

Times

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OF OMAN

50

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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A joint
communiqué was
issued on the
occasion of the
official visit of the
Iranian President

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran, affirmed the positive and fruitful role undertaken by the private sector in both countries, expressing their hope that these activities would contribute to augmenting investments and trade exchange between them.

They also expressed satisfaction with the level of political consultation and coordination between the two countries at various

levels.

This was stated in the joint communiqué issued on the occasion of the official visit of President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman on 27-28 May. The following is the full text:

In response to an invitation from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday and Wednesday, 27-28

May 2025.

This visit stems from the deep-rooted historical ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as between their friendly peoples.

The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral relations and reaffirm the mutual respect and appreciation between the leaderships and peoples of both countries, which are grounded in the principles of religion, fraternity, and good neighbourliness. **>A4**

Oman-Iran set to increase trade volume to \$30 billion



MUSCAT: President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met yesterday at Al Alam Palace in Muscat with a number of Omani and Iranian businesspeople to discuss means of enhancing trade and investment relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This meeting comes as part of the Iranian President's official visit to Oman.

President Pezeshkian emphasised the importance of linking economic corridors and ports in both countries to develop economic, trade, and investment relations, aiming to increase trade volume to \$30 billion over the next three years.

He affirmed that his country is ready to cooperate with Oman in various economic, scientific, and cultural fields, stressing the importance of exchanging views and expertise to strengthen economic ties and engage in joint investment projects across multiple sectors. He also highlighted both sides' efforts to facilitate financial transfers between them. Additionally, he affirmed the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to expanding and enhancing security and stability in the region and the world while extending support to all Muslims.

In his turn, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, explained that under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan, Oman is advancing efforts to boost investments and diversify economic sectors. He expressed hope that the trade delegation would explore investment opportunities in various fields, particularly renewable energy, industry, tourism, mining, logistics, food security, medical and food industries, information technology, and real estate development. **>A4**

First phase of national initiative to enhance telecom services in underdeveloped areas completed



MUSCAT: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has completed the first phase of a joint national initiative between the government, the TRA and licensees to improve telecommunications services offered at underdeveloped geographic locations known as Comprehensive Service Areas.

The initiative seeks to enhance the quality of services provided to beneficiaries in areas facing infrastructure and coverage challenges.

The initiative focuses on utilising the savings made from the postponement of hikes on royalty rates that are typically charged upon the conversion of connections of telecommunication stations from 'satellite technology' to 'fibre optics'. This procedure will enhance the performance of telecommunication towers and achieve a more reliable and stable user experience.

The initiative opens up vistas for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to implement businesses and provide services in Comprehensive Service Areas, including telecom services, maintenance and project management.

The initiative will also enable SMEs to offer direct and indirect employment opportunities through the implementation of related projects. **-ONA**

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OMAN Manah yields three tonnes of honey

1 The production of honey, including both Sidr honey and Samar varieties, in the Wilayat of Manah for this season reached 3 tonnes. **>A2**

OMAN Pilgrims enter through Empty Quarter border

2 The Empty Quarter Border Crossing—linking Oman and Saudi Arabia—facilitated the passage of 80 buses carrying 2,696 pilgrims en route to the Holy Lands for Hajj. **>A3**

SPORTS Oman team falls short in a thriller

3 Hosts USA edged past Duleep Mendis' men by nine runs in their ICC World Cup League 2 match. **>A8**

Sayyid Asa'ad returns home



MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan returned home coming from Malaysia after

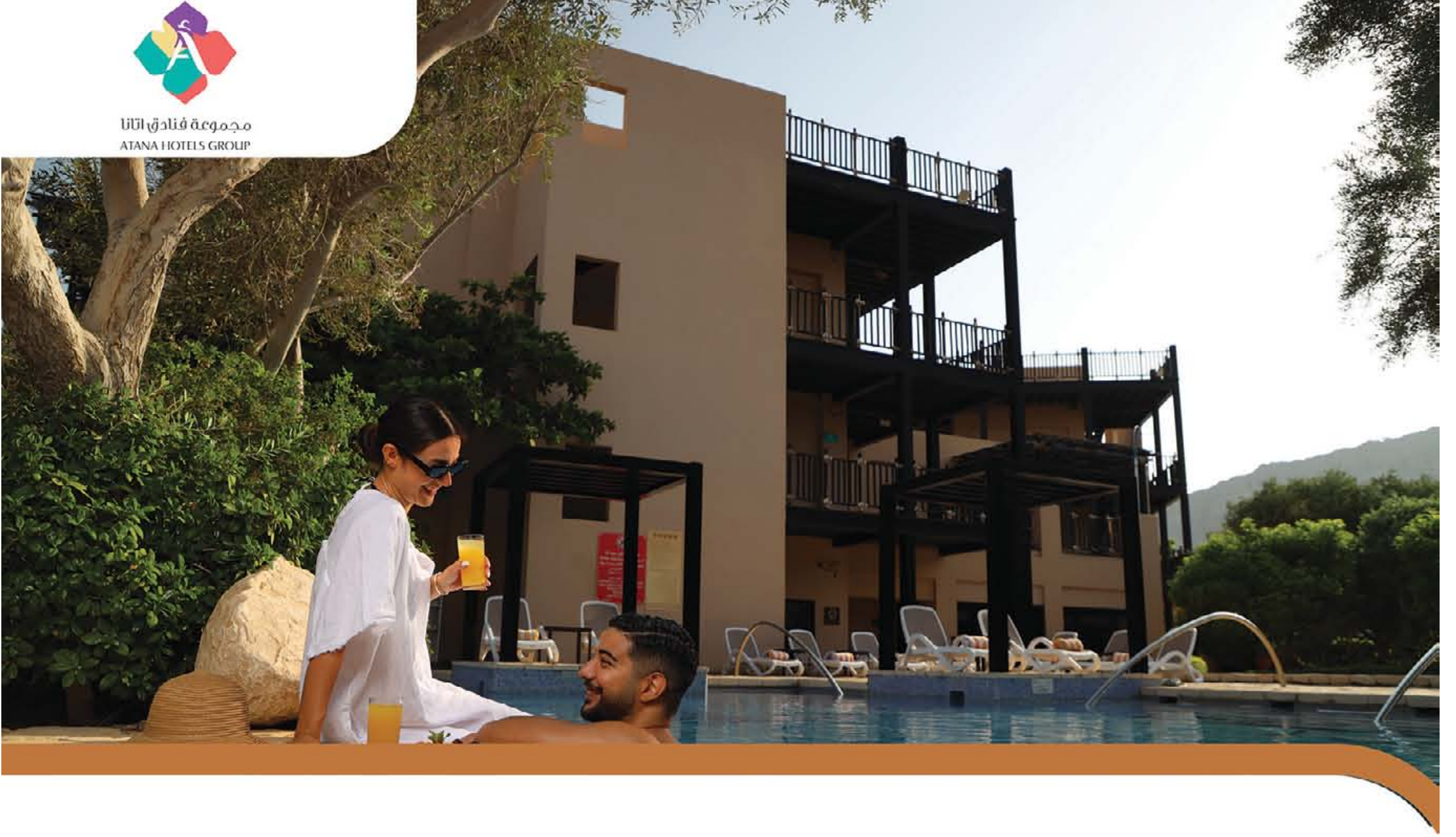
chairing the Sultanate of Oman's delegation at the GCC-ASEAN Summit and the GCC-ASEAN-China Summit, which were held in Kuala Lumpur.

Upon his arrival at the Royal Airport, HH Sayyid Asa'ad was

received by Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, Dr. Mahad Said Baowain, Minister of Labour, and the Charge D'affaires of the Malaysian embassy in the Sultanate of Oman. **-ONA**



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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:09pm
Asr.....3:29pm
Maghrib.....6:53pm
Isha.....8:14pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....3:54am

Oman participates in Arab-Chinese experts meeting on AI in Libraries

The participation is aimed at strengthening ties in the field of libraries and information, exchange expertise in utilising AI

NANJING: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in the sixth session of the Arab-Chinese Experts Meeting on Libraries and Information, held in Nanjing, China, from during 26-30 May 2025 under the theme: "Trends in National and Central Libraries in the Age of

Artificial Intelligence."
The meeting falls within the executive programme of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum for 2024-2026, under the patronage of the General Secretariat of the Arab League and the National Library of China, and is hosted by the Propaganda and United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China's Jiangbei New District Committee, with the participation of the Jiangbei Library.
Oman's delegation from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth participated in the third session of the meeting, which discussed "Cooperation and Partnerships: Building Collaborative Networks, Exchanging Expertise, and Developing Skills and Competencies in AI for Arab and Chinese Libraries."
The participation aimed to strengthen strategic partnerships in the field of libraries and information, exchange expertise in uti-



lizing AI technologies, and support joint knowledge development efforts between Arab countries and China. This contributes to effective integration and communication between cultural and library institutions.
Joint initiatives
Additionally, the meeting sought to establish platforms for professional exchange and cooperation between Arab and Chinese libraries, encouraging joint initiatives that enhance competencies and foster a culture of innovation in the library sector based on trust and mutual benefit.
The event saw broad attendance, with 21 representatives from 10 Arab League member states alongside delegates from 17 Chinese libraries, reflecting shared interest in strengthening cooperation to address the challenges and opportunities posed by the digital revolution in the library sector. -**ONA**

SCHOLARSHIP SEATS

Higher Education ministry inks pact with Royal College of Surgeons

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation has signed a cooperation agreement in the field of higher education and scholarships with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Bahrain Royal Medical University in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
The agreement was signed by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education and Professor Sameer Al Atoum, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Bahrain Royal Medical University.
The signing of the agreement comes as a result of the distinguished relationship between the Ministry and the college, and the desire of both parties to enhance and develop cooperation in the field of higher education.
According to the agreement, the ministry will send a number of students to study in the Medical Commencement Programme (MCP) or the Bachelor of Medicine programme.
The ministry will provide the college with a list of students selected for study at the beginning of each academic year.
The agreement includes a guarantee to provide (10) scholarship seats annually for students sponsored by the ministry, provided



FACT: The agreement was signed by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education and Professor Sameer Al Atoum, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Bahrain Royal Medical University. -**ONA**
that the required number of qualified applicants are available.
The college will cover the tuition fees for (2) of these seats. Students will be admitted to the program based on their competitive GPA and meeting all standard admission criteria as stipulated in the college's admission and registration regulations, considering them eligible for their applications to be considered. -**ONA**

NORTH AL SHARQIYAH

20 km of Al-Aflaj road in Al Mudhaibi inaugurated

AL MUDHAIBI: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Wednesday inaugurated 20 km of Al-Aflaj Road in Al Mudhaibi, North Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The road stretches from the Sinaw-Al-Mudhaibi intersection to Al-Aflaj village.
The project involved the design and construction of a single carriageway with two lanes, each 3.5 metres wide, alongside asphalt shoulders measuring 1.5 metres in width.

Additionally, box culverts were installed over minor wadis and larger drainage channels. The road has been equipped with all necessary safety features, including road markings, directional signs, metal barriers, and reflective road studs.
The remaining sections of the road are expected to be completed in the coming months. Once fully open, the road will enhance commercial activity between the areas of Sinaw and Al Mudhaibi. -**ONA**



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AL DAKHILIYAH GOVERNORATE

Wilayat of Manah yields three tonnes of honey in current season



MANAH: The production of honey, including both Sidr (jujube tree) honey and Samar (Acacia tree) varieties, in the Wilayat of Manah in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate for this season reached approximately 3 tonnes. The number of beekeepers in the wilayat exceeds 100, managing around 1,400 beehives.
Mohammed bin Hareb Al Bahlani, Director of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in the Wilayat of Manah, stated that honeybee gathering is a profession of great interest to broad segments of society in the wilayat and serves as a vital source of income for many families engaged in this profession.
It contributes to supporting the

national economy by meeting the local market's demand for various types of honey and promoting it both within and outside the Sultanate of Oman through participation in specialised festivals and events, he said.
He added that this year's production, particularly of Samar (Acacia tree) honey, saw better yields compared to the previous year due to the availability of pasture and the absence of pests and diseases in the hives.
This led to increased availability and a noticeable drop in prices for consumers.
Reflecting on his experience in local honey production, beekeeper Nasser bin Hamoud Al Busaidi noted that his journey with Omani



honey gathering began 40 years ago, highlighting the challenges of collecting honey while traversing valleys and mountains.
He explained that transporting hives outside the wilayat is costly, though some beekeepers prefer it due to drought and high temperatures.
This year, however, favourable conditions—such as limited rainfall and abundant Samar tree blossoms—resulted in good production.
He further noted variations in the taste and quality of honey across Oman's governorates due to higher coastal humidity compared to inland areas, despite bees requiring minimal humidity.
Additionally, he emphasized

that beekeeping provides a stable and rewarding income for many, with prices remaining affordable, thereby adding value to the local economy.
Effective marketing efforts, particularly among youth and through various communication channels, as well as participation in ongoing festivals and events, further contribute to this sector.
It is worth noting that the number of beekeepers in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate stands at approximately 1,639, with honey production last year (2024) reaching around 168 tonnes of Sidr (jujube tree) and Samar (Acacia tree) honey. This figure is expected to increase by the end of the current season. -**ONA**

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STRATEGIC COOPERATION

Qatari Parliamentary Friendship Group visits State Council

MUSCAT: The Qatari Parliamentary Friendship Group from the Qatari Shura Council on Wednesday visited the State Council to exchange expertise and strengthen strategic cooperation ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar.

