under implementation valued at OMR1.4 million. The governor noted that Jabal Akhdar has seen the signing of four investment contracts worth OMR8.5 million to establish and operate tourism and commercial facilities, including an integrated commercial complex, an open-air 3D plaza, parks, and mountain viewpoints. He emphasised that Jabal Akhdar Festival 2025 reflects the governorate's commitment to achieving balanced and sustainable tourism development by optimally leveraging the wilayat's natural and cultural assets and reinforcing its status as a leading destination on Oman's tourism map. The festival also aligns with the economic and social goals of "Oman Vision 2040," demonstrating the governorate's dedication to creating an attractive environment for both domestic and international tourism. He stated that this year's festival was organized with a comprehensive vision to ensure diverse activities that appeal to all age groups, thereby enhancing the tourism sector's added value and stimulating economic activity in the Wilayat of Jabal Akhdar. He noted that the rise in hotel occupancy and visitor numbers reflects the success of promotional efforts and the collaboration between government entities, the private sector, and the local community in organising events befitting Jabal Akhdar's stature. The governorate has placed special emphasis on local content by enabling SMEs and local farmers to showcase their agricultural and handicraft products, while also providing temporary employment opportunities for residents in event management, guidance, and visitor services. This approach underscores the governorate's belief in empowering entrepreneurs and local families, creating sustainable marketing platforms that support the local economy and preserve Omani heritage and identity. The festival's programme includes diverse cultural, entertainment, and sporting activities, such as folk performances, theatrical shows, food stalls, and play zones, alongside special events like the "Rummana" initiative, which highlights local pomegranate products through live demonstrations and marketing platforms. -ONA

MID-2025

Nearly 170,000 beneficiaries of social fund in South Al Batinah

A'RUSTAQ: The Governorate of South Al Batinah is witnessing steady growth in social protection services, driven by the efforts of the Social Protection Fund to secure a dignified life for citizens, aligning with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 to build a cohesive and prosperous society. According to statistical reports issued by the Fund, the total number of beneficiaries in South Al Batinah by the end of June 2025 reached 169,998 individuals across various social categories. Children topped the list of beneficiaries with 142,041, followed by 18,867 elderly individuals. Persons with disabilities accounted for 4,651 beneficiaries, while orphans and widows numbered 1,548. Additionally, 2,891 families received income support.

The Fund's efforts extend beyond financial aid, encompassing an integrated system of innovative and streamlined services. A total of 3,120 services were provided, including 246 field services completed remotely via phone or other communication channels—eliminating the need for in-person visits and saving beneficiaries time and effort. Meanwhile, 2,792 self-service transactions were conducted electronically through the Fund's headquarters or digital portals, leveraging digital transformation technologies. The Fund also organised 47 awareness campaigns, including direct meetings and workshops to introduce the public to its programs and services while enhancing social awareness of the rights

of target groups. Additionally, 35 proactive services were offered, covering media activities and predictive measures to anticipate beneficiaries' needs. The South Al Batinah branch of the Fund has relocated to a new headquarters equipped with the latest standards, reflecting a shift toward a more efficient and comfortable work environment. The design prioritises accessibility for all community members, particularly persons with disabilities, with fully equipped pathways and facilities to ensure seamless access and high-quality service delivery. The Fund places special emphasis on community engagement through participation in local events, reinforcing its humanitarian and developmental role. -ONA





The road passes through several prominent natural and tourist sites, including water springs, wadis, archaeological locations

SALALAH: The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology has commenced construction work on a new coastal dirt road linking the wilayats of Rakhyut and Dhalkut in Dhofar Governorate, spanning 20 kilometres.

The project falls within the ministry's efforts to develop road networks and enhance logistical and tourism connectivity between the wilayats of Dhofar, in partnership with a local Omani company specialising in the field.

Eng. Said Mohammed Tabook, Director General of Roads and Land Transport in Dhofar Governorate, stated to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the new road has been designed with a width of 12 metres to accommodate various types of vehicles and passes through rugged mountainous ter-

rain. He noted that the project will facilitate travel between the two wilayats by reducing the distance from 60 kilometres to approximately 20 kilometres—a shortcut of around 40 kilometres.

He added that the road passes through several prominent natural and tourist sites, including water springs, wadis, archaeological locations, and beaches, making it a key contributor to boosting tourism in the region, particularly during the Khareef (monsoon) season.

Tabook affirmed that the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology is currently studying the possibility of including the project in future road paving initiatives, in line with Dhofar's development aspirations and aimed at improving the quality of the governorate's road infrastructure. -ONA



Eng. Said Mohammed Tabook



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SOCIAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVES

Omran Group launches second edition of ‘GIFTED’ programme to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in tourism sector



MUSCAT: Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group), in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, has launched the second edition of the “GIFTED” programme—one of its flagship social investment initiatives. The programme forms part of the Group’s #IAmTourism strategy, which aims to empower national talent and strengthen its presence in the tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

This edition builds on the success of the first phase, which was implemented at dusitD2 Naseem Resort in Al Jabal Al Akhdar and achieved positive outcomes in both training and integration. The current edition includes 13 participants with disabilities who are undertaking a six-month intensive program designed to provide them with the practical skills and knowledge required to work in the tourism and hospitality industry.

The programme represents a practical step toward inclusive employment, offering promising opportunities for participants to join a number of Omran Group’s leading hospitality assets in Muscat Governorate, including W Muscat, InterContinental Muscat, JW Marriott, Crowne Plaza at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, and Barceló Mussanah Resort.

Hilal bin Rashid Al Mukhaini, Assistant Director at the Department of Specialised Rehabilitation Centres at the Ministry of Social Development, affirmed:

“The Ministry of Social Development is committed to develop-



ing a comprehensive framework that enables persons with disabilities to fully integrate into the labour market, in line with its developmental vision to promote independence and self-reliance. The ‘GIFTED’ programme, launched in partnership with Omran Group, stands as an important practical model of this approach, by providing tailored training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the tourism sector, in line with their abilities and potential.”

He added: “Partnerships between the public and private sectors are a cornerstone in the rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Such collaborations create pathways for training and employment within inclusive work environments that embrace national talents with disabilities, while taking into account their professional needs.”

Mohammed Hamed Al Rasbi, Social Investment Lead at Omran Group, commented: “The GIFTED program reflects Omran Group’s strategic direction in developing social investment



initiatives with tangible impact — grounded in a clear understanding of community needs and aimed at shaping more inclusive and sustainable development models. This programme embodies that commitment by offering specialised vocational training opportunities that enable persons with disabilities to participate in the tourism workforce within supportive and balanced work environments.”

He added: “What sets this program apart is that it serves as a practical platform for redefining the concept of community participation and reinforcing diversity as a key driver of both institutional and societal advancement.”

The GIFTED programme is the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman dedicated to training persons with disabilities for employment in the tourism sector. It aligns with Omran Group’s vision of creating inclusive and diverse workplaces that reflect Oman’s social values. The Group also plans to expand the program to other governorates in future phases as part of its strategic direction to broaden impact.

Rains expected over Oman parts until August 21



From Tuesday to Thursday, the CAA forecasts further cloud advection, with isolated rain and occasional thundershowers particularly over Al Wusta and Dhofar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has announced that the Sultanate of Oman will be affected by an upper-air trough until August 21, 2025, bringing unstable weather conditions across several governorates.

According to the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center, cloud advection will continue over much of the Sultanate, with chances of isolated rainfall of varying intensity and occasional thunderstorms.



The weather is expected to particularly affect Al Wusta, Dhofar, South Al Sharqiyah, North Al Sharqiyah, and parts of Al Dakhiliyah.

On Monday, continued cloud advection is forecast, with isolated rain and occasional thundershowers in the aforementioned areas.

Rainfall amounts are expected between 15–35 mm, with risks of wadis overflowing, accompanied by fresh downdraft winds of 15–35 knots (28–65 km/h) and reduced visibility during thunderstorms and dust. Sea conditions along the Arabian Sea and Oman Sea coasts will remain rough,

with waves up to 4 meters.

From Tuesday to Thursday, the CAA forecasts further cloud advection, with isolated rain and occasional thundershowers particularly over Al Wusta and Dhofar. Rainfall is expected between 25–45 mm, raising the likelihood of wadis flowing.

Fresh downdraft winds of 15–35 knots and poor visibility during thunderstorms are also anticipated. Sea conditions will continue to be rough with waves reaching 4 meters. Rough sea along the coasts of Arabian Sea and the Sea of Oman expected with a maximum wave height of 4 metres

ECONOMY

Oman’s public debt decreases

< FROM A1 Contribution and other expenses totalled OMR1,161 million as of the end of Q2 2025, indicating a 7% increase, i.e., OMR73 million, from OMR1,088 million recorded in the same quarter of 2024.

By the end of Q2 2025, spending on social sectors and basic services totalled OMR3,122 million.



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Invitation and Agenda for the Extraordinary General Meeting and Ordinary General Meeting of Bank Muscat Money Market Fund



The Fund Management Body of Bank Muscat Money Market Fund (the “Fund”) has the pleasure in inviting the unitholders to the Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) and Ordinary General Meeting (“OGM”) to be held on Thursday, 28th August 2025, at 3:00 pm., at Bank Muscat headquarters, airport heights, Muscat Hall, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman.

Failing quorum, the EGM and/or OGM shall be reconvened on Wednesday, 3rd September 2025, at 3:00 p.m., at Bank Muscat headquarters, airport heights, Muscat Hall, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman, to discuss and consider the following agenda of the meeting:

Firstly: Agenda for the Extraordinary General Meeting

- To amend articles (4) and (13) of the fund’s Articles of Association.

Secondly: Agenda for the Ordinary General Meeting

- To approve the amendment of the sitting fees of the Fund Management Body.

In accordance with the Fund’s Articles of Association, every unitholder has the right to appoint any other person in writing as his proxy to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, by way of a proxy card attached to the notice. Any such natural person should attach to the proxy card a copy of their ID for adults, their passport for minors or those who do not have a civil card or resident card, and resident card or passport for non-Omanis. For corporates, the proxy form shall be signed by one of the authorized signatories and sealed by the company’s stamp accompanied with copies of the commercial registration certificate and the specimen signature form. Kindly arrive at the meeting venue at least half an hour before the general meeting.

The respected unitholder is requested to attend at the EGM and OGM venue half an hour before the meeting.

For queries please contact Ms. Maather Abdul Ghafoor Al Ajmi, on telephone: (+968) 24801262.

3 US states to deploy National Guard troops to Washington, DC

The deployment is part of the Trump administration's effort to crack down on crime and homelessness

WASHINGTON, DC: West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey announced Saturday that he is deploying 300 to 400 National Guard troops to Washington, DC.

“West Virginia is proud to stand with President Trump in his effort to restore pride and beauty to our nation's capital,” Morrisey said in a statement.

The deployment is part of the Trump administration's effort to crack down on crime and homelessness.

Maj. Gen. James Seward, West Virginia's adjutant general, said that members of the state's National Guard “stand ready to support our partners in the National Capital Region and contribute to the collective effort of making our nation's capital a clean and safe environment.”

Apart from Morrissey, two other Republican governors are also sending their states' National Guard troops to the country's capital to support Trump's effort.

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster authorised the deployment of 200 of his state's National Guardsmen.

“Our National Guard will work to assist President Trump's mis-



sion, and should a hurricane or natural disaster threaten our state, they can and will be immediately recalled home to respond,” McMaster wrote on X.

Meanwhile, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that his state would deploy 150 military police. “None of these military police members are currently serving as law enforcement officers in the state of Ohio,” DeWine said in a

statement.

The announcements come as protesters pushed back on the increased presence of federal law enforcement and National Guard troops in Washington, DC.

In a letter to city residents, Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, wrote that “our limited self-government has never faced the type of test we are facing right now.”

She called on Washington resi-

dents to stick together, “We will show the entire nation what it looks like to fight for American democracy — even when we don't have full access to it.”

On Monday, Trump put the metropolitan police department of Washington, DC, under federal control. He declared an emergency due to the “city government's failure to maintain public order.”