The delegation was received by Sheikh Dr. Hilal Ali Al Hinai, Vice Chairman of the State Council, Khalid Ahmed Al Saadi, Secretary-General of the State Council, and

several officials from the General Secretariat.

During the visit, cordial discussions were held, highlighting the strong bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. Both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation between their legislative institutions.

The visiting delegation received a briefing on the Council's role, responsibilities, developmental milestones, key activities, achieve-

ments, and the operational mechanisms of its main bodies.

For their part, members of the Qatari Parliamentary Friendship Group expressed their gratitude to the State Council for the warm reception, praising the strong bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar.

At the conclusion of the visit, the delegation toured the Council's premises, where they were introduced to various facilities. -ONA



‘Passports of Pakistanis deported from Oman, GCC to be cancelled’

Pakistan's federal government has decided to take stringent measures against its citizens deported from foreign countries for illegal activities by cancelling their passports and registering criminal charges

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pakistani expats deported from Oman and other countries will have their passports cancelled on arrival, a senior official of the Pakistan government said.

Pakistan's federal government has decided to take stringent measures against its citizens deported from other countries for illegal activities by cancelling their passports and registering criminal charges, in a bid to curb a growing issue that officials say is tarnishing the country's international image.

This was announced following a meeting of Pakistan's Ministry of Interior, chaired by federal interior minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Confirming this to Times of Oman, Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, Syed Naveed Saifdar Bokhari, said, "It's a step to check illegal immigration and to ensure that bonafide immigrants and job



seekers come to Oman. This will also ensure that if anyone is arrested for violating law in Oman and deported, then that person will not be able to travel abroad again. This measure shows Pakistan's readiness to take tough measures to curb illegal immigration. This

measure will help in ensuring that legal ways of promoting employment for Pakistani citizens in Oman are strengthened."

According to the Pakistan government, the names of the deported expats will also be placed on the passport control list for five



years, putting restrictions on them to travel abroad. This decision was taken after a large number of people were deported from the Gulf and European countries for illegal stays and working illegally.

There are millions of Pakistanis living and working in foreign coun-

tries, mainly in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Europe, the US, Australia, Malaysia and others.

The NCSI in Oman said that there were 318,208 Pakistani expatriates in Oman at the end of April 2025.

HOLY LANDS

More than 2,500 pilgrims cross for Hajj via Empty Quarter Border Crossing



IBRI: The Rub-el-Khali (Empty Quarter) Border Crossing — linking the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — facilitated the passage of 80 buses carrying 2,696 pilgrims en route to the Holy Lands to perform Hajj rituals. This operation reflects the integrated efforts by relevant authorities to streamline pilgrimage procedures.

This meticulous coordination demonstrates the efficiency of collaboration between various entities, including the Royal Oman Police and the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, in simplifying travel procedures and reducing waiting times at border crossings. These measures ensure

smooth transit and comfort for pilgrims arriving from various governorates across Oman.

Ibrahim Mubarak Al Harthy from the Endowments and Religious Affairs Department in Al Dhahirah Governorate explained that the processing occurred in two phases.

The first phase focused on verifying pilgrims' compliance with requirements and guidelines issued by the Omani Hajj Mission and its Saudi counterpart. The second phase involved completing passport procedures and necessary permits for entry to Saudi Arabia.

Several pilgrims expressed satisfaction with the organized

procedures at the border crossing, praising the seamless transit process and the swift completion of formalities by the concerned authorities.

To enhance services, the Royal Oman Police—in cooperation with the Sultan's Armed Forces, the Civil Defense and Ambulance Authority, and the Ibri Charitable Team—established a comprehensive service station along the route between Ibri and the border crossing.

This facility provides various forms of support and assistance to pilgrims, including emergency and ambulance services, ensuring their safety and comfort throughout their journey. -ONA

AL-MAQLAB

Telegraph Island project in Musandam 50% complete

KHASAB: The development project of the historical Telegraph Island (Al-Maqlab) in Musandam Governorate has reached 50% completion.

The project aligns with the governorate's efforts to achieve comprehensive economic development and enhance sustainable tourism initiatives.

Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Al Shehi, Director of the Projects Department at Musandam Municipality, stated that the Telegraph Island development project is based on several strategic objectives, including: reviving the site's historical significance by restoring remaining structures and presenting them in an engaging educational and touristic manner, promoting sustainable tourism to boost local community income and generate job opportunities, and preserving the island's natural environment and biodiversity—particularly given its location in a marine area rich in coral reefs and fish. Additionally, the project aims to strengthen national identity by connecting new generations with the region's history and its role in historical global communication networks.

He emphasised that the Telegraph Island development project presents a unique opportunity to bridge the past with the present by leveraging heritage for cultural and touristic development while maintaining a balanced approach between preservation and modernization.

The island has the potential to become a regional and global attraction, narrating a forgotten



chapter of maritime communications and serving as a model for historical site development.

The project includes the construction of a multi-purpose hall spanning 731 square metres, a service building adjacent to the hall covering 130 square metres, an 8-metre-long and 2.5-metre-wide floating marine landing platform, a guardhouse at the island's entrance with all necessary facilities, a generator and fuel tank building, a shaded seating area with dedicated flooring, and a mountain walkway providing access to all facilities on the island. Additionally, two photography platforms overlooking key landmarks around the

island are being built.

Al Shehi noted that the island holds unique historical significance as the site of the Middle East's first modern communication line. Its name derives from the undersea telegraph cable stretching from Mumbai, India, to Basra, Iraq, with Telegraph Island in Khor Sham, Khasab, serving as a transmission station in 1864.

This makes it a witness to the birth of modern telecommunications in the region. Its demographics, natural features, and location amid sea inlets also make it an attractive destination for tourists, explorers, and adventure enthusiasts. -ONA

MEETING

Iranian President meets community in Muscat, hails their role in boosting ties



MUSCAT: President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran met at Al Bustan Hotel yesterday with the Iranian community residing in the Sultanate of Oman. The meeting took place within the context of the Iranian President's current official visit to Oman.

During the meeting, President Pezeshkian underlined their role in fostering direct people-to-people ties between the two nations and strengthening civilisational relations between the two countries. The meeting was attended by some businesspeople from the Iranian side. -ONA

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Iranian President meets Sayyid Fahd



MUSCAT: President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran received at his place of residence on Wednesday HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers.

The visit took place within the

context of the Iranian President's current visit to Oman.

The meeting reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation across various fields, as well as pathways to enhance common interests in a manner that serves both the Omani and Iranian peoples.

It was attended by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Ibrahim Ahmed Al Mu'aini, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to some officials at the Iranian government. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Iranian President receives Sayyid Badr



MUSCAT: President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran received at his place of residence on Wednesday Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

The visit took place within the context of the Iranian President's current visit to the Sul-

tanate of Oman.

The meeting explored the bilateral relations and touched on political developments. It stressed the importance of advancing dialogue and diplomatic efforts to resolve regional conflicts and enhance regional and international security and peace. -ONA

TOUR OF MOSQUE

Iranian President Pezeshkian visits Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque

MUSCAT: President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited yesterday the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque within the framework of his current official to the Sultanate of Oman.

Upon their arrival, the Iranian President and his accompanying delegation were received by Habib Mohammed Al Riyami, Chairman of the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science.

During the visit, the Iranian President and his accompanied delegation were briefed on the mosque's history, and its Omani and Islamic architectural designs.



President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran went on tour of the mosque's facilities, such as the library, lecture hall and other facilities.

At the conclusion of his visit, the Iranian President signed the VIP visitors' register, expressing his admiration of the mosque's designs and architectural artistry, which represent an outstanding example of Islamic architectural arts and its role in supporting and enhancing Islamic studies.

The Iranian President was accompanied during the visit by several officials from both sides. -ONA

TRADE EXCHANGES

Trade between Oman and Iran growing

< FROM A1 He noted that trade between the two countries has grown significantly, with last year alone seeing an increase of over 50%. Iranian investments have also expanded considerably, with the number of Iranian companies in Oman rising by 70% across various sectors.

Among these developments, an Iranian biopharmaceutical research and development company has opened a factory in Oman, along with a petrochemical manufacturing plant and other projects producing industrial salt, fertilizers, and buses. He also pointed out that the Sarooj Complex is one of Oman's significant investments in Iran.

For his part, Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), stated that since its establishment, the OCCI has worked to solidify and develop trade relations through various initiatives, including the formation of the Omani-Iranian Joint Business Council.

This council aims to activate trade exchanges, facilitate bilateral business meetings, strengthen connections between business leaders in both countries, address challenges faced by traders and investors, and expand partnerships in strategic sectors.

He affirmed that the esteemed patronage of this meeting reflects direct support for the private sector and sends a clear message about its vital role in building strong and sustainable economic relations between Oman and Iran. This, he said, motivates the Chamber's officials to intensify efforts to enhance trade opportunities, expand bilateral investments, and open new horizons in promising sectors such as industry, food security, maritime transport, renewable energy, and logistics.

He reiterated the OCCI's commitment to providing all means to strengthen partnerships between Omani and Iranian private sectors, increase trade volumes, and encourage mutual investments in line with the economic visions of both countries.

Meanwhile, Samad Hassanza-deh, President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, stressed the importance of enhancing economic, trade, and investment relations by outlining a roadmap for their



development and holding regular meetings. He urged business leaders to leverage the preferential trade agreement signed between Oman and Iran to elevate these relations.

Mohammed Abdulhussein Bager, Omani Co-Chair of the Omani-Iranian Joint Business Council, stated that the Council is implementing several strategic initiatives to boost trade and investment growth between the two countries and remove obstacles to trade. He noted that bilateral trade reached over \$2 billion in 2024.

Among these initiatives are efforts to establish permanent sea and air shipping routes, set up an exchange company to facilitate financial transfers, and launch an electronic platform to connect investors, exporters, and importers from both countries.

Jamal Razeqi Jahromi, Iranian Co-Chair of the Omani-Iranian Joint Business Council, remarked that the \$2 billion trade volume in 2024 does not reflect the historical ties between Oman and Iran. He called on business leaders to take advantage of all agreements and memoranda of understanding signed yesterday to increase commercial and investment initiatives.

Following the discussions, several Omani and Iranian companies presented their experiences in trade and investment between the two countries. -ONA

JOINT COOPERATION

Oman, Iran to explore investment avenues

< FROM A1 An official session of talks was held between His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman and President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They reviewed prospects for joint cooperation and bilateral relations, particularly in economic and investment cooperation across various fields, as well as coordination on matters that serve the interests of both countries and benefit their peoples.

They expressed satisfaction with the existing level of cooperation and emphasised the need to further enhance it by exploring new avenues of economic partnership.

The two leaders also appreciated the progress made by joint committees and directed the importance of holding regular meetings to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields.

His Majesty the Sultan and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasized the positive and fruitful role of the private sector in both countries. They expressed hope that these activities would increase investment and trade exchange between the two nations. They welcomed the signing of several agreements to frame cooperation in the promotion and mutual protection of investments, legal and judicial cooperation, a preferential trade agreement, a framework agreement for joint cooperation, and several memoranda of understanding in other fields.

The two sides also welcomed the existing cooperation between Oman Post and the National Post of Iran, which resulted in the issuance of a joint postage stamp celebrating the depth of bilateral relations and highlighting the efforts of both sides in promoting cultural diplomacy, fostering mutual understanding, and strengthening ties between the two peoples.

His Majesty the Sultan and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran discussed a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern, including the crisis in the Gaza Strip.

In this context, they stressed the

necessity of a complete and permanent ceasefire, ending the injustice against civilians, and halting the genocide committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the rest of the Palestinian territories.

The two sides called on the international community to fulfill its responsibilities in providing relief aid and humanitarian supplies to the defenseless population across the Gaza Strip. They also expressed their firm rejection of any plans aimed at displacing or persecuting the Palestinian people.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the level of political consultation and coordination between the two countries at various levels.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his country's deep appreciation for the constructive role played by the Sultanate of Oman in facilitating the ongoing indirect talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States regarding the nuclear file.

For his part, His Majesty the Sultan expressed hope that these talks would lead to the desired agreement between the two sides, fulfilling shared goals of enhancing regional and international security and peace, and bringing further prosperity and stability to the region.

The two sides emphasised the importance of intensifying efforts to ensure continued security and stability in the region and the world, as well as enhancing coordination and consultation in various regional and international forums on issues that serve global peace and stability.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the government, and the people of the Sultanate of Oman for their warm welcome and hospitality. He also extended an invitation to His Majesty the Sultan to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was graciously accepted by His Majesty". -ONA



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TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

President of Iran leaves Oman



MUSCAT: President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran and his accompanying delegation left the Sultanate of Oman after a two-day official visit.

HH Sayyid Shahab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs led the farewell party for President Pezeshkian at the Royal Airport.

The Iranian President was also seen off by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister (Head of the Mission of Honour) and Ibrahim Ahmed Al Mu'aini, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During his visit to the Sultanate of Oman, the Iranian President was accompanied by an official delegation comprising Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohsen Hajj-Mirzaei, Head of the President's Office, Mohammad Atabek, Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade, Head of the Iranian side in the Oman-Iran Economic Cooperation Joint Committee, Air Commodore Aziz Nasirzadeh, Minister of Defence and Logistics of the Armed Forces, Gholamhossein Zarei, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament, Mohammad-Reza Farzin, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, Masoumeh Aghapour Alishahi, Advisor to the President for Economic Cooperation Affairs, Mousa Farhang, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman and several officials from the Iranian government. -ONA

IATA

Workshop reviews needs for reducing carbon emissions

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday organised a workshop titled "Understanding and Implementing the Requirements of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) in the Sultanate of Oman".

The workshop was aimed to raise public awareness about the requirements of the CORSIA programme among stakeholders in the Sultanate of Oman.

Workshop Reviews Means of Enabling Omani Projects to Offset Aviation Emissions, Promote Sustainability

The workshop also sought to enhance knowledge about the mechanisms of endorsing new projects based on the CORSIA programme in a manner that contributes to the realisation of economic and environmental benefits for the Sultanate of Oman.

It elaborates on effects of the programme's implementation on the global carbon market system and on sustainable development efforts at the local and international levels.

The workshop outlined the CORSIA programme and its relation to the regulatory frameworks of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

It also defined the requirements of compliance with the CORSIA programme and its relation to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. It also focused on case studies of eligible projects within CORSIA, with emphasis on the Global Carbon Council and related Omani projects.

The workshop dealt with ways of identifying and promoting opportunities that maximise the benefits to be gained from the Sultanate of Oman's carbon offsetting emissions in projects, integrating these initiatives in international frameworks and encouraging cooperation among stakeholders, including regulators, airlines and project developers.

The outcomes of the workshop will contribute to developing new projects approved as part of CORSIA programmes. -ONA



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ASMED

Opportunities for SMEs in financing

MUSCAT: The Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) on Wednesday organised a dialogue session on enhancing opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the financial services sector.

The dialogue session was part of efforts undertaken by ASMED to improve the business environment for SMEs and enhance their role in developing financial services by introducing innovative ideas and improving operational efficiency.

The dialogue session also explored means of encouraging government and private partnerships and cooperation with SMEs and raising public awareness about the SME sector's importance as a vital partner in supporting the national economy.

The session elaborated on policies, legislation, licensing and enablers that support SMEs in offering innovative solutions and generating partnerships. The dialogue session was attended by Abdullah Salim Al Salmi, CEO of the Financial Services Authority, and Halima Rashid Al Zar'ai, Chairperson of the ASMED. -ONA

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Workshop on management of hazardous chemicals held

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority is organising a two-day international workshop on safe management of hazardous chemicals.

The workshop, which takes place in Muscat, seeks to achieve sound management of chemicals as a basic pillar of sustainable development, in line with the strategic approach and objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The opening of the workshop was held under the auspices of Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat.

Held in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the workshop constitutes a step forward towards the implementation of the provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

It offers a practical guide on how to find suitable alternatives for mercury and to cut down the risks associated with the use of this substance, which is classified as hazardous to health and the environment.

The workshop included the launch of the "National Strategy for Integrated Management of Hazardous Chemicals in the Sultanate of Oman". It highlights global practices and the outcome of studies and research in the field.



The "National Strategy for Integrated Management of Hazardous Chemicals" constitutes a fundamental pillar of sustainable development. It plays a significant role in achieving the desired balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development: The economic dimension, social dimension and environmental dimension.

The Strategy emerges as a national roadmap on managing chemicals in a safe and orderly manner, including production, manufacturing, handling, transportation, storage, processing and disposal hazardous materials.

The workshop reviews 18 working papers on Oman's experience in the sound management of chemicals and mercury, the challenges involved in the management mercury, the systems and technologies used in the process of treatments and the relationship between plastics and persistent organic pollutants.

The working papers also define the role of the Directorate General of Customs (which monitors chemicals at border crossings), standard procedures for transporting and storing hazardous materials and mercury, as well as the risks of using mercury in the field of farming.

The workshop looks into a report on preliminary assessment of the propagation of mercury and outlines the national strategy on the management chemicals in the Sultanate of Oman.

Oman does not produce mercury or its compounds, but the substance enters the country through the import of some industrial products and devices. -ONA

A'SEER AIR BASE

RAFO celebrates graduation

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) celebrated on Wednesday the graduation of students from the Air Training Centre for Specialised Training at A'Seer Air Base, under the patronage of Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, RAFO Commander.

The Assistant Director of the Centre for Engineering Training delivered a speech, highlighting that the Centre provides the Royal Air Force of Oman, the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other military and security services with qualified professionals trained in various specialisations. Following this, a visual presentation showcased the Centre's roles and diverse training programmes.

One of the graduates also delivered a speech, expressing his and his fellow graduates' pride in completing their training at this specialized institution. He emphasized the Centre's high standards in preparing specialised

personnel across various fields, supported by enriching theoretical and practical curricula.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the chief guest presented aviation wings to the graduates and honoured top-performing students from the specialized courses. Administrative staff and trainers at the Centre were also recognised for their contributions. The graduation ceremony was attended by several senior officers and personnel. -ONA



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Local Sovereign Sukuk

On behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, the Oman Sovereign Sukuk S.A.O.C. announces the 9th issuance of Local Sovereign Sukuk (LSS) to be auctioned. The 9th issuance of LSS will be issued on Tuesday, **27th May 2025**, carrying a profit rate of **4.65%** per annum for a maturity period of 7 years (maturing on **4th of June 2032**). Investors can apply for these Sukuk by completing the application form through licensed Islamic Banking Windows: Bank Muscat | Meethaq Islamic Banking, Ahli Bank | Ahli Islamic, and National Bank of Oman.

Sharia-compliant

Sukuk are Sharia-compliant investments in tangible projects based on real assets.

Competitive profit rate

Profit shall accrue from the date of issue, and will be paid semi-annually on the **4th of December and 4th of June** of every year until maturity. The first payment will be made on **4th December 2025**. Profit payments will cease once the Sukuk matures on the **4th of June 2032**.

Liquidity

The Sukuk will be listed and can be traded before maturity in the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) at the prevailing market price.

Who Can Invest?

The 9th issuance of LSS is offered to all categories of investors, residents and non-residents (irrespective of their nationalities).

How to buy the Sukuk?

Investors may obtain the Sukuk prospectus and application form through the Ministry of Finance's website or licensed Islamic Banking Windows: Bank Muscat | Meethaq Islamic Banking, Ahli Bank | Ahli Islamic, and National Bank of Oman. Investors must provide their MCD Investor Code in the application form.

Bank Account Details

The investor must provide the same bank account details as those registered with Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. S.A.O.C. (MCD).

MCD Investor Code

Those who don't have an MCD Investor Code can obtain it from MCD's website (www.mcd.gov.om) or via the Oman Stocks app at least one day before applying through the commercial bank.

For any enquires:
Tel: +968 24822222
E-mail: mcd.support@mcd.om
You can also use the "Contact Us" section on the company's website.

The 9th issuance

Open: Tuesday, May 27th, 2025
Close: Sunday, June 1st, 2025
Issue: Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

The Minimum Subscription Amount
RO 100

To view the prospectus of the 9th issuance of LSS, please visit the following websites:

Ministry of Finance | www.mof.gov.om

Muscat Bank | Meethaq | www.bankmuscat.com

Ahli Bank | Ahli Islamic | www.ahliislamic.com

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EU calls for immediate, unhindered humanitarian aid to Gaza civilians

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy condemned the ongoing Israeli military operation in Gaza, citing the disproportionate use of force, the killing of civilians, and the repeated targeting of civilian infrastructure

GAZA: The European Union has reiterated the need to prevent the politicisation or militarisation of humanitarian aid, renewing its call for the immediate, large-scale, and sustainable delivery of assistance to civilians in Gaza, in line with their urgent humanitarian needs.

The remarks came in a statement issued by Kaja Kallas, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Kallas condemned the ongoing Israeli military operation in Gaza, citing the disproportionate use of force, the killing of civilians, and the repeated targeting of civilian infrastructure.

“The Israeli military operation, the disproportionate force, and the killing of civilians are unacceptable and cannot be tolerated,” Kallas stated. “Civilian infrastructure



must not be targeted.”

She emphasised the need to restore a ceasefire that would lead to the release of all hostages and bring an end to hostilities through negotiations.

The EU also condemned ongoing settler violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The statement highlighted systematic intimidation campaigns, physical and verbal assaults, the destruction of property, and the burning of Palestinian homes — actions the EU warned could lead to the forced displacement of entire communities.

Brussels urged Israeli authorities to take immediate and decisive measures to address the situation and ensure accountability for those responsible.

The statement also warned that incitement to violence and the intimidation of residents and journalists in Jerusalem undermine the city’s special status and the integrity of its Old City.

Death toll across Gaza Strip surges to 54,084, over 123,308 injured

The death toll in the Gaza Strip has climbed to 54,084, the majority of them women and children,

since Israel launched its military offensive on October 7, according to medical sources on Wednesday.

The number of wounded has reached 123,308, with thousands still trapped under rubble, as rescue efforts remain severely hampered by the ongoing bombardment.

Over the past 24 hours, 28 more people were confirmed dead, including five bodies recovered from beneath the debris, and 179 others were injured. The figures do not include casualties in northern Gaza, where access to hospitals remains impossible due to heavy fighting.

UNICEF sounds alarm as child casualties in Gaza surpass 50,000

More than 50,000 Palestinian children have been killed or wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the Israeli aggression since October 7, 2023, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

In a statement published Wednesday, Edward Beigbeder, UNICEF’s Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, described the war’s toll on children as catastrophic.

He referenced footage from a strike on Friday in Khan Younis,

where the charred and dismembered bodies of children from the Al-Najjar family were pulled from the rubble of their home. Of ten siblings under the age of 12, only one reportedly survived—with severe injuries.

In a separate attack early Monday morning, a strike hit a school sheltering civilians in Gaza City, killing at least 31 people, including 18 children, according to reports.

Since the breaking of a temporary ceasefire on March 18, 1,309 children have been killed and 3,738 injured, UNICEF reported. The total number of child casualties since the war began now exceeds 50,000.

Tulkarm: 122 days since Israel’s aggression began on the city and refugee camps

The Israeli occupation forces continue their aggression on the city of Tulkarm and its camp for the 122nd consecutive day, and on the 109th day in the Nur Shams camp, amid ongoing escalation on the ground.

Wafa correspondent reported that the city and its suburbs are witnessing intensive activity by occupation vehicles and infantry units around the clock.

They patrol the main streets and



neighborhoods, obstructing the movement of citizens and vehicles, provocatively honking their horns and driving against traffic. They also set up surprise checkpoints, particularly in the central market and on Nablus Street, subjecting citizens to detention, search, interrogation, and abuse.