“Crime is out of control in the District of Columbia. (...) The magnitude of the violent crime crisis places the District of Columbia among the most violent jurisdictions in the United States,” according to the official White House statement.

However, on Friday, the Trump administration retracted its previous decision and agreed to let the Washington, DC police chief remain in charge of the police force after a federal court's order. — **DW**



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INDIA-ITALY STRATEGIC TIES

INS Tamal concludes port call to Naples

NAPLES: The Indian Navy's latest stealth frigate, INS Tamal, concluded a successful three-day port call at Naples, Italy, from August 13 to 16, reinforcing the rapidly growing India-Italy Strategic Partnership, which was formally elevated in 2023, a release stated on Sunday.

According to the release issued by the Ministry of Defence, the port call formed part of INS Tamal's return voyage to India and featured extensive naval and diplomatic engagements aimed at deepening bilateral defence cooperation.

Ahead of entering port, INS Tamal participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Italian Navy's newly commissioned Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ITS Trieste.

The PASSEX featured a series of coordinated naval operations, including communication drills, complex manoeuvres, helicopter flying exercises, and sea rider exchanges, culminating in a ceremonial steam past.

During the port stay, the ship's crew engaged in bilateral discussions, professional exchanges, and high-level meetings with Italian military and civil authorities.

The Commanding Officer of INS Tamal called on Vice Admiral Pierpaolo Budri, Chief of Staff

of the Italian Navy's Logistics Command, and Deputy Mayor of Naples, Laura Lieto.

Discussions focused on joint initiatives under the India-Italy Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029, the release stated.

In a highlight of the visit, INS Tamal and the Indian Embassy in Rome hosted a cultural evening onboard, attended by officials from the Italian Navy, local government, UN agencies based in Italy, and representatives from the Italian defence industry.

The Ambassador of India to Italy, Vani Rao, also joined the celebrations, interacting with the ship's officers and crew.

On August 15, a ceremonial parade was conducted aboard INS Tamal to mark the 79th Independence Day of India, with the crew also participating in the official celebrations held at the Embassy of India in Rome, reflecting the symbolic and strategic significance of the port visit.

The port call reflected the importance India attaches to its relations with Italy and the endeavour to strengthen the growing defence cooperation between the two nations, and also provided an opportunity for both navies to share best practices and pursue further opportunities for joint engagement. — **ANI**



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Raysut Cement Company S.A.O.G

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT FOR THE THREE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Esteemed Shareholders

The Board of Directors of Raysut Cement Company SAOG are pleased to present to you the unaudited Group's financial results for the three months period ended on 31 March 2025.

As you are aware the previous Board appointed by our regulator, Financial Services Authority, completed its tenure on 16th March 2025. The current Board went to build on the numerous initiatives undertaken by the previous Board and move forward to establish a sustainable business for the Group.

Immediately after our appointment the Board has identified five strategic priorities as an immediate recovery plan for the Group to strengthen its financial position:

- Resolution of Legacy Issues** – This includes resolving all outstanding debts and the ongoing legal cases that have affected the Company's performance and reputation.
- Restructuring the Organization structure** – This includes building a lean, professional structure led by qualified individuals with relevant industry experience to improve overall management efficiency.
- Enhancing Operational Performance** – Focusing on profitability, efficiency, productivity, and manpower rationalization to optimize resource allocation and strengthen our competitive position.
- Enforcing Corporate Governance** – Ensuring robust compliance and governance practices across all levels of the group in line with regulatory and stakeholder expectations.
- Strengthening Cash Flow Management** – Prioritizing liquidity planning and prudent financial controls to effectively manage the Group's cash flows over the next twelve months. We also express our appreciation to our partners, customers, management team and all our employees for their loyalty, contributions, commitment, and continued support for the overall success of the company.

The target is to close out all the above by 31 December 2025, so that we start the year 2026 with a clear strategy of profitability. We are confident that with a focused approach and collaborative effort of all the stakeholders: the Government entities and Regulators, Banks, Employees, Customers, Suppliers and the Shareholders, Raysut Cement Group will be well positioned to navigate its current challenges and achieve sustainable business for the future.

Financial Performance

Amount in RO '000	Parent			Consolidation		
	March 2025	March 2024	Var	March 2025	March 2024	Var
Revenue	10,316	9,913	4%	19,753	17,454	13%
Gross profit	963	1,243	(23%)	2,031	1,122	81%
Operating loss	(967)	(668)	(48%)	(525)	(1,229)	57%
Net comprehensive loss	(1,874)	(1,616)	(16%)	(1,808)	(2,610)	31%

Operations and Business Review

Our primary markets are Dhofar, Al Wusta, and North Oman, while our export markets include Yemen, the Maldives, and Eastern Africa.

For consolidated Group sales, North Oman and the UAE are also significant contributors.

- Domestic Sales Volumes:** During the three months period of 2025, the local market experienced growth, with Parent sales volumes increased to 0.192 million MT (Q1 2024: 0.152 million MT), and Group consolidated sales stood at 0.733 million MT (Q1 2024: 0.573 million MT).
- Export Sales Volumes:** During the three months period of 2025, the export market slightly decreased, with Parent sales volumes decreased to 0.346 million MT (Q1 2024: 0.348 million MT), and Group consolidated sales increased to 0.331 million MT (Q1 2024: 0.332 million MT).

The market continues to face challenges, including overcapacity in neighboring cement markets, resulting in excess supply and downward pressure on prices in Oman. Export markets remain vital, but are impacted by regional political instability, foreign exchange fluctuations, logistics constraints, and intense competition from Asian producers.

Corporate Governance and Compliance

The current Board of Directors are committed to upholding the highest standards of corporate governance. Key governance actions included:

- Board Oversight: Regular review of the Company's strategic direction, risk management, and financial performance.
- Audit Committee: Oversight of financial reporting, internal controls, and risk management processes.
- Transparency: Timely and accurate disclosures to shareholders and regulatory authorities.

Risk Management

The Group recognizes the importance of robust risk management. Key risks identified during the year included market volatility, regulatory changes, and operational challenges. The Board and management have implemented appropriate measures to mitigate these risks and would continue to those measures.

Outlook

Looking ahead, the Board remains optimistic. The Group during the remaining months of 2025 will focus on its strategic priorities as set out above.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our Shareholders, not only for their confidence, but also for the support. We express our gratitude to the Financial Services Authority, the Government Entities and the Government of Oman for the continuous support. We also thank our customers, our banks, our suppliers and all our employees for their loyalty, contributions, commitment, and continued support for the overall success of the company. Finally, we extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his wise leadership and his wise government for their continuous support and guidance. We pray to Almighty Allah to bless him with good health and long life.

Engr. Ali Abdullah Ali Al Zedjali
Chairman of the Board of Directors

CONDENSED INTERIM SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Parent		Consolidated	
	31-Mar-2025 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2024 (audited) RO	31-Mar-2025 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2024 (audited) RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Goodwill	-	-	3,188,812	3,188,812
Property, plant and equipment	69,646,380	70,668,436	112,781,546	114,382,663
Right-of-use assets	2,043,710	2,099,810	5,521,900	5,631,966
Investment in subsidiaries	29,776,880	29,776,880	-	-
Deferred tax asset	-	-	140,692	125,165
Total non-current assets	101,466,970	102,545,126	121,632,950	123,328,606
Current assets				
Inventories	14,328,315	15,913,449	19,686,022	20,755,481
Trade receivables	2,311,140	2,167,334	5,278,593	4,801,508
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	2,912,294	3,097,593	2,912,294	3,097,593
Prepayments, advances and other receivables	2,606,965	2,309,654	1,561,269	812,154
Cash and bank balances	242,408	400,807	827,526	1,697,338
Total current assets	22,401,122	23,888,837	30,265,704	31,164,074
Total assets	123,868,092	126,433,963	151,898,654	154,492,680
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share premium	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Share capital	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873
Legal reserve	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667
Revaluation surplus reserve	13,358,603	13,358,603	18,987,006	18,987,006
Accumulated losses	(53,690,625)	(51,816,286)	(52,261,076)	(50,437,695)
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent	(208,482)	1,665,857	6,849,470	8,672,651
Non-controlling interest	-	-	839,741	821,067
Total equity	(208,482)	1,665,857	7,689,211	9,493,718
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	19,008,896	19,728,241	28,729,676	29,546,435
Lease liabilities	2,017,447	2,099,943	5,888,810	5,969,121
Deferred tax liability	3,870,401	3,870,401	4,454,819	4,653,903
End of service benefits	673,481	676,423	1,193,916	1,201,207
Total non-current liabilities	25,570,225	26,375,008	40,267,221	41,370,666
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	11,849,116	12,593,648	14,769,420	15,392,561
Lease liabilities	329,984	329,984	560,246	581,174
Trade and other payables	30,221,214	30,470,434	31,170,662	31,019,444
Payable to gas suppliers	48,624,441	48,115,288	48,624,441	48,115,288
Short term borrowings	7,481,594	6,883,744	8,752,020	8,445,552
Income tax payable	-	-	68,433	74,077
Total current liabilities	98,506,349	98,393,098	103,945,222	103,628,096
Total liabilities	124,076,574	124,768,106	144,212,443	144,998,762
Total equity and liabilities	123,868,092	126,433,963	151,898,654	154,492,680
Net assets per share	(0.001)	0.008	0.034	0.043

CONDENSED INTERIM SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE THREE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Parent		Consolidated	
	31-Mar-2025 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2024 (audited) RO	31-Mar-2025 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2024 (audited) RO
Revenue from contracts with customers	10,316,334	9,913,441	19,752,541	17,453,970
Cost of sales	(9,353,233)	(8,669,943)	(17,721,714)	(16,331,929)
Gross profit	963,101	1,243,498	2,030,827	1,122,041
General and administrative expenses	(933,693)	(838,489)	(1,441,295)	(1,303,414)
Selling and distribution expenses	(1,015,543)	(1,073,960)	(1,148,547)	(1,256,222)
Net impairment (loss) / reversal on financial assets	-	-	(15,000)	204,787
Other income	(487)	1,034	49,261	3,315
Operating (loss)/profit	(986,622)	(667,917)	(524,754)	(1,229,493)
Finance cost - net	(825,096)	(1,084,626)	(1,227,845)	(1,515,746)
Investment income	158,348	143,321	158,348	143,321
Fair value loss on financial assets at FVTPL	(220,969)	(6,666)	(220,969)	(6,666)
Loss before tax	(1,874,339)	(1,615,888)	(1,815,220)	(2,608,584)
Income tax expense	-	-	7,513	(1,497)
Loss for the period	(1,874,339)	(1,615,888)	(1,807,707)	(2,610,081)
Other comprehensive loss				
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the period	(1,874,339)	(1,615,888)	(1,807,707)	(2,610,081)
Total (loss) / profit attributable to:				
Owners of the Parent	(1,874,339)	(1,615,888)	(1,823,381)	(2,614,486)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	15,674	4,405
Total comprehensive (loss) / income attributable to:	(1,874,339)	(1,615,888)	(1,823,381)	(2,614,486)
Owners of the Parent	(1,874,339)	(1,615,888)	(1,823,381)	(2,614,486)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	15,674	4,405
Basic and diluted loss per share	(1,874,339) (0.009)	(1,615,888) (0.008)	(1,807,707) (0.009)	(2,610,081) (0.013)

BILATERAL MEETING

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to visit India



NEW DELHI: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit India from August 18-19 and hold talks with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on the “boundary question,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in an official statement on Saturday.

As per the MEA, EAM S Jaishankar will also hold a bilateral meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister.

“At the invitation of National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Wang Yi will visit India on 18-19 August 2025.

During his visit, he will hold the 24th round of the Special Representatives’ (SR) Talks on the India-China boundary question with India’s SR, NSA Shri Doval. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar will hold a bilateral meeting with Mr. Wang Yi”, the MEA said in the statement.

Wang’s visit comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s trip to China to attend the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit from August 31.

India and China have been working to improve their relationship in recent months, marked by several significant developments

High-level talks between the two countries have resumed, including meetings between Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to meet at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China, later this month.