On Wednesday morning, occupation forces severely beat the young man Fouad Al-Ali after raiding his home in the western neighbourhood of the city, searching it, and vandalising its contents. He had been detained at a flying checkpoint on Nablus Street the previous evening and released after midnight.

Meanwhile, the occupation continues to impose a stifling siege on the Tulkarm and Nur Shams camps, accompanied by occasional gunfire and explosions.

The occupation forces are heavily deployed in their vicinity and neighbourhoods, pursuing any resident attempting to reach their homes to inspect them, confiscate their belongings, and detain them.

In recent days, Nur Shams camp has witnessed a demolition campaign that has affected more than 20 residential buildings in its main neighbourhoods, damaging neigh-

boring buildings.

This is part of the occupation’s plan to demolish 106 buildings in the two camps, including 58 in Tulkarm camp and 48 in Nur Shams camp, to open roads and alter their geographical features.

Two days ago, the occupation forces also gave a number of residents of the al-Akasha and al-Balawna neighbourhoods in Tulkarm camp three hours to evacuate their belongings from the homes from which they were forcibly evicted, in preparation for their demolition, as part of the planned demolition.

The occupation forces also continue to seize homes and residential buildings on Nablus Street and the adjacent northern neighbourhood, after forcibly evacuating their residents and converting them into military barracks. Some of these buildings have been under occupation control for more than two months.

Nablus Street, which connects the Tulkarm and Nur Shams refugee camps, has suffered significant damage after the occupation forces placed intermittent earth mounds along its length months ago. This has significantly impacted vehicle traffic and exacerbated the suffering of residents. — **Wafa**

2024 AIR CONNECTIVITY RANKING



Delhi Airport among top 10 in Asia-Pacific & Middle East region

NEW DELHI: Delhi Airport is the only Indian airport to be among top 10 hub airports in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East region, according to the 2024 Air Connectivity Ranking released by Airports Council International Asia-Pacific & Middle East (ACI APAC and MID).

The ranking, topped by Dubai International Airport, recognises Delhi Airport’s growing stature as a global transit hub, with seamless connectivity to 153 destinations worldwide, including 81 domestic and 72 international routes.

It is also in line with the Government of India’s endeavour to develop Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport as a global transit hub.

CEO of Delhi International Airport Limited, Videh Kumar Jaipuria said, “We are immensely proud and honored that Delhi Airport has been recognized as one of the top 10 hub airports in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East region in the 2024 Air Connectivity Ranking by Airports Council International.”

“Being the only Indian airport to achieve this distinction is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and passenger-centric service,” said Jaipuria. “Together, we will continue to enhance connectivity, improve passenger experience, and uphold our position as a premier gateway connecting India to the world.”

Under its ambitious Phase 3A expansion project, DIAL has successfully doubled the Inter-

national-to-International transfer area, enhancing capacity and passenger convenience. New biometric registration kiosks for e-visa holders are among several recent upgrades designed to streamline the travel experience.

Delhi Airport emerges as a gateway to the world:

Delhi Airport has significantly broadened its global footprint by adding over 20 exclusive international destinations in recent years. New routes include Phnom Penh, Bali Denpasar, Calgary, Montreal, Vancouver, Washington Dulles, Chicago O’Hare, Tokyo Haneda, and more, the airport operator said in a statement.

Over the past decade, transfer passenger volume has doubled, underscoring Delhi Airport’s emergence as a premier transit hub in South Asia.

Delhi connects to 88% of India’s long-haul destinations and operates 56 per cent of all India-origin long-haul weekly flights. Nearly half (42 per cent) of all long-haul passengers from India choose Delhi as their travel gateway.

Each year, Delhi Airport facilitates seamless connections for 4 million domestic passengers traveling onward to international destinations.

“With Indian carriers increasingly deploying wide-body aircraft, Delhi Airport is on track to become a Global gateway hub, strengthening its role as the preferred gateway for international and long-haul travellers,” the airport operator said in the statement. — **ANI**

UNITED NATIONS

Global warming target unlikely to be reached

NEW YORK: The chance that average warming from 2025 to 2029 is to exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) benchmark stands at 70%, the United Nations (UN) said.

As a result, the Earth is expected to remain at historic levels of warming.

This comes after the planet experienced the two hottest years ever recorded in 2023 and 2024, according to a report published by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the UN’s climate agency.

WMO deputy secretary-general Ko Barrett said the past ten years have been the “the warmest on record,” adding a warning that no respite is expected. “This means that there will be a growing negative impact on our economies, our daily lives, our ecosystems and our planet,” Barrett warned.

What is the 1.5C target?

The 1.5-degree target was set as part of the 2015 Paris climate accords, which aimed to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

It was calculated in relation to



the 1850-1900 average, before humanity began industrially burning coal, oil and gas, all of which emit carbon dioxide (CO2), the greenhouse gas largely responsible for climate change.

A growing number of climate scientists now hold the 1.5-degree target to be impossible to achieve due to the increasing levels of CO2 emissions.

The WMO forecasts that the global mean near-surface temperature for each year between 2025 and 2029 will be between 1.2 and 1.9 degrees Celsius above the pre-

industrial average.

What else are climate researchers predicting?

Peter Thorne, director of the Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units group at the University of Maynooth, was cited by the AFP news agency as saying he expects the probability of passing 1.5 degrees Celsius on a long-term basis in the late 2020 or early 2030s to reach 100% in the next two to three years.

According to the WMO, the chance of at least one year between 2025 and 2029 being warmer than

2024, the warmest year on record, stands at 80%.

Here is also an above-zero chance of at least one year in the next five exceeding 2 degrees of warming, despite it being “exceptionally unlikely,” the report said.

Adam Scaife of the British Met Office — which compiled the report based on forecasts from multiple global centers — said it is the first time such a possibility arises in the organisation’s computer predictions, which he calls “shocking.”

“That probability is going to rise,” he added. — **tw**

SPACE X

Starship’s uncontrolled re-entry after contact lost

TEXAS: SpaceX’s Starship rocket made an uncontrolled re-entry after losing contact with mission control on Tuesday.

“Just to confirm, we did lose contact with the ship officially a couple of minutes ago. So that brings an end to the ninth flight test,” said SpaceX’s Dan Huot during a live feed.

The launch was the ninth uncrewed test flight for Starship, the most powerful rocket ever built, which SpaceX CEO Elon Musk wants to use for interplanetary travel and to colonise Mars.

What do we know about the test?

The spacecraft, which is divided into two stages — the Starship vessel that is mounted on top of a SpaceX Super Heavy rocket boost-



er — blasted off from SpaceX’s Starbase launch site on the Gulf Coast in southern Texas at 7:36 p.m. EDT (2336 GMT).

The rocket later leaked fuel, spun out of control and re-entered the Earth’s atmosphere, and likely

disintegrated over the Indian Ocean, officials said.

SpaceX, which is owned by billionaire Musk, confirmed that Starship had suffered from “a rapid unscheduled disassembly.”

The likeliest cause of the loss

of attitude control “appears to be a propellant leak or engine failure in the upper stage, leading to a spin during reentry,” SpaceX explained.

The company added that data suggests “a leak disrupted control” which were similar issues encountered during the two previous tests, which also ended in failure.

“With a test like this, success comes from what we learn, and today’s test will help us improve Starship’s reliability as SpaceX seeks to make life multi-planetary,” the company said.

The last two attempts ended in explosions.

The previous two Starship test flights never made it further than the Caribbean, with the tests both ending mere minutes after blasting off. — **tw**

SPORTS

Oman fall short in a thriller, return with heads held high

Hosts USA edged past Duleep Mendis' men by nine runs in their ICC World Cup League 2 match at Lauderdale

MUSCAT: Oman narrowly missed out on a perfect tour finish after falling just nine runs short against hosts USA in a high-octane match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 tri-series at Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderdale, USA, on Tuesday.

Despite the narrow loss, Duleep Mendis' men can take pride in a hugely successful campaign, winning three out of four matches to consolidate their overall third place in the League 2 standings with 24 points – just behind leaders USA (28) and second-placed Netherlands (26). All three teams have played 20 games each.

Scotland are fourth with 20 points from 16 games, followed by Canada (20 from 20), Namibia (14 from 20), UAE (6 from 16), and Nepal (6 from 12).

On Tuesday, chasing a formidable target of 294 after the hosts posted 293/8, Oman staged a spirited fight led by a blistering 72 off 51 balls from all-rounder Sufyan Mehmood.

However, USA held their nerve in the closing overs to clinch a nail-biting victory, restricting Oman to 284/9.

Mehmood's late counter-attack, featuring five boundaries and three sixes, nearly pulled off a sensational heist. He was well supported by Vinayak Shukla (46



off 37) and Hammad Mirza (50 off 52). But wickets fell at regular intervals, and Mehmood's dismissal in the 48th over with Oman's total at 273 proved pivotal.

Earlier, USA rode on a steady team performance to post a strong total. Saiteja Mukkamalla top-

scored with a fluent 73 off 79 deliveries, while Harmeet Singh was named Player of the Match for his all-round contribution – 33 off 36 balls and a crucial bowling spell of 3/69.

Key contributions also came from openers Smit Patel (41) and

Shayan Jahangir (37), with Sanjay Krishnamurthi providing a late flourish through a rapid unbeaten 40 off 27 balls.

Oman's bowlers shared the workload: Mehmood (3/58), Aamir Kaleem (2/43), and Shakeel Ahmed (2/52) were

among the wickets. Despite Oman bowlers' disciplined efforts, the USA batters paced their innings well, accelerating at the death to push the total just beyond reach.

In response, Oman lost Aamir Kaleem early but skipper Jatin-

der Singh (42) provided a solid platform. The middle-order trio of Mirza, Shukla and Mehmood revived the chase, and with 21 needed off the last two overs and two wickets in hand, Oman still had a shot. But Jasdeep Singh (3/64) and Harmeet Singh ensured USA finished on top.

Although Oman missed out on a perfect four-win record, the team captained by Jatinder, return home with their heads held high. The tour was a strong statement of their consistency and growing strength in the 50-over format.

Brief scores: USA 293/8 (Smit Patel 41, Shayan Jahangir 37, Saiteja Mukkamalla 73, Sanjay Krishnamurthi 40*, Harmeet Singh 33; Sufyan Mehmood 3/58, Shakeel Ahmed 2/52, Aamir Kaleem 2/43) beat Oman 284/9 (Jatinder Singh 42, Hammad Mirza 50, Vinayak Shukla 46, Sufyan Mehmood 72; Jasdeep Singh 3/64, Harmeet Singh 3/69).

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2025 reaching \$63.69, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 12 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$63.81. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,517.44 points, down by 0.27% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.15% at 436.57 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 4.62%, was the top gainer while, Oman Cables Industry, down 3.64%, was the top loser.

OETC maintains ‘BB+’ credit rating

“BB+” with a stable outlook reflects the company’s strong financial performance and institutional stability, as well as its operational efficiency and effective risk management

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC), a member of the Nama Group, has confirmed the maintenance of its high credit rating at “BB+” with a stable outlook from Fitch Ratings, one of the world’s leading credit rating agencies.

This rating reflects the company’s strong financial performance and institutional stability, as well as its operational efficiency and effective risk management. The rating reaffirms international financial institutions’ confidence in the company’s financial position and enhances its ability to secure competitive financing to

support its future projects—particularly those contributing to Oman’s energy transition and aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. Ali Al Reesi, Chief Financial Officer at OETC, stated: “The renewal of our credit rating by one of the most prestigious global credit rating agencies is an achievement

that reflects our commitment to sound governance, prudent financial management, and strategic planning rooted in resource efficiency. This rating also strengthens the confidence of current and potential investors and confirms our readiness to respond to market developments and the evolving needs of the energy sector.”



Omantel moves forward on net zero path with emissions cut and renewable energy impact

MUSCAT: As climate action becomes increasingly urgent across industries, Omantel is stepping forward with a clear commitment to sustainability. The company has formally adopted a Net Zero target by 2050 and set an ambitious near-term goal to cut Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2030, using 2023 as the baseline year.

This commitment reflects Omantel’s broader sustainability vision and its role as a national digital enabler supporting Oman’s transition toward a low-carbon future. Rather than treating Net Zero as a distant aspiration, Omantel is taking measurable steps today to reshape its environmental impact.

“Our responsibility extends beyond digital infrastructure. It includes contributing to a more sustainable future for Oman,” said Lujaina Saif Al Kharusi, Vice President Governance, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance at Omantel “This target reflects both our ambition and the action we are taking to achieve it.” A major step in this journey was reached in 2024, when Omantel redeemed 40,000 International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-RECs) sourced from the Dhofar Wind IPP through Nama Power and Water Procurement (Nama PWP). This clean electricity, equivalent to 40,000 MWh, led to a 12.38 percent reduction in the company’s market-based Scope 2 emissions



and prevented more than 88,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent from entering the atmosphere.

Without intervention, emissions would have risen alongside business growth. Instead, Omantel achieved a 2.77 percent decrease in total emissions for 2024 compared to 2023, avoiding a projected 10.96 percent increase. By 2026, emissions are expected to remain just 5.15 percent above 2023 levels, far below the business-as-usual projection of nearly 31 percent. These results underscore the effectiveness of Omantel’s approach.

Omantel also stands among the first telecom operators in the region to adopt renewable energy certificates at this scale. This signals both technical capability and a serious commitment to operational sustainability.

“Setting goals is important, but following through on them is what defines leadership,” said Lujaina Al Kharusi. “Integrating wind power into our energy portfolio is just one example of how we are aligning climate goals with real action.”

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Ishraq Endowment Fund commences operations

MUSCAT: The Ishraq Endowment Fund has officially begun its operational activities, marking the launch of a new phase aimed at activating the investment role of “waqf” or “endowment” in the Sultanate of Oman.

This innovative Sharia-compliant endowment investment fund represents a qualitative leap in enhancing waqf investments and contributes to entrenching sustainable development concepts while maximizing the social impact of investments.



Dr. Ahmed Ali Al Ka’abi, Chairman of the Ishraq Endowment Fund’s Board of Directors, stated that the operational launch marks

a significant milestone in the Fund’s journey. He emphasized that the next phase will activate investments according to a strategic vision carefully developed by the fund’s board. He added that the Fund is transitioning from establishment to active operation by commencing investments in Sharia-compliant public markets, aiming to generate sustainable financial returns that support charitable initiatives and social projects.

The Fund also offers diverse

opportunities for investors – both individuals and institutions – through varied subscription categories, including perpetual endowers, temporary endowers, and investing subscribers (for individuals and institutions alike).

Khalid Awadh Al Balushi, CEO of Oman National Investments Development Company (Tanmia) – Investment Manager – noted that the Fund continues Tanmia’s pioneering role in establishing and managing qualitative investment funds. - **ONA**

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 4.62%, was the top gainer while, Oman Cables Industry, down 3.64%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,517.44 points, down by 0.27% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.15% at 436.57 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 4.62%, was the top gainer while, Oman Cables Industry, down 3.64%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while OQEP were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1936 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 8.72 million, with more than 48.92 million shares changing hands. Out of 56 traded securities, 21 advanced, 16 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for RO 296K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 172K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 124K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,912.76 points, down 0.7%. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, National Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Oman United Insurance

were up by 4.62%, 3.36%, 2.47%, 0.47% respectively. Prices of National Bank Oman, United Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance were down by 3.39%, 3.23%, 2.67%, 2.00%, 1.82% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,390.96 points, up 1.1%. Prices of Oman Cement, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Fisheries, Jazeera Steel Products, Galfar Engineering were up by 4.60%, 4.30%, 3.45%, 3.34%, 1.64% respectively. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Gulf International Chemicals were down by 3.64%, 2.63% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.13% before closing at 1,604.23 points. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Phoenix Power, Sembcorp Salalah, Oman National Engineering, OQ Gas Networks were up by 1.59%, 1.59%, 0.96%, 0.86%, 0.68% respectively. Prices of National Gas, Al Batinah Power, Abraj Energy, Renaissance Services were down by 2.50%, 1.39%, 0.40%, 0.35% respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,529.93	4,513.34	4,517.44	4,528.67	-12.23	-0.27
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,945.60	7,902.24	7,912.76	7,968.69	-55.93	-0.70
Industry Index	6,410.31	6,315.40	6,390.96	6,321.28	69.68	1.10
Services Index	1,607.57	1,600.31	1,604.23	1,602.15	2.08	0.13
MSX Shariah Index	439.36	435.60	436.57	435.94	0.63	0.15
MSX TR INDEX	6,695.91	6,671.39	6,677.44	6,695.52	-18.08	-0.27
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,416.53	9,365.14	9,377.61	9,443.90	-66.29	-0.70
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,877.31	7,760.67	7,853.53	7,767.90	85.63	1.10
SERVICES TR IDX	2,044.57	2,035.33	2,040.32	2,037.67	2.64	0.13
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
48,926,297	8,724,867	1,936	27,764,285,834	21	16	19	56

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFF.	PRE. VALUE	MARKET CAP.
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS.	48035	18,068	7	0.359	0.371	0.359	0.371	0.359	0.012	3.343	0.371	0.371	0.370	0.100	46,337,143
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL.	375,696	30,815	29	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.081	0.002	2.469	0.083	0.082	0.088	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	360,663	69,057	77	0.189	0.194	0.189	0.192	0.189	0.003	1.587	0.191	0.192	0.192	0.100	8,225,854
OM0000002189	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	915,672	178,565	107	0.195	0.198	0.194	0.196	0.193	0.003	1.554	0.196	0.196	0.194	0.100	43,120,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	7,823,804	1,075,414	294	0.147	0.148	0.146	0.148	0.147	0.001	0.680	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	640,925,340
OM0000010887	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE.	10,500	2,248	3	0.214	0.215	0.214	0.215	0.214	0.001	0.467	0.215	0.214	0.215	0.100	21,500,000
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY.	35,632	23,635	20	0.660	0.670	0.660	0.661	0.660	0.001	0.152	0.661	0.661	0.662	0.100	61,875,300
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,154,346	864,206	14	0.273	0.274	0.272	0.274	0.274	0.000	0.000	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.100	2,565,735,795
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	379,836	319,089	31	0.840	0.841	0.840	0.840	0.840	0.000	0.000	0.840	0.840	0.841	0.100	630,000,000
OM0000003388	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK.	5,985,575	844,251	58	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.141	0.140	0.142	0.100	933,031,724
OM0000002988	QOEDOO	160,488	31,310	13	0.196	0.197	0.194	0.197	0.197	0.000	0.000	0.197	0.194	0.197	0.100	128,238,013
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	24,203	2,460	6	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.103	0.100	225,932,256
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	371,246	26,358	22	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	50,722,850
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES.	179,072	51,065	25	0.288	0.288	0.285	0.285	0.286	-0.001	-0.350	0.285	0.284	0.285	0.100	67,378,850
OM0000008854	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,085,702	273,623	31	0.253	0.253	0.252	0.252	0.253	-0.001	-0.395	0.252	0.252	0.257	0.100	194,090,400
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	186,235	14,904	16	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	7,200,000
OM0000015133	OMINVEST	1,435,575	315,911	56	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.220	0.223	-0.003	-1.345	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.100	205,856,551
OM0000004825	ALAGATINAH POWER	835,654	29,690	31	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.388	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	47,917,008
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	416,100	40,786	17	0.102	0.102	0.098	0.098	0.100	-0.002	-2.000	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	19,600,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	94,494	5,787	8	0.061	0.062	0.060	0.060	0.062	-0.002	-3.226	0.060	0.057	0.061	0.100	21,367,638
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	3,690,000	1,051,650	7	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	-0.010	-3.390	0.285	0.282	0.285	0.100	463,394,711
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,560	3,528	4	2.330	2.330	2.250	2.250	2.335	-0.085	-3.640	2.250	2.235	2.250	0.100	201,825,000
Total		22	26,569,598	5,267,420	856											

Parallel Market

OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES.	122,879	15,794	7	0.130	0.136	0.125	0.136	0.130	0.006	4.615	0.136	0.130	0.136	0.100	42,896,712
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	21,612	9,751	13	0.435	0.455	0.435	0.455	0.435	0.020	4.598	0.455	0.450	0.455	0.100	150,547,083
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	121,408	34,549	60	0.275	0.295	0.275	0.291	0.279	0.012	4.301	0.291	0.291	0.299	0.100	16,055,000
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	91,100	11,035	10	0.120	0.123	0.120	0.123	0.119	0.004	3.361	0.123	0.122	0.123	0.100	74,799,564
OM0000005863	PHOENIX POWER	55,542	3,550	7	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.587	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	83,606,463
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	7,700	3,465	4	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.445	0.005	1.124	0.450	0.445	0.450	0.100	74,418,750
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	4,755,988	1,968,795	180	0.283	0.289	0.283	0.289	0.286	0.003	1.049	0.289	0.289	0.289	0.100	102,032,000,000
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	474,946	50,002	26	0.106	0.108	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.104	0.108	0.100	100,230,055
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	256,613	29,582	19	0.117	0.117	0.115	0.117	0.116	0.001	0.862	0.117	0.114	0.117	0.100	17,550,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	11,239,407	1,303,396	477	0.115	0.117	0.115	0.117	0.116	0.001	0.862	0.117	0.119	0.117	0.040	404,769,429
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	42,325	9,436	9	0.222	0.222	0.221	0.221	0.220	0.001	0.455	0.221	0.221	0.223	0.100	10,114,241
OM0000001095	DHOFAIR INSURANCE	4,000	800	9	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	22,550,516
OM0000001509	DHOFAIR INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV. HO.	24,637	6,258	1	0.254	0.254	0.254	0.254	0.254	0.000	0.000	0.254	0.254	0.000	0.100	103,948,561
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	19,165	2,817	2	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.145	0.147	0.100	2,590,678
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,750	1,155	3	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.000	0.000	0.660	0.650	0.660	0.100	40,441,500
OM0000003900	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	2,337	2,220	5	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.000	0.000	0.950	0.950	0.000	0.100	65,550,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	1,300	286	2	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.100	35,300,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	65,340	13,432	6	0.207	0.207	0.206	0.207	0.207	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.206	0.207	0.100	41,324,569
OM0000007407	DHOFAIR GENERATING	51,455	2,820	7	0.054	0.056	0.054	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.053	0.056	0.100	12,223,200
OM0000008888	THE PEARL REIF	43,708	4,993	10	0.118	0.118	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.100	67,423,804
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,385,969	116,462	32	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	24,400,961
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	31,029	2,515	6	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.079	0.081	0.100	32,535,816
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	1,527,943	177,616	50	0.117	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.119	-0.002	-1.681	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	609,423,081
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	714,868	38,095	30	0.053	0.054	0.052	0.054	0.055	-0.001	-1.818	0.054	0.053	0.055	0.100	16,585,902
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	363,400	28,469	23	0.080	0.080	0.078	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100	6,630,000
OM0000002029	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	165,390	12,354	11	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.076	-0.002	-2.630	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	1,554,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	335,166	24,437	28	0.075	0.075	0.072	0.073	0.075	-0.002	-2.667	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	8,898,875
Total		27	21,906,978	3,274,072	1,030											

FORECAST

UN labour body cuts global job forecast amid economic slowdown

GENEVA: The United Nation's agency for labour on Wednesday cut its global employment forecast for job growth this year to 1.5% due to a worsening global economic outlook and trade tensions, Reuters reported.

Growth predictions
Some 53 million jobs will be cre-

ated this year, that is seven million less than previously thought as economic growth predictions were lowered to 2.8 percent, from 3.2 percent, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said in a report.

“Economic uncertainty has been high in 2025, shaped by on-going conflicts, geo-economic

realignments, and trade-related disruptions,” the report said.

Trade tensions



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Email: gm_seekers.2025@gmail.com

MANAGER

HR manager 15 yrs experience in the Gulf looking for a suitable position. NOC available, valid D/L. Qualification: MBA in HR & Certifications. Available to join immediately.

Contact: 95323264
Email: deep.vg9@gmail.com

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IVMS / DFMS Technical Support	- Diploma/Bachelor's in IT or relevant field - Handles backend processes and technical validations - Strong organizational and multitasking abilities - Good command of MS Office and job management tools
Project Coordinator	- Diploma/Bachelor's in Projects / IT or relevant field - Experience in feet operations and IVMS - ERP working experience mandatory - Coordinating IVMS and telematics solutions across sites
Executive – Data Management & Certification	- Diploma/Bachelor's in Software / IT or relevant field - Experience with ERP systems and data work flows - Detail-oriented - Proficient in report generation and data platforms

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Experienced IT Professional (Indian) with 15+ yrs in IT service delivery, cloud, system administration, project management. Certified ITIL®, Prince2®, Available in Oman.