Moreover, India and China have agreed to disengage and resume patrolling in the Depsang Plains and Demchok areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This move aims to reduce tensions and restore peace along the border.

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a significant pilgrimage route for Hindus, has restarted, symbolising renewed people-to-people connections and cultural diplomacy between the two nations.

India and China have resumed tourist visas after a five-year gap, and there’s been a revival of business relations, with Indian diesel cargo being shipped to China for the first time in over three years.

Both countries are engaging in multilateral forums like BRICS, SCO, and G20, showcasing efforts to cooperate on global platforms despite bilateral tensions.

The development comes amid tariffs imposed on India by United States President Donald Trump for buying Russian oil.

China officially “welcomed” Prime Minister Modi for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. -ANI

Zelenskyy to meet Trump in Washington on Monday

Zelenskyy underscored that Washington has a vital role in efforts to end the conflict



Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that he would be meeting with US President Donald Trump on Monday for diplomatic efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, just two days after the “historic” bilateral meeting between Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

In a post on X on Saturday, Zelenskyy revealed that he and Trump had held a “long and substantive” call, beginning with one-on-one talks and later including European leaders in a broader discussion, where Trump briefed him on his recent meeting with Putin.

Zelenskyy underscored that Washington has a vital role in efforts to end the conflict.

“We had a long and substantive conversation with @POTUS. We started with one-on-one talks before inviting European leaders to join us. This call lasted for more than an hour and a half, including about an hour of our bilateral conversation with President Trump,” the Ukrainian President said.

“Ukraine reaffirms its readiness to work with maximum effort to achieve peace. President Trump informed about his meeting with the Russian leader and the main points of their discussion. It is important that America’s strength has an impact on the development of the situation,” he added.

Zelenskyy also welcomed Trump’s proposal for a trilateral meeting involving Ukraine, the US and Russia, underlining Kyiv’s commitment to peace and close coordination with international partners.

“We support President Trump’s proposal for a trilateral meeting between Ukraine, the USA, and Russia. Ukraine emphasises that key issues can be discussed at the level of leaders, and a trilateral format is suitable for this,” the post read.

“On Monday, I will meet with President Trump in Washington, D.C., to discuss all of the details regarding ending the killing and the war. I am grateful for the invitation,” it added.

Zelenskyy reiterated Ukraine’s commitment to peace and said Kyiv remains ready to work with maximum effort to achieve a resolution, adding that European involvement would be critical in securing lasting and reliable security guarantees.

“It is important that Europeans are involved at every stage to ensure reliable security guarantees together with America. We also discussed positive signals from the American side regarding participation in guaranteeing Ukraine’s security. We continue to coordinate our positions with all partners. I thank everyone who is helping,” the post concluded.

Earlier, Trump also stated that the Ukrainian President will be coming to Washington on Monday, and if things work out then a meeting will be scheduled with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“President Zelenskyy will be coming to D.C., the Oval Office, on Monday afternoon. If all works out, we will then schedule a meeting with President Putin. Potentially, millions of people’s lives will be saved. Thank you for your attention to this matter!” Trump stated in a post on Truth Social.

Earlier on Friday, the US and Russia held the much-anticipated truce talks meeting in Alaska to discuss bringing an end to the conflict in Ukraine.

Russia’s top economic envoy, Kirill Dmitriev, said the US received Russia “very well” in Alaska and that the two countries would continue building relations despite “resistance.” -ANI

US FIRST LADY

Melania Trump pens ‘peace letter’ to Russian President Putin



nificent city-center. They dream of love, possibility, and safety from danger.”

“As parents, it is our duty to nurture the next generation’s hope. As leaders, the responsibility to sustain our children extends beyond the comfort of a few,” it read.

The First Lady further wrote, “Undeniably, we must strive to paint a dignity-filled world for all-so that every soul may wake to peace, and so that the future itself is perfectly guarded. A simple yet profound concept, Mr. Putin, as I am sure you agree, is that each generation’s descendants begin their lives with a purity--an innocence which stands above geography, government, and ideology.”

The letter noted that “in today’s world, some children are forced to carry a quiet laughter, untouched by the darkness around them.” -ANI



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Esteemed Shareholders

The Board of Directors of Raysut Cement Company SAOG are pleased to present to you the unaudited Group’s financial results for the half year period ended on 30 June 2025.

As you are aware the previous Board appointed by our regulator, Financial Services Authority, completed its tenure on 16th March 2025. The current Board want to build on the numerous initiatives undertaken by the previous Board and move forward to establish a sustainable business for the Group.

Immediately after our appointment the Board has identified five strategic priorities as an immediate recovery plan for the Group to strengthen its financial position:

- **Resolution of Legacy Issues** – This includes resolving all outstanding debts and the ongoing legal cases that have affected the Company’s performance and reputation.
- **Restructuring the Organization structure** – This includes building a lean, professional structure led by qualified individuals with relevant industry experience to improve overall management efficiency.
- **Enhancing Operational Performance** – Focusing on profitability, efficiency, productivity, and manpower rationalization to optimize resource allocation and strengthen our competitive position.
- **Enforcing Corporate Governance** – Ensuring robust compliance and governance practices across all levels of the group in line with regulatory and stakeholder expectations.
- **Strengthening Cash Flow Management** – Prioritizing liquidity planning and prudent financial controls to effectively manage the Group’s cash flows over the next twelve months.

The target is to close out all the above by 31 December 2025, so that we start the year 2026 with a clear strategy of profitability. We are confident that with a focused approach and collaborative effort of all the stakeholders: the Government entities and Regulators, Banks, Employees, Customers, Suppliers and the Shareholders, Raysut Cement Group will be well positioned to navigate its current challenges and achieve sustainable business for the future.

Financial Performance

2nd Quarter Performance:

Amount in OMR '000	Parent			Consolidation		
	June 2025	June 2024	Var%	June 2025	June 2024	Var%
Revenue	11,323	7,247	56%	21,651	14,117	53%
Gross profit	1,804	1,578	14%	3,009	1,548	94%
Operating Profit	(298)	52	(677%)	385	(748)	151%
Net loss and comprehensive income	(1,300)	(864)	(50%)	(1,040)	(2,073)	50%

half-year performance:

Amount in OMR '000	Parent			Consolidation		
	June 2025	June 2024	Var%	June 2025	June 2024	Var%
Revenue	21,640	17,161	26%	41,404	31,572	31%
Gross profit	2,768	2,822	(2%)	5,040	2,671	89%
Operating Profit	(1,285)	(616)	(106%)	(140)	(1,978)	93%
Net loss and comprehensive income	(3,175)	(2,480)	(28%)	(2,848)	(4,684)	39%

Operations and Business Review

Our primary markets are Dhofar, Al Wusta, and North Oman, while our export markets include Yemen, the Maldives, and Eastern Africa. For consolidated Group sales, North Oman and the UAE are also significant contributors.

- **Domestic Sales Volumes:** During the half year period of 2025, the local market experienced growth, with Parent sales volumes increased to 0.369 million MT (H1 2024: 0.304 million MT), and Group consolidated sales stood at 1.459 million MT (H1 2024: 1.111 million MT).
- **Export Sales Volumes:** During the half year period of 2025, the export market slightly improved, with Parent sales volumes increasing to 0.775 million MT (H1 2024: 0.542 million MT), and Group consolidated sales increased to 0.746 million MT (H1 2024: 0.520 million MT).

The market continues to face challenges, including overcapacity in neighboring cement markets, resulting in excess supply and downward pressure on prices in Oman. Export markets remain vital, but are impacted by regional political instability, foreign exchange fluctuations, logistics constraints, and intense competition from Asian producers.

Corporate Governance and Compliance

The current Board of Directors are committed to upholding the highest standards of corporate governance. Key governance actions included:

- **Board Oversight:** Regular review of the Company’s strategic direction, risk management, and financial performance.
- **Audit Committee:** Oversight of financial reporting, internal controls, and risk management processes.
- **Transparency:** Timely and accurate disclosures to shareholders and regulatory authorities.

Risk Management

The Group recognizes the importance of robust risk management. Key risks identified during the year included market volatility, regulatory changes, and operational challenges. The Board and management have implemented appropriate measures to mitigate these risks and would continue to those measures.

Outlook

Looking ahead, the Board remains optimistic. The Group during the remaining months of 2025 will focus on its strategic priorities as set out above.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our Shareholders, not only for their confidence, but also for the support. We express our gratitude to the Financial Services Authority, the Government Entities and the Government of Oman for the continuous support. We also thank our customers, our banks, our suppliers and all our employees for their loyalty, contributions, commitment, and continued support for the overall success of the company. Finally, we extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his wise leadership and his wise government for their continuous support and guidance. We pray to Almighty Allah to bless him with good health and long life.

Engr. Ali Abdullah Ali Al Zadjali
Chairman of the Board of Directors

CONDENSED INTERIM SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Parent		Consolidated	
	30-Jun-2025 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2024 (audited) RO	30-Jun-2025 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2024 (audited) RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Goodwill	-	-	3,188,812	3,188,812
Property, plant and equipment	68,917,303	70,668,436	111,631,444	114,382,663
Right-of-use assets	1,987,609	2,099,810	5,411,132	5,631,966
Investment in subsidiaries	29,776,880	29,776,880	-	-
Deferred tax asset	-	-	140,692	125,165
Total non-current assets	100,681,792	102,545,126	120,372,080	123,328,606
Current assets				
Inventories	14,733,731	15,913,449	19,931,625	20,755,481
Trade receivables	2,313,682	2,167,334	5,306,354	4,801,508
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	2,649,963	3,097,593	2,649,963	3,097,593
Prepayments, advances and other receivables	2,535,002	2,309,654	2,299,322	812,154
Cash and bank balances	251,532	400,807	1,866,630	1,697,338
Total current assets	22,483,910	23,888,837	32,053,894	31,164,074
Total assets	123,165,702	126,433,963	152,425,974	154,492,680
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Share premium	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873
Legal reserve	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667
Revaluation surplus reserve	13,358,603	13,358,603	18,987,006	18,987,006
Voluntary reserve	6,352,434	6,352,434	6,352,434	6,352,434
Accumulated losses	(54,991,208)	(51,816,286)	(53,314,231)	(50,437,695)
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent	(1,509,065)	1,665,857	5,796,315	8,672,851
Non-controlling interest	-	-	849,688	821,067
Total equity	(1,509,065)	1,665,857	6,646,003	9,493,918
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	18,451,835	19,728,241	28,035,910	29,546,435
Lease liabilities	1,934,951	2,099,943	5,779,049	5,969,121
Deferred tax liability	3,870,401	3,870,401	4,454,819	4,653,903
End of service benefits	668,139	676,423	1,201,604	1,201,207
Total non-current liabilities	24,925,326	26,375,008	39,471,382	41,370,666
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	11,451,257	12,593,648	14,519,399	15,392,561
Lease liabilities	329,984	329,984	567,755	581,174
Trade and other payables	31,525,354	30,470,434	32,916,558	31,019,444
Payable to gas suppliers	48,925,504	48,115,288	48,925,504	48,115,288
Short term borrowings	7,517,342	6,883,744	9,302,123	8,445,552
Income tax payable	-	-	77,250	74,077
Total current liabilities	99,749,441	98,393,098	106,308,589	103,628,096
Total liabilities	124,674,767	124,768,106	145,779,971	144,998,762
Total equity and liabilities	123,165,702	126,433,963	152,425,974	154,492,680
Net assets per share	(0.008)	0.008	0.029	0.043