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Email: hadizeni123@gmail.com

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GSM +968 78647611/95171197
Email: shaikmansoor782@gmail.com

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Email: murshid9493@hotmail.com

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Mobile: 95945230
Mail id: mearung@gmail.com

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Contact number: +968 76861551, E-mail: karthi.engr2004@gmail.com

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Indian male, senior accountant, 10 yrs experience in Oman up to finalization, audit, budgeting, MIS, VAT, tax assessments. Working experience in SAP & other ERP systems, looking for a suitable position, having valid D/L. GSM:92024380; Email:mithun.chittedathu@gmail.com

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ENGINEER

MEP , Electrical Engineer 20+ yrs of exp. in Oman and GCC, expert in design, supervision & execution in consultant, contractor. Oil & gas,industrial, building with Oman D/L. 99148940. Email:joblukom@gmail.com.

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

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

MEP, Electrical Engineer 20+ yrs of exp. in Oman and GCC, expert in design, supervision & execution in consultant, contractor. Oil & gas, industrial, building with Oman D/L. Contact: 99148940. Email: joblukom@gmail.com.

Engineering management postgraduate with over 4 yrs operations experience and valid D/L looking for a suitable job. Contact: 96111283, 97411674

Electrical Engineer (Indian)- 13 yrs. Saudi experience. Seeking opportunity for Electrical Inspector. Currently in Oman. Contact: 79212651. Email: asadul-lah.42186@gmail.com.

B.E.E.&C. Engineer with AutoCAD experience Contact: 76622441 Email: fatinkisho10@gmail.com

ENGINEER

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

Indian, male with 10 yrs. Experience in Oman, have 3 yrs Electrical diploma, General maintenance, valid Oman D/L. Contact: 93220672

Indian (M), 22 graduate mechanical engineer, fresher . Contact: 98070822, 91977187. Email: hariphoenix465@gmail.com

Indian male 26yrs BBA graduated, Nebosh IGC with 1.5 yrs of Indian experience as HSE officer. Looking for suitable placement Contact: 96898358991 Email: pkarun31@gmail.com

Indian male, automobile engineer, 10 yrs experience in dealership workshop operations and supervision, seeking job opportunity. Contact: +968 78406449.

Looking for job, Quantity surveyor (pre & post contracts) with experience of 12+ yrs. Contact: +968 91795965.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

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

MISCELLENEOUS

Building caretaker, electrician & plumber with D/L. Contact 95870540

MEDICAL

Indian male Asst. pharmacist 30 yrs experience looking for placement. Contact 96756229.

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

Indian male Asst. pharmacist 30 yrs experience looking for placement. Contact: 96756229.

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

Advance Cosmetologist, Indian female, looking for suitable job, Currently in Oman. Contact: 91878530. Email: ahanaberlin@gmail.com

MANAGER

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

HOSPITALITY

Looking for a placement in QSR restaurant with relevant exp of 34 yrs. Contact: 92810566

SALES/MARKETING

Digital marketing executive skilled in social media, content creation, branding & Meta ads. Contact 77348370/ WA +919633595259 Email: mohammedziathalhath@gmail.com

15 years experience in sales and marketing with D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact- 92085257

Looking for jobs in Sales and marketing, Customer care and relevant field.10+ yrs of experience in SriLanka and Canada. Contact: +968 7646 3371 Email: divyanthshv@gmail.com

Indian male (35) MBA in Oman with 10 yrs exp in marketing, BDM position in multiple industries with D/L Contact: 78607549

Indian male with BBA. 3+ yrs of experience in GCC Sales with valid GCC D/L. And with transferrable visa. Arabic speaker. Contact: 96934912

15 yrs exp in sales, mktg, hosp, accts & purchas.e. Seeks suitable placement. Contact: 78871239

Philipine lady with 4 yrs experience in sales,looking for job as sales girl, waitress & house maid jobs & can join immediately. Contact: 97108302

Sales & marketing manager, more than 20 yrs of experience in Gulf region valid D/L,available to join immediately. Contact: 92350937. Email binukrishna628@gmail.com



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LIFESTYLE

PHYSICISTS SNAP
FIRST IMAGES OF

‘FREE-RANGE’ ATOMS
: STUDY

The images were taken using a technique developed by the team that first allows a cloud of atoms to move and interact freely

Physicists captured the first images of individual atoms freely interacting in space. The pictures reveal correlations among the ‘free-range’ particles that until now were predicted but never directly observed.

MIT physicists have captured the first images of individual atoms freely interacting in space.

Their findings, appearing in the journal Physical Review Letters, will help scientists visualise never-before-seen quantum phenomena in real space.

The images were taken using a technique developed by the team that first allows a cloud of atoms to move and interact freely.

The researchers then turn on a lattice of light that briefly freezes the atoms in their tracks, and apply finely tuned lasers to quickly illuminate the suspended atoms, creating a picture of their positions before the atoms naturally dissipate.

The physicists applied the technique to visualise clouds of different types of atoms, and snapped a number of imaging firsts. The researchers directly observed atoms known as “bosons,” which bunched up in a quantum phenomenon to form a wave.

They also captured atoms known as “fermions” in the act of pairing up in free space -- a key mechanism that enables superconductivity.

“We are able to see single atoms in these interesting clouds of atoms and what they are doing in relation to each

The physicists applied the technique to visualise clouds of different types of atoms, and snapped a number of imaging firsts.

The researchers directly observed atoms known as “bosons,” which bunched up in a quantum phenomenon to form a wave.

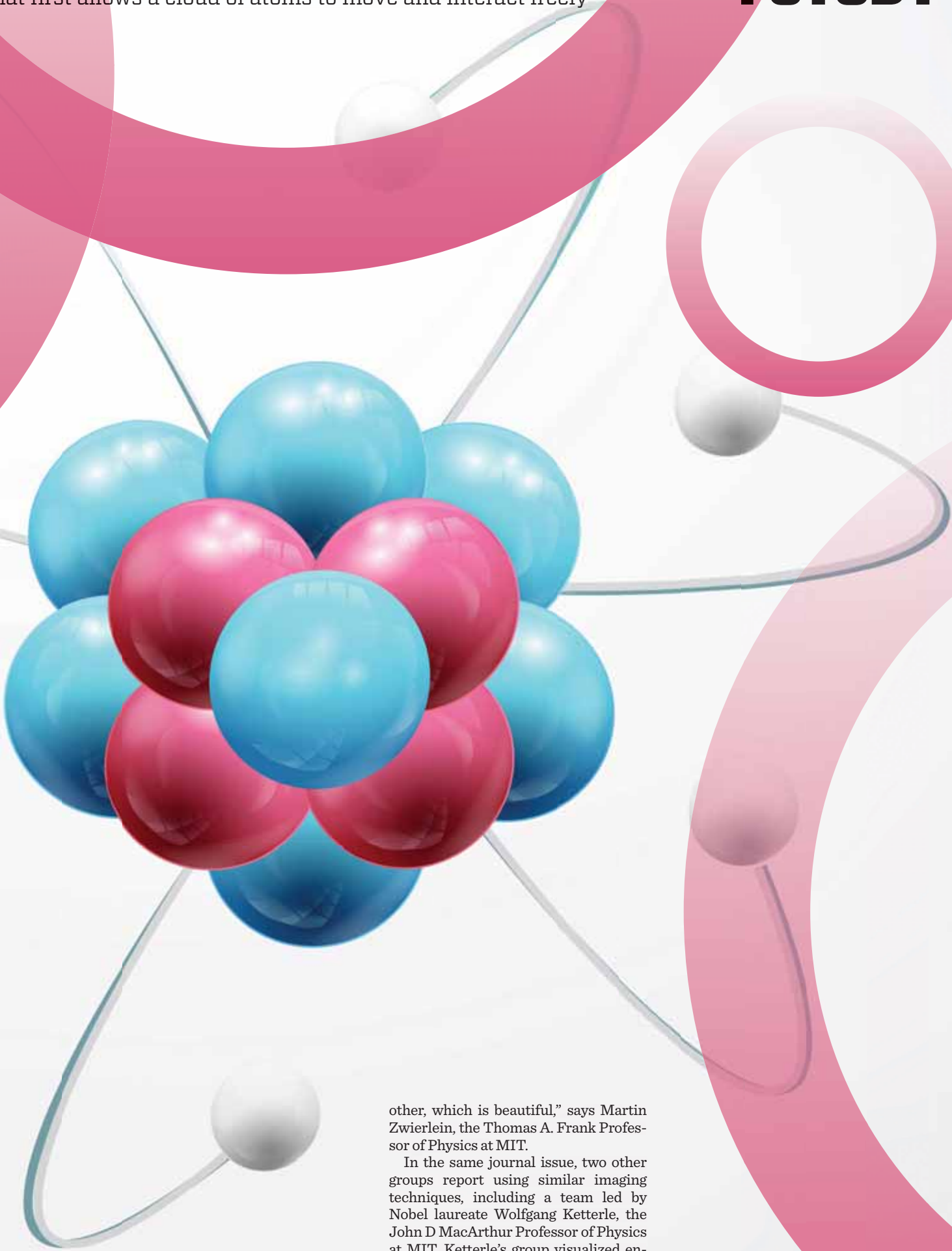
other, which is beautiful,” says Martin Zwierlein, the Thomas A. Frank Professor of Physics at MIT.

In the same journal issue, two other groups report using similar imaging techniques, including a team led by Nobel laureate Wolfgang Ketterle, the John D MacArthur Professor of Physics at MIT. Ketterle’s group visualized enhanced pair correlations among bosons, while the other group, from Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, led by Tarik Yefsah, a former postdoc in Zwierlein’s lab, imaged a cloud of noninteracting fermions.

The study by Zwierlein and his colleagues is co-authored by MIT graduate students Ruixiao Yao, Sungjae Chi, and Mingxuan Wang, and MIT assistant professor of physics Richard Fletcher.

“These techniques allow you to see the overall shape and structure of a cloud of atoms, but not the individual atoms themselves,” Zwierlein notes. “It’s like seeing a cloud in the sky, but not the individual water molecules that make up the cloud.”

He and his colleagues took a very different approach in order to directly image atoms interacting in free space. Their technique, called “atom-resolved microscopy,” involves first corralling a cloud of atoms in a loose trap formed by a laser beam. - **ANI**



SPORTS

Alcaraz overcomes mid-match stumble to advance; Ruud exits

Defending champion held off a brave fight from Hungary's Fabian Marozsan to reach third round

PARIS: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz shrugged off a second-set lapse to defeat Hungary's Fabian Marozsan and book his place in the French Open third round, while two-time finalist Casper Ruud suffered a shock early exit on Wednesday.

Alcaraz, aiming to become the first man since Rafael Nadal in 2020 to retain the Roland Garros crown, posted a 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory – his 17th win in 18 matches on clay this season.

The Spaniard stormed through the opening set in just 28 minutes, breaking Marozsan three times with clinical efficiency. But the Hungarian regrouped and took advantage of a scrappy second set from the second seed to level the match.

"In the second set, he started to play much better and was really aggressive. He didn't miss at all, so it was a little difficult to deal with," said Alcaraz, 22.

"But I'm really happy I stayed strong and refreshed myself. I started to play better and better, which helped me have a really



good last two sets."

Alcaraz, a four-time Grand Slam champion, quickly regained control to dominate the final two sets and advance. He will next face either France's 31st seed Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard or Bosnia's Damir Dzumhur.

Ruud crashes out with injury concerns

In contrast, seventh seed Casper Ruud – runner-up in Paris in 2022 and 2023 – became the second

top-10 player to be ousted from the tournament after falling 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 to Portugal's Nuno Borges.

Ruud started brightly but began to struggle with a knee issue as the match wore on, winning just one game across the final two sets.

Borges, 28 and ranked 41st in the world, secured his first-ever third-round appearance at Roland Garros with the upset win.

Earlier, Italian eighth seed Lorenzo Musetti booked his spot

in the third round with a dominant 6-4, 6-0, 6-4 victory over Colombia's Daniel Galan.

Paolini sweeps aside Tomljanovic to advance

Jasmine Paolini moved into the third round of the French Open with a routine win against Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic.

The fourth seed, who was a runner-up at Roland Garros last year, swept Tomljanovic aside in a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

Fresh from from lifting a WTA 1,000 title in Rome earlier this month, the victory was Paolini's eighth in a row.