CONDENSED INTERIM SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Parent				Consolidated			
	Six months period ended		Quarter ended		Six months period ended		Quarter ended	
	30-Jun-2025 (Unaudited) RO	30-Jun-2024 (Audited) RO	30-Jun-2025 (Unaudited) RO	30-Jun-2024 (Audited) RO	30-Jun-2025 (Unaudited) RO	30-Jun-2024 (Audited) RO	30-Jun-2025 (Unaudited) RO	30-Jun-2024 (Audited) RO
Revenue from contracts with customers	21,639,696	17,160,970	11,323,362	7,247,529	41,404,033	31,571,699	21,651,492	14,117,729
Cost of sales	(18,872,045)	(14,339,111)	(9,518,812)	(5,669,168)	(36,364,083)	(28,900,834)	(18,642,369)	(12,568,905)
Gross profit	2,767,651	2,821,859	1,804,550	1,578,361	5,039,950	2,670,865	3,009,123	1,548,824
General and administrative expenses	(1,859,259)	(1,776,695)	(925,566)	(938,206)	(2,800,108)	(2,644,351)	(1,358,813)	(1,340,937)
Selling and distribution expenses	(2,190,382)	(1,668,671)	(1,174,839)	(594,711)	(2,464,177)	(1,989,557)	(1,315,630)	(733,335)
Net impairment loss on financial assets	331	7,264	818	6,230	70,457	22,527	21,196	19,212
Other income	7,264	203,170	6,230	68,22,527	187,809	(185,575)	(38,966)	-
Operating (loss)/profit	(1,284,816)	(616,243)	(298,194)	51,674	(139,548)	(1,978,245)	385,206	(748,752)
Finance cost - net	(1,565,155)	(2,065,965)	(740,059)	(981,339)	(2,382,112)	(2,894,593)	(1,154,267)	(1,378,847)
Investment income	158,348	143,321	-	-	158,348	143,321	-	-
Fair value gain/(loss) on financial assets at FVTPL	(483,299)	59,347	(262,330)	66,013	(483,299)	59,347	(262,330)	66,013
Loss before tax	(3,174,922)	(2,479,540)	(1,300,583)	(863,652)	(2,846,611)	(4,670,170)	(1,031,391)	(2,061,586)
Income tax expense	-	-	-	-	(1,304)	(13,605)	(8,817)	(12,108)
Loss for the period	(3,174,922)	(2,479,540)	(1,300,583)	(863,652)	(2,847,915)	(4,683,775)	(1,040,208)	(2,073,694)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the period Attributable to:	(3,174,922)	(2,479,540)	(1,300,583)	(863,652)	(2,847,915)	(4,683,775)	(1,040,208)	(2,073,694)
Owners of the Parent	(3,174,922)	(2,479,540)	(1,300,583)	(863,652)	(2,876,536)	(4,616,042)	(1,040,208)	(2,001,556)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-	-	28,621	(67,733)	12,947	(72,139)
Basic and diluted loss per share	(0.016)	(0.012)	(0.007)	(0.004)	(0.014)	(0.023)	(0.005)	(0.010)

The complete accounts of the company will be delivered or sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request. Requests to be sent to the following address : Raysut Cement Co (SAOG), P.O.Box 1020 Salalah -211, Sultanate of Oman.

SPORTS

RAS AL HADD

Oman Sailing Championship brings together best young sailors from country

MUSCAT: Sixty of the most talented young sailors from across the nation will gather in Ras Al Hadd in the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate for the Oman Sailing Championship where competition will take place in Optimist, OLCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7 and 29er categories.

Racing begins on 19 August following two training days and concludes on 22 August after 12 races to determine the winners in each category, plus the overall team/school winner.

In total, 46 sailors from Oman Sail's sailing schools and many more from the United Arab Emir-



ates will be taking part. The event comes at the end of a Summer Training Camp for the Omani team where sailors from the national

teams have been enhancing their technical and tactical sailing in Ras Al Hadd under the guidance of specialist coaches. Over six weeks,

the teams have worked to improve their fitness and conditioning by training on and off the water with the Oman National Sailing Championships and Mussanah Race Week firmly in mind.

Prestigious event

Abdulaziz Al Shidi, Oman Sail's Acting Director of Sailing, said, "The Oman Sailing Championship is a prestigious event in our sailing calendar. We are excited to see all of the talent from our sailing schools on show in one place and to welcome young sailors from the United Arab Emirates to join us. Oman has a close relationship to

the sea, and this part of the coast between Sur and Ras Al Hadd is known for its traditional boat building. It is fitting that the next generation of Omani sailors have the chance to take to the water and show their skills here."

Hashim Al Rashdi, Head Coach-Performance, added, "This season we have witnessed impressive progress from all of our young sailors. This is a great chance to see this development first-hand and identify the next batch of sailors who could be capable of stepping up to the Oman national teams. We are always targeting personal and professional growth from our athletes,

both as individuals and as sailors, and the chance to compete against their peers, build camaraderie within the team, and learn from each other, will be a huge long-term benefit to all participants."

The Oman Sailing Championship is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Oman Maritime Sports Committee, and government entities in the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The ASYAD Group will support Oman's ILCA teams at the event, continuing its vision and national efforts to develop sports, engage youth, and enhance community development.

TUNISIAN CAPITAL

Oman's junior tennis team to take part in Arab championship



MUSCAT: Oman's national junior tennis team will begin its campaign on Monday in the Arab U14 Championship, hosted by the Tunisian capital until 23 August, with the participation of ten Arab teams.

The Omani squad consists of six players, including Moataz Al Mazroei, Abdulrahman Al Rahbi, Azzan Al Busaidi, Aren Al Azkawi, Talia Al Busaidi, and Salma Al Riyami. The team is led by coaches Svyat Dub (boys' team) and Sergey Pershin (girls' team).

This participation follows a successful three-week preparatory camp in Egypt, which included intensive training sessions and friendly matches as part of a joint training programme for Arab na-

tional teams.

The camp provided the players with valuable experience ahead of the championship.

The tournament will be held on the clay courts of the La Marsa Club in Tunis, featuring teams from Oman, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq.

Ahmed Al Balushi, head of the delegation, emphasised the significance of this participation for the U14 category, as it helps players gain experience and earn international ranking points.

He noted that the players are optimally prepared after the Egypt training camp and expressed hope for strong results and high placements in the competition. -ONA

Salman Agha to lead Pakistan squad in tri-series, Asia Cup

Babar Azam, despite being the second-highest run scorer in the shortest format, has not found a place in the team

ISLAMABAD : Salman Agha has been named Pakistan's captain for the upcoming T20I tri-series and Asia Cup scheduled to take place in the UAE from 29 August to 28 September, as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a 17-member squad on Sunday.

Pakistan batter Babar Azam and wicketkeeper/batter Mohammad Rizwan have been dropped from the side for both series. Azam, despite being the second-highest run scorer in the shortest format, has not found a place in the squad.

Following the West Indies ODIs, where the previous captain scored only 56 runs in three games, with a



high score of 47, Babar was left out.

Left-handed opener Fakhar Zaman, who suffered a hamstring injury during the T20I series against West Indies, has been named in the squad. Saim Ayub, after being

the highest run scorer against West Indies in the recently concluded T20 series, has also found a spot in the team.

All-rounder Hasan Nawaz has been rewarded for his 112 in three

matches against West Indies, as he has also been included in the squad. Pacer Naseem Shah, despite being the highest wicket-taker in the West Indies series, has dropped from the side.

Shaheen Shah Afridi will lead the pace attack along with Haris Rauf, Mohammad Waseem Jnr and Salman Mirza. Abrar Ahmed will lead the spin attack along with Mohammad Nawaz, Sufyan Moqim, and Khushdil Shah.

The tri-series, featuring Afghanistan, Pakistan and the UAE, will be played at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium from 29 August to 7 September.

The eight-team ACC Asia Cup T20I tournament will be staged in Abu Dhabi and Dubai from 9 to 28 September. Pakistan are placed in Group 'A' alongside India, Oman and UAE.

17-member squad: Salman Ali Agha (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris (wicket-keeper), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Waseem Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Sufyan Moqim. -ANI

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BANKDHO FAR NEW BRANCH

BankDhofar, one of Oman's leading financial institutions, has officially opened a new branch in the bustling heart of Haffa Souq, Salalah—just as the lush khareef season draws thousands of visitors to the Dhofar Governorate. > B2

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,921.33 points, down by -0.18% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.79% at 473.36 points. Barka Desalination, up 0.000379, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 0.000528, was the top loser. > B2

GCC STATISTICAL CENTRE



Value of GCC non-oil sector reaches \$1.513 trillion

MUSCAT: The gross domestic product (GDP) of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries at current prices in 2023 reached \$2.1431 trillion, marking a 2.7% decline compared to \$2.2027 trillion at the end of 2022.

Data released by the GCC Statistical Centre indicated that the value of the net national disposable income (available for consumption and savings after deducting taxes and other transfers) amounted to \$1.9891 trillion, down 3% from \$2.0515 trillion in 2022.

By the end of 2023, the total value added by the non-oil sector in the GCC reached approximately \$1.513 trillion at current prices, while the oil sector contributed \$603.5 billion.

The data revealed that the non-oil sector's share of the Gulf's total GDP at current prices rose to 71.5% by the end of 2023, up from 65% in 2022, reflecting an annual growth rate of 6.4%.

Over the past five years, mining and quarrying activities were the largest contributors to the GCC economy, averaging 28.3%, while manufacturing activities led the non-oil sector's contribution to GDP with an average of 11.7%.

Most economic activities saw positive growth rates in 2023,

with finance and insurance recording the highest growth at 11.7%, followed by transport and storage (11.6%), real estate activities (8.1%), public administration and defense (7.9%), wholesale and retail trade (7.6%), and education (5.5%).

In contrast, mining and quarrying activities, along with manufacturing, experienced declines of 18.8% and 0.7%, respectively.

Regarding the components of Gulf GDP expenditure at current prices, GCC Statistical Centre data showed that the value of goods and services exports reached \$1.2587 trillion by the end of 2023, accounting for 59.5% of GDP at current prices—a 7.1% decrease.

Final consumption expenditure (total spending by households, non-profit institutions, and the government on goods and services to directly meet their needs and desires, without using them in the production of other goods or services) reached \$1.2456 trillion, with an annual growth rate of 7.5%.

Additionally, gross capital formation (total fixed capital and asset formation) amounted to \$601.8 billion, growing at an annual rate of 5.5%. — OMA

Oman has witnessed significant growth in renewable energy adoption in recent years, marked by the launch of several major solar and wind energy projects

MUSCAT: The share of renewable energy in electricity production in the Sultanate of Oman has risen to 11.5% as of May, as part of the national strategy to increase renewable energy's contribution to power generation to 30% by 2030 and 60% by 2040.

The Directorate General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals stated that Oman has witnessed significant growth in renewable energy adoption in recent years, marked by the launch of several major solar and wind energy projects.

These include the Dhofar 1 Wind Farm, the Ibri 2 Solar Plant, and the Manah 1 and Manah 2 Solar Plants, all of which support national energy transition plans and boost renewable energy's role in electricity production.

The Directorate added that key renewable energy projects slated



for contract awards this year include the 500-megawatt Ibri 3 Solar Plant, the 100-megawatt Jalan Bani Bu Ali Wind Farm, and the 120-megawatt Dhofar 2 Wind Farm. Additionally, several upcoming projects are set for implementation, including the 90-megawatt Sadah Wind Farm,

the 300–400-megawatt Mahout 1 and Mahout 2 Wind Farms, the 280-megawatt Al Kamil Solar Plant, and a 220-megawatt solar energy project.

Renewable energy projects play a vital role in supporting Oman's economic diversification plans and advancing sustainable energy

goals by diversifying energy sources, preserving the environment, and reducing harmful emissions.

The Sultanate of Oman continues to prioritise the development of renewable energy projects across its governorates, aiming to achieve a 30% renewable energy contribution by 2030. — OMA

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Indian PM says next-gen GST reforms set to bring double benefits for citizens

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, expected before this Diwali, are set to bring double benefits for citizens across the country.

"For us, reform means the expansion of good governance," said the Prime Minister, emphasising that continuous focus is being placed on reforms. He made the marks during the inauguration ceremony of two major National Highway projects worth a combined cost of nearly Rs.11,000 crore in the national capital.

He announced that in the coming days, several major reforms will be introduced to make both life and business easier.

"As part of this effort, a next-generation reform in GST is being planned. This Diwali, citizens will receive a double bonus through the GST reform," stated PM Modi.

Informing that the complete framework has been shared with all states, PM Modi expressed hope that all states will cooperate with this initiative of the Government of India.

He urged for the swift completion of the process so that this Diwali can be made even more special.

Adding that the government



aims to simplify GST further and revise tax rates, the Prime Minister highlighted that the benefits of this reform will reach every household, especially the poor and middle class.

He added that entrepreneurs of all scales, as well as traders and businesspersons, will gain from these changes.

Sources said that the Central government has proposed to scrap the current slab of 12 per cent and 28 per cent of GST rates and keep

only 5 per cent and 18 per cent GST rates.

Government sources said as part of the initiative, 99 per cent of 12 per cent slab are proposed to move in 5 per cent slab and 90 per cent of items in 28 per cent slab are proposed to move in the 18 per cent slab.

The initiative is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement during his Independence Day Speech on Friday that people are going to get

a very big gift on Diwali and the government has embarked on "big reform of GST".

The sources said that the proposal will be studied by the GoM and a meeting of the GST Council is likely to be held in September-October to consider the proposal.

PM Modi made a major announcement in the Independence Day address relating to GST.

"This Diwali, I am going to make it a double Diwali for you. This Diwali, you fellow countrymen are going to get a very big gift. In the last 8 years, we have done a big reform of GST, reduced the tax burden across the country, simplified the tax regime and after 8 years, the need of the hour is that we should review it once. We started the review by setting up a high-power committee and also held discussions with the states," PM Modi said from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

"We are coming with the next generation of GST reforms, this will be a gift for you this Diwali, taxes needed by the common man will be reduced substantially, a lot of facilities will be increased. Our MSMEs, our small entrepreneurs, will get a huge benefit. Everyday items will become very cheap and that will also give a new boost to the economy," he added. — ANI

SUPPLY CHAIN INTEGRATION



Unilever opens its food production base in China

GUANGZHOU: The London-based consumer goods giant Unilever put its all-category food production base in China into operation on Friday, marking a milestone in its efforts to advance smart manufacturing and supply chain integration in the country.

Located in south China's Guangdong Province, the facility is designed to enhance Unilever's operational capabilities in southern China and strengthen its supply chain network in the Chinese market.

A logistics park opened alongside the new base, serving as a key hub for cross-regional distribution of Unilever's food business. Its

warehouse boasts about 70 per cent higher storage density than standard warehouses, while its receiving and dispatching capacity has risen by 60 percent.

"The launch of the new base makes us confident in our future growth," said Joyce Zhou, general manager of Unilever Foods North Asia, adding that the company will pursue green production to boost both capacity and value.

As one of the world's largest consumer goods companies, Unilever operates a regional headquarters and a global R&D center in Shanghai, along with eight major production bases and logistics centers across China. — Xinhua

ITRI REPORT

Output growth forecast for Taiwan semiconductors increased

TAIPEI: Taiwan's government-supported Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) has raised its forecast for 2025 growth in the output value of the country's semiconductor industry to above 22 per cent on strong global demand for artificial intelligence applications, Focus Taiwan reported.

In its latest IEK Current Quarterly Model report, the ITRI said the local semiconductor industry will have output of NT\$6.5 tril-

lion (US\$216.67 billion) in 2025, up 22.2 per cent from a year earlier, an upward revision from a 19.1 per cent increase estimate made in May.

The ITRI said the strong showing of the local semiconductor industry largely reflected the stronger-than-expected performance of the IC manufacturing segment.

The ITRI forecast came after Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's

largest contract chipmaker, raised its forecast of sales growth to 30 per cent in 2025 from a previous estimate of 24–26 per cent.

According to the Focus Taiwan report, TSMC attributed the higher guidance to the greater computing power needed for emerging AI applications, which has driven higher global demand for advanced chips.

According to the ITRI, the IC manufacturing sector will gener-

ate NT\$4.36 trillion in output in 2025, up 27.5 per cent from a year earlier, compared with an earlier estimate of a 23.1 per cent increase.

Wafer business

The output value of the pure foundry wafer business, where TSMC has taken the lead over its peers globally, is expected to reach NT\$4.16 trillion, up 28.3 per cent from a year earlier, the ITRI said,

as per the report.

In 2025, the IC packaging segment is expected to see its output rising 13.5 per cent from a year earlier to NT\$480.3 billion, while the IC testing segment is expected to post NT\$230.5 billion in output, up 15.2 per cent from a year earlier, the news report cited the ITRI report.

The IC design segment is expected to grow 12.1 per cent in 2025 to an output value of NT\$1.42

trillion, and down from 13.9 per cent growth previously estimated, the ITRI said.

In the second quarter, Taiwan's semiconductor industry posted an output value of NT\$1.6 trillion, up 7.4 per cent from a quarter earlier.

The IC manufacturing segment was the best performer in the industry, with NT\$1.06 trillion in output, up 10.4 per cent from a quarter earlier, the ITRI said. — ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Barka Desalination, up 0.000379, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 0.000528, was the top loser at the end of trading session

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,921.33 points, down by -0.18% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.79% at 473.36 points. Barka Desalination, up 0.000379, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 0.000528, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 1,859 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR18.26 million, with more than 29568.58 million shares changing hands. Out of 59 traded securities, 18 advanced, 21 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR329,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR252,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR77,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,186.50 points, up 0.19%. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Bank Dhofar, Al Sharqia Investment, Taageer Finance, Sohar International Bank were up by 0.0241, 0.01538, 0.0122, 0.0087,

0.00725 respectively. Prices of Liva Group, Al Madina Investments, Muscat Finance, OMINVEST, Bank Muscat were down by 0.05283, 0.02326, 0.01852, 0.00442, 0.00322 respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,996.52 points, down -0.28%. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Gulf International Chemicals, Salalah Mills, Oman Cement were up by 0.02222, 0.01389, 0.0122, 0.01064 respectively. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, A'Saffa Foods, Gulf Mushroom Products, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy were down by 0.02004, 0.01927, 0.01702, 0.01087, 0.0061 respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.49% before closing at 1,909.79 points. Prices of Barka Desalination, Dhofar Generating, National Gas, Phoenix Power, Majan College were up by 0.03788, 0.02667, 0.0241, 0.02273, 0.01852 respectively. Prices of Abraj Energy, SMN Power Holding, Ooredoo, Sembcorp Salalah, Barka Water & Power Company were down by 0.02749, 0.00866, 0.00781, 0.00556, 0.00543 respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,936.71	4,911.91	4,921.33	4,930.06	-8.75	-0.18
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,199.94	8,186.50	8,171.07	8,171.07	15.43	0.19
Industry Index	7,054.12	6,996.52	6,996.52	7,016.26	-19.74	-0.28
Services Index	1,919.90	1,909.21	1,909.79	1,919.25	-9.45	-0.49
MSX Shariah Index	477.29	473.36	477.12	477.12	-3.77	-0.79
MSX TR INDEX	7,306.08	7,269.38	7,263.32	7,296.27	-12.95	-0.18
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,741.81	9,704.17	9,725.85	9,707.52	18.33	0.19
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,668.45	8,597.67	8,597.67	8,621.93	-24.26	-0.28
SERVICES TR IDX	2,455.54	2,438.04	2,442.62	2,454.71	-12.09	-0.49
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
100,910,681	18,264,136	1,859	29,568,587,775	18	21	20	59

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST MD	LAST OFFER	PAV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000004768 - MADINA TAKAFUL	10,645	905	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.083	0.002	2.410	0.085	0.082	0.087	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000002440 - AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	9,050	751	3	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.220	0.083	0.082	0.085	0.100	7,470,000
OM0000003398 - SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	20,899,621	2,898,860	96	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.139	0.138	0.001	0.725	0.139	0.139	0.150	0.100	919,797,232
OM0000003036 - OMAN TELECOM	906,925	299,974	49	0.973	0.979	0.972	0.978	0.975	0.003	0.308	0.978	0.978	0.985	0.100	733,500,000
OM0000001087 - OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	905	144	1	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.000	0.238	0.235	0.238	0.100	23,800,000	
OM0000001441 - NATIONAL BANK OMAN	186,310	57,756	5	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.100	504,043,270
OM0000002178 - JAZZERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,500	4,946	3	0.471	0.471	0.471	0.471	0.471	0.000	0.000	0.471	0.471	0.518	0.100	58,568,559
OM0000004420 - BANK NIZWA	71,810	7,400	7	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.104	0.100	230,406,162
OM0000004925 - ALBATINAH POWER	185,400	17,613	18	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	0.095	0.094	0.096	0.100	64,114,206	
OM0000004853 - AL SUWADI POWER	189,812	12,299	15	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	68,553,009	
OM0000008072 - OQ GAS NETWORKS	9,907,807	1,526,985	189	0.154	0.155	0.152	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.100	671,246,708
OM0000002796 - BANK MUSCAT	13,885,840	4,290,028	136	0.310	0.311	0.308	0.310	0.311	-0.001	-0.322	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.100	2,326,963,089
OM0000003254 - RENAISSANCE SERVICES	105,557	28,617	7	0.280	0.280	0.279	0.279	0.280	-0.001	-0.357	0.279	0.278	0.279	0.100	65,858,590
OM0000001533 - OMINVEST	12,895	2,908	6	0.226	0.226	0.225	0.225	0.226	-0.001	-0.442	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.100	210,535,109
OM0000002236 - AL AZEERA SERVICES	10,374	1,926	6	0.187	0.187	0.185	0.185	0.186	-0.001	-0.538	0.185	0.186	0.202	0.100	7,925,953
OM0000003681 - VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,073	875	5	0.820	0.820	0.815	0.815	0.820	-0.005	-0.610	0.815	0.815	0.830	0.100	76,294,727
OM0000003968 - OOREDOO	47,622	12,171	6	0.256	0.256	0.254	0.254	0.256	-0.002	-0.781	0.254	0.254	0.260	0.100	165,339,834
OM0000002188 - AL ANWAR CERAMIC	263,708	48,071	26	0.185	0.185	0.182	0.182	0.184	-0.002	-1.087	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.100	40,940,000
OM0000002804 - ASAFFA FOODS	10,255	5,221	5	0.515	0.515	0.509	0.509	0.519	-0.010	-1.927	0.509	0.480	0.509	0.100	61,080,000
OM0000001707 - OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,000	4,418	9	2.245	2.245	2.200	2.200	2.245	-0.045	-2.004	2.200	2.200	2.200	0.100	197,340,000
OM0000008934 - ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,092,584	390,084	102	0.292	0.292	0.291	0.291	0.291	-0.008	-2.749	0.291	0.280	0.305	0.100	217,966,600
Total	47,186,693	9,534,260	697												