The Italian enjoyed a memorable 2024 season, soaring up the WTA rankings after reaching the final of both the French Open and Wimbledon, while she also won Olympic gold in the women's doubles in Paris with compatriot Sara Errani.

Asked if she felt calmer playing on Court Philippe Chatrier this year, Paolini replied: "It's a different feel I guess because last year I played a few matches here, and then again at Olympics so I am a bit more used to this court. Before I never played here."

"I like this court, I have great memories here and it is great to be back in Paris in front of this crowd."

The world No.4 will face Ukraine's Yulia Starodubtseva or Russian Anastasia Potapova next.

Earlier on Wednesday, Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen also cruised into the third round with a 6-2, 6-3 victory against Colombia's Emiliana Arango. - Agencies

IPL 2025

Jitesh's 85 overpowers Pant's 118 as RCB seal entry into Qualifier 1



MULLANPUR: Stand-in skipper Jitesh Sharma produced a breathtaking 85* off just 33 balls to lead Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to a thrilling six-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), chasing down a daunting 228 with eight balls to spare on Tuesday.

With the win, RCB marched into Qualifier 1 of IPL 2025, where they will meet Punjab Kings (PBKS) in Mullanpur on Thursday.

Earlier, Rishabh Pant lit up the evening with a stunning 118* off

61 balls, a knock glittering with 11 fours, eight sixes, and his signature flair—including a one-handed six and a frontflip to celebrate his century.

His 152-run stand with Mitchell Marsh (67 off 37) powered LSG to 227/3.

In reply, Virat Kohli (54 off 30) and Phil Salt gave RCB a flying start before

Will O'Rourke struck twice in an over, removing Rajat Patidar and Liam Livingstone. Kohli soon followed, and with RCB needing 105 off 52 balls, their win probab-



ity had dipped to just 21%.

That's when Jitesh took charge. He blasted 17 off an O'Rourke over and 21 off Shahbaz Ahmed's next, aided by a brisk Mayank Agarwal (41* off 23). Jitesh reached his maiden IPL fifty in 22 balls and added drama by surviving a near-dismissal when a no-ball call saved him from a reverse-sweep mishap.

With 28 needed off 18, Jitesh hammered O'Rourke for two sixes and two fours in a game-changing over, and then sealed the win with a slog-swept six off Ayush Badoni. His unbeaten 107-run stand with

Agarwal will be remembered as one of the most fearless finishes in IPL playoff history.

Despite his earlier overuse of Romario Shepherd and under-bowling Krunal Pandya, Jitesh more than made amends with a captain's knock for the ages.

Brief scores: Lucknow Super Giants 227/3 (Mitchell Marsh 67, Rishabh Pant 118; Nuwan Thushara 1/26) lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru 230/4 in 18.4 overs (Phil Salt 30, Virat Kohli 54, Mayank Agarwal 41*, Jithesh Sharma 85*; Will O'Rourke 2/74). - Agencies

LIVERPOOL TRAGEDY

Football a source of comradeship: Slot

LONDON: Arne Slot thanked "the wider football community" for its support following the incident at Liverpool's title parade as he was named manager of the year and Premier League manager of the year at the League Managers Association (LMA) awards.

About 50 people - including four children - were injured on Monday when a car rammed into crowds in central Liverpool.

Slot was honoured with the Sir Alex Ferguson Trophy at the annual LMA ceremony in London - which he did not attend.

After replacing Jurgen Klopp last summer, the 46-year-old only signed one player - forward Federico Chiesa - but still delivered Liverpool's second Premier League title, winning the league by 10 points from Arsenal.

"I have had to withdraw from the event out of solidarity with all affected," he said., external

"This is not a decision I have taken lightly but it is one that I feel is absolutely right given the seriousness of the situation."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wider football community, including the LMA it-



self, the Premier League and many clubs for the support we have received over the last 24 hours.

"Football is and always should be a game built on rivalry, but it is also a great source of comradeship, especially at times like this."

"I would also like to pay tribute to the emergency services and other authorities in Liverpool who swung into action as soon as the incident happened."

"Along with the supporters and bystanders who helped one another in an hour of need, I think everyone involved in the aftermath deserves the gratitude of all of us." - Agencies

2025 FIA MIDDLE EAST RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Al Rawahi eyes repeat glory as Jordan Rally gears up for action

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With temperatures set to soar around the Dead Sea in Jordan, the heat is very much on in more ways than one as Oman's Abdullah Al Rawahi looks to reignite his title challenge at the 2025 Jordan Rally, the fourth round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), taking place from May 29-31.

Al Rawahi, who memorably clinched victory in Jordan last year en route to becoming the 2023 regional champion, returns with a familiar face beside him - local co-driver Ata Al Hmoud - and a clear mission.

"We have one target and that is to win the rally," Al Hmoud said ahead of the weekend.

"With Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah in the Škoda RS and Rakan Al Rashed in the Toyota Yaris, the competition will be tough, but we have the experience here."

Currently sitting third in the drivers' standings, Al Rawahi's



best result this season has been second place in Qatar. A strong finish in Jordan - where his knowledge of the terrain and partnership with a local navigator could prove vital - may well be the turning point in his campaign.

"We have the experience in Jordan. Hopefully, we can be the top level of the game. The Dead Sea at this time of year is very hot. Weather conditions could be a tough one. I missed Jeddah (Rally Saudi Arabia) because my wife

delivered two babies, two young angels, a baby girl and a baby boy. Now I have a bigger family. We will do our best to win this event."

All eyes, however, are also on Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah, the 19-time MERC champion, who ar-

rives with co-driver Candido Carrera looking for a fourth consecutive win this season following dominant performances in Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Victory in Jordan would not only extend their unbeaten run but also mark Al Attiyah's record 17th win in the Hashemite Kingdom and his 90th MERC career victory.

Meanwhile, Saudi driver Rakan Al Rashed, buoyed by his recent experience at the WRC Rally of Portugal, will hope to close the 31-point gap to the top. Alongside co-driver Hugo Magalhães, Al-Rashed remains a serious podium contender in his GR Yaris.

Qatari Abdulaziz A -Kuwari, the defending regional champion, returns with solid form and two podiums under his belt, while veteran Nasser Khalifa Al Atya leads the newly-introduced FIA Master MERC Championship.

Oman's presence in the rally is further strengthened in the MERC2 category, where Zakariya Al Aamri and Abdullah Al Zubair

continue their close-fought battle. Separated by just 15 points, both Subaru drivers are aiming to keep the MERC2 title in Omani hands after Shaker Jweihan's triumph last season.

A total of 21 international cars are set to take part in pre-event scrutineering on Thursday morning, with nine additional entries eligible for rounds of the Jordan National Championship.

The ceremonial start will be held that evening at 19:15 at the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan in Amman, preceded by drift shows and car displays from 18:00.

The rally features 12 gravel stages in the Jordan Valley and around the Dead Sea, making it one of the most technically challenging events on the MERC calendar.

With drivers bracing for intense heat and unpredictable terrain, the battle for supremacy in Jordan promises high drama - and perhaps another chapter in Abdullah Al Rawahi's growing rally legacy.

Sohar International forum hosts Goldman Sachs executive and renowned financial journalist

Attended by industry leaders, financial professionals, and decision-makers both in person and online, the Viewpoints Forum provided timely insights into global market trends under the theme “Politics, Policy & Prices – Impact on Markets: A Walkthrough”

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its steadfast commitment to fostering intellectual dialogue and the exchange of impactful ideas, Sohar International hosted a compelling session of its signature Viewpoints Forum at the Mandarin Oriental, Muscat, on May 22.

Attended by industry leaders, financial professionals, and decision-makers both in person and online, the event provided timely

insights into global market trends under the theme “Politics, Policy & Prices – Impact on Markets: A Walkthrough.”

The forum featured James Ashley, Managing Director, Head of International Market Strategy, and Head of Strategic Advisory Solutions at Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

Ashley delivered a comprehensive analysis of how geopolitical



developments, policy shifts, and economic indicators influence global markets, offering attendees valuable perspectives drawn from his strategic expertise. Moderating the discussion was Sarah Cocker, acclaimed financial journalist and former CNBC Squawk Box anchor. Her dynamic and thoughtful facilitation enriched the conversation

and brought clarity to complex global issues.

Commenting on the event, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer at Sohar International, said, “Knowledge, when paired with access and perspective, becomes a powerful driver of opportunity. Our aim through initiatives like these is not only to exchange insights, but to ignite critical thinking, challenge convention, and equip our stakeholders to navigate an increasingly complex investment landscape with confidence. This forum reflects a broader commitment to strategic foresight and the kind of dialogue that drives long-term value. In an era where global and regional markets are more interconnected than ever, the need for nuanced, context-driven understanding is paramount. By convening thought leaders and decision-makers, we continue to position ourselves as a catalyst for intelligent growth—both for our clients and for the nation at large.”

Welcoming an elite audience of over 100 distinguished high-net worth clients, the event provided a powerful platform for insightful dialogue on shifting market dynamics and long-term investment strategies. Reinforcing its position as a catalyst for knowledge and a proponent of progressive thought leadership, Sohar International thoughtfully curated an environment that encouraged the exchange of diverse viewpoints and forward-thinking perspectives. A dynamic open-floor Q&A session further enriched the conversation, offering physical and digital attendees the opportunity to engage directly with industry experts and delve into issues of both personal and professional significance. Through this high-level engagement, the bank reaffirmed its dedication to equipping stakeholders with contextual intelligence and nurturing a culture of informed decision-making—one that aligns seamlessly with the Sultanate’s broader economic aspirations.

BRINGING TOGETHER BRIGHT YOUNG MINDS

Annual Science Fiesta by Indian Science Forum - Future innovators make their mark



MUSCAT: Students and teachers from as far as Jalan, Khasab, Sur, Ibri, Rustaq, Salalah and other schools in Muscat and nearby areas arrived at the campus of the National University for Science and Technology to compete in various fields organised by the Annual Science Fiesta 2025 of the Indian Science Forum.

The Annual Science Fiesta 2025, held on 23 and 24 May, was a resounding success, bringing together bright young minds from across Oman for a dynamic celebration of science, technology, and innovation.

Indian School Al Ghubra won the Rolling Trophy. Indian School Al Ghubra was declared as the overall champion, the first Runner-Up was Indian School Bousher and the second Runner-Up was Indian School Mabela.

The theme this year was “AI – Mind Meets Machine.” All competitions were centred around this concept, with topics related to Artificial Intelligence featured in events such as debates, poster making, Digital Symposium, Exhibition etc. More than 5,000 students had registered for the Shashtra Pratibha Contest, and the top performers from each grade, the ‘Sastra Pratibha’s, were honoured during the event for their outstanding achievements.

Dr ARJ Abdul Kalam Science and Technology Achievement Award was presented by the Indian Ambassador, G V Srinivas to Dr Monojit Choudhury, Professor at Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), Abu Dhabi, who was also the keynote speaker.

His research work has been at the intersection of natural language processing (NLP) and various branches of cognitive and social sciences. He has drawn inspiration from and contributed to the fields of historical and evolutionary linguistics, sociolinguistics, ethics, culture studies, and ethnography.

Science Fiesta 2025 is dedicated to 70th year of India-Oman diplomatic relations. In this regard, Renowned Omani technologist, thought leader, and community influencer Tariq Hilal Al Barwani was honoured with the prestigious

Jayakar Award.

Named after Dr A S G Jayakar, a distinguished Indian scholar and visionary, the Jayakar Award recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science, education, and social development. Al Barwani’s impactful work in technology, youth empowerment, and cross-cultural engagement earned him this year’s accolade.

“This award is not just a recognition of past achievements, but a call to continue building, inspiring, and transforming lives,” said Al Barwani. “I dedicate this honour to every young dreamer who believes in the power of knowledge, resilience, and service to society.”

The award was presented by G V Srinivas, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, in the presence of Dr. J Retnakumar, Chairman of the Indian Science Forum, Kiran Asher and Syed Ahmad Salman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman.

Dr. J. Retnakumar, Chairman, Indian Science Forum, Oman said, science competitions are essential for students, encouraging critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork. They challenge participants to solve problems and apply scientific concepts, enhancing research skills and boosting confidence. Engaging in these events can ignite a lasting passion for science, inspiring students to pursue STEM careers, which are vital for societal progress.

The second day saw the annual quiz and the science exhibition.