Parallel Market

OM0000008710 - BARKA DESALINATION	6,000	822	1	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.132	0.005	3.788	0.137	0.132	0.137	0.100	10,346,514
OM0000007497 - DHOFAR GENERATING	100	8	1	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.075	0.002	2.887	0.077	0.075	0.076	0.100	17,112,480
OM0000001160 - NATIONAL GAS	1,000	85	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.083	0.002	2.410	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.100	7,225,000
OM0000005983 - PHOENIX POWER	548,827	48,625	30	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	131,634,131
OM0000002036 - MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	800	147	1	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.180	0.004	2.222	0.184	0.183	0.184	0.100	3,242,754
OM0000001897 - MAJAN COLLEGE	34,471	3,772	4	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.110	0.108	0.002	1.852	0.110	0.108	0.110	0.100	9,900,000
OM0000002549 - BANK DHOFAR	425,412	26,174	18	0.132	0.134	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.002	1.538	0.132	0.132	0.134	0.100	401,253,408
OM0000008908 - OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	35,785,802	5,176,356	586	0.141	0.147	0.141	0.143	0.141	0.002	1.418	0.143	0.143	0.144	0.040	494,707,192
OM0000002028 - GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	14,751	1,082	3	0.072	0.074	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.073	0.072	0.075	0.100	1,533,000
OM0000001889 - SALALAH MILLS	473	196	1	0.415	0.415	0.415	0.415	0.410	0.005	1.220	0.415	0.415	0.420	0.100	25,922,172
OM0000001749 - OMAN CEMENT	2,300	1,089	4	0.477	0.480	0.475	0.475	0.470	0.005	1.084	0.475	0.470	0.480	0.100	157,184,537
OM0000001178 - MUSCAT GASES	500	57	1	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.001	0.893	0.113	0.105	0.113	0.100	3,390,000
OM0000003281 - TAAGEER FINANCE	5,582	648	1	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.116	0.100	0.116	0.100	52,389,893
OM0000001400 - OMAN FLOUR MILLS	8,150	2,891	4	0.475	0.475	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.000	0.000	0.470	0.460	0.470	0.100	77,728,250
OM0000001772 - ALANWAR INVESTMENT	40,014	3,321	8	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	24,779,893
OM0000002077 - AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	20,113	2,615	3	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.090	0.130	0.100	41,004,210
OM0000002200 - AHLI BANK	445	67	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.146	0.150	0.100	406,020,048
OM0000002275 - SHELL OMAN MARKETING	130	81	2	0.621	0.625	0.621	0.625	0.625	0.000	0.000	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.100	59,775,000
OM0000002272 - OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,931	3,695	4	0.750	0.750	0.745	0.745	0.745	0.000	0.000	0.745	0.745	0.749	0.100	454,849,975
OM0000005260 - OMAN ARAB BANK	136,200	20,294	3	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.149	0.150	0.100	248,742,090
OM0000008447 - OMAN REIT FUND	21,290	1,865	4	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	57,075,948
OM0000005005 - ALMAHA WATER WORKS	4,000	1,902	1	0.517	0.517	0.517	0.518	0.518	-0.001	-0.314	0.517	0.510	0.518	0.100	17,435,000
OM0000003141 - BARKA WATER AND POWER	18,810	3,208	4	0.180	0.183	0.180	0.183	0.184	-0.001	-0.543	0.183	0.179	0.183	0.100	29,180,000
OM0000004735 - SEMBCORP SALALAH	28,106	4,449	10	0.232	0.232	0.229	0.229	0.231	-0.002	-0.866	0.229	0.229	0.232	0.100	45,716,552
OM0000004248 - SMN POWER HOLDING	5,684,547	2,028,573	280	0.360	0.360	0.355	0.356	0.360	-0.004	-1.111	0.356	0.356	0.360	0.010	2,844,000,000
OM0000008868 - THE PEARL REIF	4,831	1,089	3	0.130	0.130	0.129	0.129	0.131	-0.002	-1.527	0.129	0.126	0.129	0.100	76,295,358
OM0000001020 - ASTAD SHIPPING	10,776,791	1,344,389	149	0.125	0.128	0.124	0.124	0.126	-0.002	-1.587	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	645,884,291
OM0000002287 - GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	13,710	3,174	4	0.234	0.234	0.231	0.231	0.235	-0.004	-1.702	0.231	0.231	0.235	0.100	10,571,899
OM0000001590 - MUSCAT FINANCE	54,500	2,894	5	0.054	0.054	0.053	0.053	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.052	0.057	0.100	16,278,755
OM0000001962 - AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	20,000	840	1	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.043	-0.001	-2.328	0.042	0.042	0.045	0.100	3,370,000
OM0000007043 - LIVA GROUP	100	25	1	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.265	-0.014	-5.283	0.251	0.245	0.271	0.100	99,991,960
Total	53,679,405	8,719,676	1,151												

UAE-MALI BUSINESS FORUM

UAE Chambers explores opportunities in Mali

SHARJAH: The Federation of the UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry highlighted investment opportunities in the Republic of Mali during the UAE-Mali Business Forum, hosted by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), in collaboration with UAE Chambers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Vice Chairman of the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of SCCI, extended a warm welcome to the Malian trade delegation visiting the UAE from 13 to 18 August. He praised the growing bilateral relations between the two friendly countries



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LIFESTYLE

FIREPROOFING FORESTS

France is battling one of the biggest wildfires in decades that is now larger than Paris. As climate change fuels record drought and heat that make wildfires more frequent and extreme, can we reduce forest fire risk?

PARIS: Firefighters in southern France are grappling to control a large wildfire that has swept through an area bigger than the size of its capital, Paris. Spain and Portugal are also battling wildfires.

Forests are once again burning in many parts of the world. In most cases, forest fires are caused by humans: either intentionally to expand agricultural land, or unintentionally when discarded glass, cigarette butts or even hot car exhaust pipes ignite dry forest or grasslands.

Global heating caused by the emission of greenhouse gases is another major wildfire accelerator.

“Climate change has created a rapidly changing situation in which it is getting hotter and hotter worldwide and drier and drier in many places, and the risk of forest fires is increasing,” said Albert Wotke, a forest expert at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), an environmental protection organization.

Between 2001 and 2024, wildfires wiped out 152 million hectares of trees, which comprises a third of the loss of all trees globally during the same period.

Extreme wildfires worldwide will increase by about 14% by 2030, and 30% by 2050 according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

And as more global regions experience more heat and drought, fires are also increasingly breaking out in places once humid enough to prevent them — such as rainforests in the Amazon and Indonesia.

“We can try to prevent it, but we as humanity must adapt to it,” said Wotke.

Healthy forests offer natural fire protection

The best protection against extreme fires is natural forests, said Sven Selbert, responsible for forest conservation and sustainable forest use at the German nonprofit Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, NABU.

In central Europe, for example, healthy deciduous forests are cool, shady and naturally resilient to fire. “They simply don’t burn as well,” Selbert told DW. “Firstly, because they don’t let as much light onto the ground, which suppresses the undergrowth, especially grasses. And secondly, because their leaves are not very flammable.”

Conifers, on the other hand, contain a lot of flammable tree resin. Grass often grows on the ground in sparse pine forests, and when dry, it acts like tinder, explained Selbert. And if the trees are planted close together as a monoculture, fire can spread quickly.

On the Canary Islands, however, the endemic pines are well-adapted to regular fires and volcanic eruptions. When exposed to flames, the very thick bark does not char but only crusts over. Thanks to this built-in protection, new green shoots soon sprout from native trees.

In the Mediterranean region, the profusion of non-native eucalyptus trees has increased the fire risk. Imported from Asia and Australia, the fast-growing species used for timber and paper production extract a lot of water from the soil and are rich in oils.

Destructive wildfires in Portugal in 2017 were typically accelerated by eucalyptus monocultures.

The original vegetation of the Mediterranean region consisted mainly of sclerophyllous trees such as holm oaks, cork oaks and olive trees. These trees are adapted to drought and fire. However, little of this vegetation remains due to human settlement, agriculture and grazing.

Making forests more fire-resistant

Rehabilitating natural forest is one means of increasing fire resilience, but it’s a slow process. It takes about 90 years for a beech tree to reach a diameter of 60 centimetres and a height of 25 metres (about 80 feet).

That’s why, in the short term, it will be important to reduce fuel loads in forests, said Lindon Pronto, a former firefighter and California-based forest fire management expert with the European Forest Institute.

He suggests removing highly combustible grass or dry branches from the forest floor via mechanical mowing or digging, animal grazing or controlled burning in the cooler months. Such so-called prescribed burning was also common among Indigenous peoples in North America and Australia, he said.

Preventing wildfires with firebreaks

Another strategy to combat wild-

trash, said Selbert.

Under the right wind conditions, firefighters can also employ so-called tactical backfires. They run toward the existing fire and consume all combustible material in their path, said Pronto.

What are known as green firebreaks can also be planted around population centers and civil infrastructure. In central Europe, they come in the form of “native deciduous tree species,” said Selbert.

Meanwhile, any highly flammable plants should be removed from around and within towns and villages when possible.

Failure to clear Los Angeles of non-native grass species such as cheatgrass helped fuel the devastating wildfires that spread through the region in late 2024 and early 2025.

“Cheatgrass burns very well and very quickly and grows very tall, and when it burns, sparks fly relatively far,” said Selbert.

Such plants could be suppressed through grazing, or replaced by native plants that are less flammable.

Speed of the essence

Combating fast-spreading wildfires requires fast action, meaning blazes must be detected as early as possible, said Wotke of the WWF.

In some German states, fire surveillance cameras have been installed on cellphone towers, water towers or old fire watchtowers. They rotate in a circle, taking photos submitted for remote evaluation. If a fire is confirmed, the responsible fire department is notified immediately.

However, Wotke warned that conditions on the ground must also be right for a successful firefighting operation. “This means that wells must be dug or access routes to lakes created,” he said. Firefighting planes or helicopters must also be on standby in particularly vulnerable regions.

In a hotter and drier world, forest fires are becoming more frequent and more intense. But good preparation, better forest management and protective measures can help prevent the worst. -rw

ON A HOTTER
PLANET



Climate change has created a rapidly changing situation in which it is getting hotter and hotter worldwide and drier and drier in many places, and the risk of forest fires is increasing.



Barcelona start La Liga title defence with win in Mallorca

The game was as good as over by halftime after Raphinha put Barca ahead from a Lamine Yamal cross in the seventh minute and Fermin Lopez doubled the lead in the 23rd minute

MADRID: Reigning La Liga champion FC Barcelona began its title defense with a comfortable but controversial 3-0 win away to Mallorca.

The game was as good as over by halftime after Raphinha put Barca ahead from a Lamine Yamal cross in the seventh minute and Fermin Lopez doubled the lead in the 23rd minute.

The Mallorca players were furious when play was allowed to continue after defender Antonio Raillo went down after clearing a cross into the area, with Lopez scoring as the defender remained on the floor.

Manu Morales was booked for protesting and just 10 minutes later he was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Yamal to leave Mallorca with 10 men.

It got even worse for the home side in the 39th minute when Vedat Muriqi was shown a direct red card after the VAR took a look at his high challenge on Barca goalkeeper Joan Garcia who had been registered before kick-off, along with Marcus Rashford.

The home side was even more angry when Raphinha was only



shown a yellow card for a late challenge on the stroke of halftime.

The second half saw Barca control the ball, with Mallorca defending stubbornly with two fewer players on the pitch and with goalkeeper Leo Roman making some fine saves.

The home side kept Barca at bay until the 94th minute when Yamal cut inside two tired defenders to score with a curling shot into the top corner to make it 3-0.

Rayo Vallecano kicked off the season on Friday with a 3-1 win away to Girona, whose goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga had a nightmare first half, which included two goal-producing errors and a 43rd minute red card.

Rayo led 3-0 at the break and held on for the win against a rival that had just 10 men on the pitch.

Oviedo's long-awaited return to La Liga ended with a 2-0 defeat in Villarreal. Alberto Reina saw two cards and was sent off in the 27th minute and against 10-man, Etta Eyong and Pape Gueye sealed Villarreal's win before the break. **-ANI**

PREMIER LEAGUE

Haaland scores brace as Manchester City rout Wolves

LONDON: Erling Haaland struck twice and new signing Tijjani Reijnders sparkled on debut as Manchester City opened their Premier League campaign with a commanding 4-0 away win over Wolves on Saturday.

Reijnders, a summer arrival from AC Milan, delivered an eye-catching performance in midfield, directly involved in three goals as Pep Guardiola's side made a powerful statement at the start of the new season.

Manchester City, who ended last year without silverware for the first time in eight seasons, wasted little time in laying down a marker. Haaland first spurned an early chance, stretching to head over, but soon opened his account by turning in Rico Lewis' driven cross from close range in the 35th minute.

Four minutes later, Reijnders capped a sweeping counterattack with a precise low strike into the



corner to double the lead. The Dutchman continued to dictate the tempo and, on the hour, teed up Haaland for his second with the Norwegian hammering home to make it 3-0. Substitute Rayan Cherki added further gloss late on with a composed effort.

Wolves fought gamely, with Marshall Munetsi's thumping

header disallowed for offside and Jorgen Strand Larsen firing into the side netting.