“With over 350 students participating, the Science Quiz was a thrilling display of scientific acumen, testing students’ knowledge across disciplines. And the response from the students was excellent,” pointed out Hala Jamal, the Igniter’s Quiz master.

In parallel, the Science Exhibition transformed the venue into a hub of interactive learning, featuring innovative models, experiments, and demonstrations—all conceived and presented by the students themselves.

The Annual Science Fiesta 2025 successfully extended the boundaries of classroom learning, giving students the opportunity to think critically, communicate effectively, and explore the real-world applications of science.

COLLABORATION

Oxy Oman supports schools with interactive screens

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to advancing education in Oman, Oxy Oman announced a collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) aimed at equipping schools near two Oxy concession areas with interactive screens.

With Oxy Oman’s support, the project will provide 60 interactive screens to be distributed across schools in Al Dhahirah and Al Wusta governorates. This initiative will significantly enrich the classroom experience for teachers and students by fostering digital engagement, in alignment with national education objectives.

The programme was unveiled at an event at the Ministry of Education building in Muscat. Thamer Dawood, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility and Communications at Oxy Oman, and Majid bin Said AlBahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry



of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs signed the sponsorship agreement.

This project is linked to the Ministry of Education’s Digital Curriculum project, which is being implemented across schools

in the Sultanate. The initiative involves converting traditional textbooks into digital interactive books, supporting a more dynamic and accessible learning experience for students.

“We are proud to collaborate

with the Ministry of Education on this initiative,” said Steven Lauver, President and General Manager of Oxy Oman. “By supporting the integration of interactive technology in classrooms, we aim to empower both students and educators with tools that inspire innovation, participation, and academic growth. This effort reflects our broader commitment to sustainable development and community enrichment in the areas where we operate.”

This sponsorship falls under Oxy Oman’s umbrella of strategic partnerships and continuous collaboration with key stakeholders, and is part of Oxy Oman’s endeavor and long-term commitment to support programs that enhance economic growth and sustainable development and that yield positive impacts in the neighboring communities.

SIGNIFICANT ADDITION

Najahi Visa Platinum Business Credit Card sees significant uptake from customers

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, recently announced the launch of the Visa Platinum Business Credit Card for its “Najahi” Business Banking customers, consisting of Micro, Small, Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurs. The new credit card has seen significant demand from customers who avail various features of the credit card that enable them to manage and complete their business purchase transactions efficiently.

The new credit card provides



customers a card limit of up to OMR 5,000. The card comes with a range of benefits for customers, including a 0.5% cashback on all purchases, access to airport lounges worldwide, and various other business-related benefits and offers. Furthermore, the card

offers an interest-free repayment period, providing enhanced financial flexibility and reducing the financial burden on customers.

The Najahi Visa Platinum Business Credit Card is a significant addition to Bank Muscat’s diverse portfolio of banking products and services. It is designed to enhance the banking experience of “Najahi” customers by offering them innovative financial solutions to overcome market challenges, hence, enabling them to complete transactions with ease and achieve their financial goals. Along with Najahi

Debit Card and Najahi Pre-Load Card, this product empowers entrepreneurs and MSMEs to benefit from exceptional features that enhance financial management and support their operations.

Bank Muscat places great emphasis on digital transformation and is committed to offering innovative digital banking solutions. This includes the online banking platform, which provides business customers with 24/7 access to manage their financial transactions, helping MSMEs control their finances and facilitating growth.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TAILORED FOR LIFESTYLE

BankDhofar offers exclusive benefits for Al Riadah Priority banking customers

MUSCAT: BankDhofar - the second largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of the number of branches - seeks to provide an unparalleled banking experience by offering products and services tailored to serve Al Riadah customers for distinguished banking services.

Al Riadah provides a unique range of banking products and services that are tailored to suit the unique lifestyle of priority customers, ranging from personalized cheque book, exclusive Al Riadah debit and credit cards, including: Visa Infinite Debit Card, Visa Signature Debit Card, Visa Signature Credit Card, Visa Infinite Credit Card, and MasterCard World Credit Card. Customers can enjoy exceptional times at restaurants, shops, as well as pro-



urement protection, extended warranty, access to airport lounges around the world, travel insurance for cardholders and their families, in addition to other exclusive services.

BankDhofar has tailor-made financing solutions to meet the

needs of its priority banking customers with simple and fast procedures. The Bank also provides deposit accounts at competitive interest rates. Al Riadah customers may benefit from the distinct monthly interest rate of the High Yield Savings Account. Al Riadah Priority Banking customers have highly competent relationship managers to ensure the utmost convenience to this segment of our customers.

With the Rewards Program, which is an exclusive and comprehensive loyalty program, credit card holders, may enjoy a variety of privileges and benefits. Reward points can be viewed through BankDhofar’s flagship Mobile Banking Application. The App enables customers to conduct their banking transactions at their con-

venience 24/7.

BankDhofar recently launched its “Promise to Serve” campaign, which aims to ensure that customers are served in less than 10 minutes, demonstrating BankDhofar’s commitment to achieving excellence in providing banking services through branches spread across the Sultanate of Oman. The Banks extensive branch network ensures accessibility for all customers to easily avail the comprehensive range of financial services offered as well as receive personalized attention for all their enquiries and requests.

BankDhofar has allocated offices for Al Riadah customers in all of BankDhofar’s branches (more than 131 branches) distributed across all governorates and states of the Sultanate of Oman.

ROUND-UP

MG unveils next-generation MG ZS elevating compact SUV experience

Packed with cutting-edge technology, enhanced performance, and advanced safety features, the latest MG ZS continues the legacy while setting new benchmarks in its class

MUSCAT: Building on the success of its predecessor, which secured a leading position in the compact SUV segment, MG Motor proudly introduces the all-new MG ZS—a bold and stylish evolution designed for modern urban explorers. Packed with cutting-edge technology, enhanced performance, and advanced safety features, the latest MG ZS continues the legacy while setting new benchmarks in its class. Delivering an engaging driving experience, enhanced by state-of-the-art safety and infotainment systems, the MG ZS is now available in Oman. The latest iteration of MG's popular SUV is set to capture the attention of young drivers and families alike.

The MG ZS offers two dynamic powertrain options tailored to different driving needs. The efficient 1.5L engine delivers 112HP for smooth city cruising, while the turbocharged variant boosts performance to an exhilarating 168HP. With three selectable Drive Modes, the MG ZS adapts effortlessly to both urban streets and open highways, ensuring a confident and engaging drive. Tom Lee, Managing Director of MG Motor Middle East, stated: "With its bold styling, cutting-edge technology, and impressive performance, the MG ZS delivers exactly what today's drivers seek—style, capability, and outstanding



value. As one of our most successful models, the ZS continues to evolve with advanced features while maintaining its strong price competitiveness, ensuring accessibility for a wider audience. This latest generation reflects MG's commitment to innovation, not only through upgraded technology but also as part of our broader vision to integrate new EV technologies into our global lineup. We are excited to bring this model to our customers across the region, offering a dynamic and future-ready driving experience." Commenting on this occasion

, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO, MHD ACERE, stated, "At MHD ACERE, we are proud to introduce the next-generation MG ZS to the Omani market—a compact SUV that perfectly balances performance, technology, and style. The MG ZS reflects our continued commitment to bringing innovative and accessible mobility solutions to our customers. With its advanced safety features, bold design, and exceptional value, the new MG ZS is crafted for the modern driver who seeks both practicality and personality in their everyday drive."

The MG ZS makes a bold statement with its refined yet dynamic styling. Featuring a striking front fascia with a wide grille and connected 'Hunter-Eye' LED headlights, it exudes a confident and contemporary appeal. The aerodynamic silhouette is complemented by sculpted lines, a smooth spoiler, and sleek LED taillights, adding a sporty touch. With its 18-inch alloy wheels, the MG ZS maintains a strong road presence, making it an eye-catching companion for city driving and weekend getaways alike. Modern comfort meets sophis-

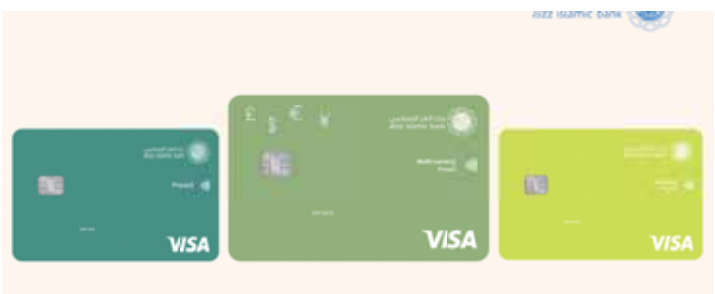
ticated design in the MG ZS. With its jet-wing-style console and ergonomically sculpted steering wheel providing a driver-centric experience, and premium fabric or optional leather seats offer superior comfort. A panoramic sunroof floods the cabin with natural light, enhancing the sense of space and luxury. Safety is paramount in the MG ZS, which comes equipped with an advanced suite of driver assistance technologies. Adaptive Cruise Control ensures seamless highway driving, while Forward Collision Warning, Speed Assist,

and Hill Start Assist provide added protection and confidence in every journey. A 360-degree camera and parking sensors make tight manoeuvres effortless, ensuring complete peace of mind behind the wheel. MG ZS offers remarkable value for those seeking a stylish yet practical SUV to complement their lifestyles and is now available at MG showrooms across the GCC. Customers can experience its bold design, advanced technology, and dynamic performance first-hand by visiting their nearest MG dealership for a test drive.

SMART SOLUTIONS

Alizz Islamic Bank launches first Sharia compliant multi-currency prepaid card in Oman

MUSCAT: Expanding its card portfolio to offer convenient payment solutions, Alizz Islamic Bank recently launched its new Visa prepaid card, youth prepaid card and for the first time in Oman a Shari'a compliant multi-currency prepaid card. The bank's new prepaid cards offers customers everyday convenience and are easily applied for through the bank's new 'Alizz X' mobile banking application and the cards can be topped up instantly through the app. The multi-currency card eliminates the hassle and fees typically associated with currency exchange when traveling or shopping internationally and the card allows customers to make transactions in Omani Rials, US Dollars, Euros, British Pounds, Emirati Dirhams & Saudi Rials. The multi-currency prepaid card is the ideal international travelling companion that allows users to carry one card wherever they travel and



removes the need to look for an exchange house and carry physical currencies. The card switches according to the destination of use & can draw funds from another currency. The multi-currency card can be used abroad across ATMs, point of sale terminals as well as for online purchases. Touching upon the launch Khalid Al Hoqani, Head of Transformation at Alizz Islamic Bank said "At Alizz Islamic Bank we are committed to innovation and providing smart solutions that

meet the ever-changing needs of our customers. We are proud to have launched our prepaid card, youth prepaid card and to be the first Islamic bank offering a multi-currency prepaid card. The multi-currency card offers a safe, easy and cashless way to carry multiple foreign currencies in a single card. With this card, our customers can easily manage their expenses, avoid currency exchange hassles, and enjoy peace of mind with enhanced security features when they are travelling."

FOR BUSINESS CLASS GUESTS

Oman Air and Amouage take Omani rock rose to skies

MUSCAT: Continuing to redefine in-flight dining, Oman Air has partnered with long-term collaborator Amouage to introduce an exclusive sweet creation for Business Class guests. In a shared celebration of artistry and tradition, the national airline and iconic fragrance house have unveiled a bespoke dessert featuring the treasured Omani Rock Rose, grown on the slopes of Al Jabal Al Akhdar (the 'Green Mountain'). Available for a limited time only, this exquisite floral dish, created by Michelin-starred Chef Peter Gast and inspired by Amouage's Guidance Eau de Parfum, brings a new dimension of storytelling and sensory delight to the airline's award-winning Business Class menu, offering guests a refined taste of Oman at 30,000 feet.

Layers of texture and depth The carefully crafted, seven-petal creation is a refined balance of delicate textures and layered depth, revealing unexpected con-



trasts with every bite. Beneath its soft pink exterior and crisp chocolate shell, its petals part to unveil a velvety cream and a delicate crunch that lingers on the palate. Flavour is never static and evolves with its surroundings. During flight, where perception shifts, this delicacy is designed to hold its integrity, allowing each nuance to unfold effortlessly, just as intended.

Guests will receive one composition intertwining raspberry, pear, and saffron on inbound flights. **Memory and craft intertwine** From May 2025, the signature rose-inspired dessert can be experienced on all Oman Air Business Class long and medium-haul inbound routes.

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