For Manchester City, the evening brought another positive as goalkeeper James Trafford impressed on his Premier League debut in Ederson's absence, keeping a clean sheet with authority. **-Xinhua**

3-0 VICTORY

Richarlison's double gives Tottenham win over Burnley

LONDON: Richarlison's double, including a spectacular scissor kick, gave Thomas Frank a winning start as Tottenham manager in a comfortable 3-0 victory over newly promoted Burnley on Saturday.

The Brazilian forward, who managed just four league goals last season, looked rejuvenated as he rediscovered the form that prompted Spurs to pay 60 million pounds (about 81 million US dollars) for him back in 2022.

Richarlison struck early in the Frank era, spinning to fire home on the turn after just 10 minutes, following excellent wing play from debutant Mohammed Kudus, who joined Tottenham in a 55 million-pound (about 75 million US dollars) deal from West Ham this summer.

The pair combined again for Spurs' second, Kudus lifting a cross to the far post and Richarlison finishing with an acrobatic



volley that had the home crowd on their feet and the replays looping on the big screens.

Tottenham added a third midway through the second half, with Richarlison initiating the move before Pape Matar Sarr slipped a pass through for Brennan Johnson to sprint clear and finish clinically.

Richarlison departed to a standing ovation in the 71st

minute, making way for Dominic Solanke, who came close to adding a fourth.

For Frank, it was a dream debut in the Spurs dugout. The former Brentford boss was appointed in June to replace Ange Postecoglou, who was dismissed just 16 days after guiding Tottenham to the Europa League title - their first trophy in 17 years. **-Xinhua**

AMMAN

Oman School Team participates in Arab School Championship in Jordan



AMMAN: Oman School Team is taking part in the Arab School Championship hosted by the Kingdom of Jordan from 17 to 28 August in Amman. More than 500 students representing 8 Arab countries are participating in the championship.

The Omani team participates in the boys' futsal five-a-side football competition and in the girls' 3x3 basketball competition.

The tournament is being organised by Jordan Ministry of Education and the School Sports Association (Oman), in cooperation with the Arab Federation for

School Games.

The events will take place in Prince Hamzah Hall in Al Hussein Youth City.

The five-a-side football matches will be played on the polo field, while the 3x3 basketball competitions will be held on the tennis court next to the Olympic swimming pool. Meanwhile, the Paralympic Committee's hall will be venue to the badminton competitions. Both Omani teams completed their preparations for the championship after attending camps that provided intensive training. **-ONA**

TENNIS

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner to clash with Carlos Alcaraz in Cincinnati Open final

CINCINNATI : Carlos Alcaraz is set to clash with World No.1 Jannik Sinner in the Cincinnati Open final following the victories of the two top players in their respective semifinals on Saturday.

To advance into the final of the Cincinnati Open, Sinner overcame France's Terence Atmane in straight sets, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2. The first set was a stressful one, with each player retaining their serve until the tiebreak, which Italian Sinner won by a score of 7-4.

It was Sinner's 26th successive hard-court win and his 12th in a row on all surfaces. Alcaraz advanced to his seventh consecutive tour-level final by beating an ailing Alexander Zverev. The 6-4, 6-3 victory set up a final showdown with Sinner.

The Cincinnati Final is set to take place on Monday; this match marks their fourth consecutive meeting in a tournament final. Sinner won their most recent encounter at Wimbledon, where the



Italian defeated Alcaraz.

"It was a very, very tough challenge. Every time you play against something completely new, it's difficult, but playing against this guy

in the later stages of a tournament is even more difficult. The pressure is higher, and you know they deserve to be there... He has beaten incredible players throughout his

wins," Sinner said as quoted from the ATP Tour website.

"It's never easy playing against someone that you know is not feeling 100 per cent. It's even tougher when it comes from Sascha, such a great player, such a great person off the court. We have a really good relationship," Alcaraz said.

Earlier, Alcaraz booked his semifinal spot in a nervy, error-filled outing against Andrey Rublev. The number two in the world has seen his share of highs and lows in the tournament.

But Alcaraz prevailed by 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 in a match that went to an exciting decider, despite the 15 unforced errors and three double faults in the final set.

Sinner continued his grass court win streak with a brilliant victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime to reach the semifinals. Sinner produced a clutch performance, reminding fans of his evolution and maturity, beating Felix by 6-0, 6-2. **-ANI**

OLD TRAFFORD STADIUM

Manchester United to host Arsenal in Premier League 2025-26 opener

MANCHESTER: Manchester United will lock horns with Arsenal in their opening game of the Premier League 2025-26 campaign, which will be played at Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester on Sunday.

After enduring a brutal campaign last season that saw them finish in 15th position - their lowest in the Premier League era - United will be looking for a posi-

tive start to this season.

Having managed to find the back of the net just 44 times last season - the fifth lowest in the league - the Red Devils have strengthened their frontline over the summer transfer window, as per Olympics.com.

United have roped in the likes of Matheus Cunha, Bryan Mbeumo and Benjamin Sesko to sharpen their attack and add much-needed



firepower up front.

Arsenal, on the other hand, will be eager to end their 22-year wait for the Premier League title after finishing second in the last three seasons.

The Gunners have also bolstered their squad by signing goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga, defender Christian Norgaard, winger Noni Madueke and Viktor Gyokeres, one of Europe's most sought-

after strikers currently.

They will be keen to hit the ground running and are unbeaten against United in their last five league encounters.

Overall, Manchester United have squared off 66 times with Arsenal in the Premier League, winning 26 times. Arsenal have won on 21 occasions, and there have also been 19 draws in this fixture. **-ANI**

Centrepont unveils ‘Class of 2025’ – The Back-to-School campaign

Centrepont brings together Babyshop, Splash, Lifestyle, and Shoemart under one roof – making it the region’s most trusted Back-to-School destination

MUSCAT: Centrepont proudly unveils its latest Back-to-School campaign: “Class of 2025”, a celebration of new beginnings, big ambitions, and bold self-expression. As children, tweens, teens, and parents gear up for the academic year ahead, Centrepont’s newest



collection makes the transition exciting, stylish, and stress-free. With everything from school-wear and accessories to footwear, bags, and daily essentials, Centrepont brings together Babyshop, Splash, Lifestyle, and Shoemart under one roof – making it the region’s most trusted Back-to-School destination. Babyshop continues to lead as the go-to brand for the ultimate back-to-school collection. This year’s collection is smarter, cooler, and more comfortable than ever.



Babyshop delivers peace of mind along with top-notch quality. Splash introduces a collection designed for young trendsetters stepping into a new year with confidence. Think sporty co-ords, graphic tees, cool denim, and sleek joggers for both boys and girls. Whether it’s for classroom days or after-school hangs, Splash has curated versatile outfits that reflect personality and energy. For teens and older students, the vibe shifts to elevated streetwear, statement layers, and mix-and-match must-



haves – all sustainably made, stylishly priced, and ready for school life’s every moment. Lifestyle amps up the style quotient with school essentials that are anything but basic. From ergonomic backpacks with digital ports and washable fabrics to tech gadgets, water bottles, stationery, and lunch kits, the collection brings fun and function together. Bold prints, animal motifs, solids, and signature Lifestyle exclusives ensure students head back in style. With brands like Jansport, Her-

schels, Benetton and GAP in the mix – and fan favourites like Miss Totes for teens – Lifestyle has something for every student’s aesthetic. Plus, value sets and warranty-backed picks help parents shop smarter, faster. Shoemart rounds out the school look with footwear that combines durability and style. For over 35 years, Shoemart has helped students take their first steps into each new school year. From memory foam sneakers and anti-slip formal shoes to backpacks, crossbody bags, and trainers for college-bound teens, every item is designed with movement, comfort, and personality in mind. With in-house labels like Juniors and leading global brands like adidas and Kappa, Shoemart has the right fit for every age and stage. This is the Class of 2025 – ready to learn, lead, and leave a mark. With Centrepont’s all-in-one Back-to-School range, families can prep, pack, and power through the year ahead in absolute style.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

ahli Islamic introduces 5% tuition cashback to support back-to-school expenses for its credit cardholders

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its position as the Islamic banking service provider of choice, ahli Islamic has introduced an exclusive ‘Back to School’ campaign, offering customers 5% cashback on tuition fee payments made with its Sharia-compliant credit cards. Running until 10th September 2025, this initiative is thoughtfully crafted in accordance with Islamic finance principles, aiming to ease the financial burden on families during the academic season. As part of this value-driven campaign, ahli Islamic credit cardholders will earn 5% cashback in Pearl Reward Points on tuition fee payments, subject to a minimum spend of OMR 500. The cashback is capped at OMR50 in Pearl Points per customer, with eligible points credited within 60 days following the conclusion of the campaign. Customers can redeem these points for cashback to their accounts or credit cards, travel bookings with select partner airlines, hotel accommodations, or purchases at a broad network of



partner merchants. In this context, Noora Sultan, AGM-Head of Retail Banking at ahli Islamic, commented: “In line with our commitment to Islamic

banking excellence, we continue to design initiatives that bring meaningful value to our customers’ lives. The ‘Back to School’ campaign reflects our ongoing efforts to support families during key moments in the year, while staying true to the principles that define our services. It is more than a seasonal offer – it is an expression of our purpose to provide Sharia compliant, relevant, and rewarding financial solutions.” By placing customer well-being at the forefront and seamlessly integrating Islamic banking principles with innovative banking practices, ahli Islamic continues to shape the future of modern Islamic banking – meeting the evolving needs of today’s customers with integrity and insight. This campaign is a testament to ahli Islamic’s mission of making day-to-day banking financially empowering. Through this timely offer, families can transform seasonal education costs into rewarding opportunities, all while banking with peace of mind. ahli Islamic invites credit cardholders to make the most of this limited-period offer and experience how values-based banking can support their aspirations, both today and for the future.

‘BUY NOW, PAY IN 2026’ OFFER



United Finance Company, Gargash GAC Motor Oman form strategic partnership

MUSCAT: United Finance Company (UFC) has partnered with Gargash GAC Motor Oman to launch an exclusive financing program designed to give customers more breathing room during one of the year’s most expensive seasons. With the “Buy Now, Pay in 2026” offer, customers can secure their dream GAC vehicle today and postpone payments – except for the down payment – until 2026. “Our customers face multiple financial priorities this time of year – from school fees to household expenses. This partnership ensures they can still access the vehicle they want, without the immediate pressure of full payments,” said Fawaz Al Riyami, Chief Business Officer at UFC. “This collaboration with UFC

reflects our shared commitment to making quality mobility accessible to more customers, especially during financially demanding months, along with insurance and registration support, as we know these are important for customers,” said Vipil Divakaran, General Manager at Gargash GAC Motor Oman. **Key details:** - Offer valid on all GAC vehicles in Oman - Promotion ends September 30, 2025 - After down payment, no monthly instalments until 2026 - Customers still enjoy full vehicle ownership benefits immediately Customers can visit their nearest GAC showroom or contact 7222 4791 for more details.

THE FUTURE LEADERS



‘Manahil Alizz’ Internship Programme presents graduation projects

MUSCAT: The third batch of the renowned ‘Manahil Alizz’ Internship Programme recently presented their graduation projects. The projects had to showcase added value in process enhancement, applicability, sustainability and the potential to make a significant impact. An esteemed judging panel lead by members of the executive management team of the bank then evaluated the presentations across 13 competencies to determine the winning project wproposal. This years edition of the programme consists of 50 male and female students from various uni-

versities and colleges across the Sultanate of Oman. This brings the number of participants in the Manahil Alizz Internship Programme to over 100 talented Omani students. **Selection process** The selection process involved nominations from their respective academic institutions, while Alizz Islamic bank has meticulously prepared a suitable framework, comprehensive curriculum and high-level classes and sessions to enhance their educational skills using the latest modern techniques. This approach ensures that

knowledge is accessible to all students, obtained flexibly and easily equips them to understand the corporate working environment, banking sector characteristics and fostering innovative thinking that enables them to become decision-makers and effective initiators in addressing key industry needs. The programme is designed to empower and prepare third year university and college students and augment their capabilities by equipping them with the essential skills and knowledge required to successfully enter and thrive in the job market saw great success in it’s previous two editions; with

the participants expressing gratitude to being part of such and an enriching program that not only aims to enhance their leadership, personal development and project management skills but also teach them how to overcome challenges in the business sector and find suitable solutions. Alizz Islamic Bank continuously strives to develop the future leaders of Oman; placing great importance on education, training and development, empowering future leaders and equipping them with the skills and capabilities needed to contribute their creative potential towards serving their communities.

ISC ORGANISES CULTURAL EVENT

The Indian Social Club organised a cultural event along with the Rangrez team, who showcased paintings in celebration of Independence Day. Around 12 participants took part in this event, which was held at Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Mariam Cheriyaan, Latha Guru coordinated along with other artists including Veena Thoppil, Kiranmayi, RemaSivakumar, Vaishali, Kavita, Asawari, Elizebeth and Anchana. — Supplied picture



ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat organises workshop on financial literacy in conjunction with IKEA Summer Camp in Bausher

The Bank's participation came as part of its Maliyat Academy Programme that aims to instill and reinforce the principles of financial literacy amongst kids

MUSCAT: As part of its concerted efforts in social responsibility and community service across multiple fields, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently organised a workshop on financial literacy in conjunction with the IKEA Summer Camp activities hosted in the Wilayat of Bausher, Muscat Governorate.

The workshop featured the participation of 100 kids aged between 10 -15. The Bank's participation came as part of its Maliyat Academy Programme that aims to instill and reinforce the principles



of financial literacy amongst kids.

Financial literacy plays a pivotal role in promoting financial inclusion and is a key pillar for achieving economic and social stability. It fosters responsible financial practices that support sustainability by empowering individuals to manage their finances, make informed decisions, and better navigate financial challenges. By promoting awareness and accurate understanding of core financial principles and concepts, such initiatives help participants develop smart financial habits and equip them with the skills to better manage their financials, save effectively, and make sound spending decisions from an early age.

During the workshop, the Bank's dedicated team introduced the

participants to the Maliyat Academy educational content comprising 5 chapters, each revolving around a different subject related to financial literacy.

Chapter 1 of the academy covers "Sound Decision-Taking" which defines money and introduces participants to the importance of taking sound financial decisions for securing a decent life. Chapter 2 touches upon "Learn How to Gain Money" and urging participants to look for possible ways to acquire money for the future. Chapter 3 focuses on "Saving and Spending" and it emphasises the significance of setting sound spending plans to familiarize the kids with the effective objectives of doing such a practice. The chapter also introduces the kids to the concept of

budget and its role in money-saving practices.

Chapter 4 sheds the light on "Grow Your Money" and it aims to raise kid awareness about the impacts of taking effective investment decisions on capital growth by time.

In chapter 5, the participants were familiarised with the concept of "Giving" aiming to instill within them the value of giving in nurturing satisfaction and courage. In addition, the workshop combined the theoretical material with engaging activities to enable a facilitated learning process for the participants. The workshop also emphasised the use of interactive activities to simplify the concepts and enhance engagement among participants. It is

worth noting that this session is a continuation of the successful partnership between Bank Muscat and the Ministry of Education to support the Bank's Maliyat Academy Programme, which has benefited, to date, over 70,000 students across various governorates in the Sultanate.

Bank Muscat places significant importance on sustainability and corporate social responsibility, with a strong focus on promoting financial awareness and its positive impact across all segments of society. The Bank actively launches programmes and initiatives to spread financial literacy and educate the public on the importance of effective financial management, helping individuals plan constructively for their financial future.

In addition to the "Maliyat" Academy programme, Bank Muscat offers the "Maliyat" programme, an online platform launched in 2019 to offer free courses on financial literacy targeting individuals aged 18 and above. The programme falls under Bank Muscat's CSR initiatives and it focuses on enhancing financial literacy with the aim of providing individuals from different ages with the basic skills needed to manage various financial affairs, make wise spending decisions, and prepare them to be financially independent individuals. The programme highlights various aspects of financial literacy, including basic financial concepts and

principles such as financial planning, tracking spends, investment, revenue, debt management, saving and planning for the future.

The Financial literacy concepts help individuals, especially the youth, set well-managed future financial plans and prepare themselves for life in light of the current economic changes that could affect the financial stability of individuals and families.

Therefore, it is necessary for them to have knowledge and awareness about financial affairs, including understanding basic financial terms such as budgets, interest, insurance and loans, thus, enabling them to develop well-thought-out future financial plans that enable them to face unexpected life changes such as economic crises.

Bank Muscat's sustainable and CSR-focused initiatives and Programmes represent one of the key pillars which the Bank has constantly committed to implementing and enhancing during its journey spanning over 40 years in partnership with multiple governmental institutions. These Programmes revolve around multiple areas such as education, youth, sport, health, environment, and entrepreneurship, targeting different segments of the Omani society. During the past few years, it should be noted that the Bank has successfully launched such initiatives and events that appealed to the entire society.

EXPERIENCE COMFORT AND CONFIDENCE

Now experience elegance in motion with the Ford Taurus

MUSCAT: The Ford Taurus is a bold blend of modern luxury, intelligent technology and exhilarating performance. It is built for those who demand more from their drive. From city streets to open highways, the Taurus transforms every journey into an experience of comfort, confidence and commanding style.

Crafted to turn heads, the Ford Taurus boasts a refined silhouette that radiates power and poise. From its 19-inch polished alloy wheels and sleek hood to its dynamic chrome-accented grille and dual exhausts, every detail is engineered for presence. Signature LED auto high beams, a two-piece headlamp design and power-deployable door handles add a touch of modern elegance while enhancing function in any condition.

At its core, the Taurus houses a 2.0-litre EcoBoost engine delivering 239 horsepower and 382 Nm of torque.

Paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission and offering three selectable drive modes which are Normal, Sport and Eco, it adapts seamlessly to your driving style. With fuel efficiency of up to 15.5 km/l, you enjoy power without compromise.

Inside, the Taurus welcomes you into a world of thoughtful luxury. Spacious and serene, the cabin features 10-way power-



adjustable driver seating, 6-way passenger seat adjustments, dual-zone climate control and ambient lighting in seven hues. Premium materials and sound-deadening technology ensure a quiet, refined ride, while the panoramic dual-panel moonroof brings the outdoors in.

The Ford Taurus is equipped with a full suite of safety and driver-assist technologies designed to keep you confident on every drive. Features like Blind Spot Information System (BLIS), adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, and collision mitigation technology offer proactive protection. Front and rear cameras, parking sensors, six airbags and the SOS Post-Crash Alert System ensure you and your passengers are safeguarded at every turn.

At the heart of the cabin is a cut-

ting-edge 13.2-inch touchscreen powered by Ford's SYNC® 4 infotainment system. Voice-activated controls, seamless smartphone integration, wireless charging, and a premium six-speaker audio system deliver an always-connected, always-entertaining experience.

The Ford Taurus is available in two refined variants, Ambiente and Titanium, each thoughtfully equipped to suit your lifestyle and preferences.

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ITEN SQUARE

Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals launches Khareef Dhofar Medical Clinic

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, the official medical partner of Khareef Dhofar, launched its Medical Clinic at Iten Square to cater to health emergencies and concerns of the tourists visiting Dhofar for tourism.

This Clinic situated at Iten Square was inaugurated by Dr. Muhanna bin Nasser Al-Maslahi, Director General, DGPHE, MoH in presence of Dr. Muhammed Abdullah Al Yafai, Director of Private Health, Dhofar, Dr. Said Al Mughairi, Director of Quality Assurance and Patient Safety, DGPHE, Dr. Salih Ibrahim Salih Al-Azzawi, Medical Director of Badr Al Samaa Hospital Salalah and Abdul Azeez Allakkatt, Branch Head of Badr Al Samaa Hospital Salalah and other MoH and Badr Al Samaa Officials.

This well-equipped medical clinic by Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospital is dedicated to safeguarding the health and well-being of tourists, offering a full range of first aid services for minor injuries, sudden illnesses, or medical concerns that may arise during travel. Staffed by qualified and compassionate clinical staff, the clinic also provides ambulance services to ensure rapid emergency response and seamless transport to advanced care facilities if needed. In-case of need the patients are provided with discount on services coupons.

Most of the cases are addresses



in this medical clinic, while as some cases requiring advanced medical care, after first aid, are transferred to an advanced facility. Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah in such cases provides facilities of advanced diagnosis including MRI & CT Scan and treatment facilities and surgical services in almost 20 varied specialities.

Dr. Muhanna bin Nasser Al-Maslahi, upon having the walk-thru of the clinic, praised the readiness and services established by Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals. He said he is proud that Badr Al Samaa has joined hands with Dhofar Municipality and Ministry of Health to safe guard health of the visitors.

Dr Muhammed Abdullah Al Yafai stated that the need for healthcare increases considerably during Khareef Dhofar and initiatives taken by Badr Al Samaa Group of

Hospitals has helped to address the situation to a larger extent. Having a clinic in the busiest venues of Khareef Dhofar is very beneficial.

On the sidelines of this inauguration, Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Salalah received certificate of appreciation for Quality Patient Care & Services by Dr. Muhanna bin Nasser Al-Maslahi, Director General, DGPHE, MoH in presence of Dr. Muhammed Abdullah Al Yafai, Director of Private Health, Dhofar, Dr. Said Al Mughairi, Director of Quality Assurance and Patient Safety, DGPHE. During the ceremony the hospital was praised for its commitment to implementing infection control requirements and patient safety standards approved by the Ministry of Health, and its continued efforts to enhance the quality of health services.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FORGOTTEN

Indian School Muladha celebrates 79th Independence Day

MUSCAT: Indian School Muladha celebrated the 79th Indian Independence Day with a series of attractive and colourful programmes, honouring some of the brave martyrs who have been unfortunately forgotten in the history of India's freedom struggle.

The school was adorned in tricolor, with festoons, articles and posters expressing respect and love for the country.

The event was graced by the chief guest, Dr Ajeeb Palackal, Treasurer of the School Management Committee, along with other committee members, Dr Faheem Ahmad, Mr Musthafa Nayikkarimbil, and Mr. Goudam K.P.

In the presence of the Principal and Vice-Principal, the programmes fostered a sense of patriotism and unity, creating

a heartwarming experience for students, teachers, parents and other guests.

The celebratory events, which began with the newly inducted school band's "Freedom Beats" parade, featured the school choir singing the national anthems of Oman and India. The Chief Guest, Dr Ajeeb Palackal, received the salute and guard of honour from the marching contingents comprising 42 student council members, led by the school head boy. Principal Dr Leena Francis extended Independence Day wishes to the audience and read out relevant excerpts from the honorable President Smt. Droupadi Murmu's Independence Day message, highlighting India's glorious past, freedom struggle, government initiatives and recent achievements.



Students from classes IV to XI presented a noteworthy dance performance titled "A Tribute to the Unsung Heroes."

The show was a unique blend of dance and history, featuring performances that paid homage to brave freedom fighters who fought against the British East India

Company. The dance seamlessly integrated depictions of figures like Alluri Sitarama Raju (Telangana), Rani Gaidinliu (Nagaland), Tiruppur Kumaran (Tamil Nadu), Matangini Hazra (West Bengal), and Birsna Munda (Jharkhand).

Each segment combined a freedom struggle song with the

traditional dance form of the hero's state. This unique approach evoked a sense of respect and patriotism in the audience, raising awareness about the significant, yet often overlooked, contributions of these unsung heroes to the nation.

In his Independence Day ad-

dress, Chief Guest Dr Ajeeb Palackal emphasized the value of hard earned freedom gifted to us by the selfless and courageous sacrifice made by our ancestors. He stated that our freedom ends where the next person's freedom begins and called for everyone to live in harmony, regardless of caste, religion or class. He also highlighted India as a global model of unity in diversity, urging its preservation and calling for work towards a strong India that brings happiness and freedom to all.

The celebrations concluded with a multilingual patriotic song performance by 35 students from classes V to XI. Their melodious performance delighted the audience, and the event succeeded in strengthening the sense of patriotism in everyone present.

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DINING



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