

Times

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OMAN, NETHERLANDS REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO BOOST COOPERATION ACROSS VARIOUS SECTORS



- HM the Sultan
leaves the
Netherlands after
successful visit

>A3
- Marking His
Majesty's visit,
Dutch PM hosts
working lunch

>A4
- HM the Sultan
meets President
of Dutch Senate,
Speaker of House of
Representatives

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The visit

underscored the deep historical ties between Oman and the Netherlands

AMSTERDAM: The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation across various sectors, emphasising the importance of government-to-government collaboration and business partnerships to drive mutual economic growth and innovation. This came in a joint communique issued on the occasion of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin

Tarik's state-visit to the Netherlands. It reads as follows: "On 15 and 16 April, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, paid a State Visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the invitation of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander. The visit underscored the deep historical ties between Oman and the Netherlands, tracing back over 400 years of trade and people-to-people connections. The two

nations have evolved from early maritime exchanges into a dynamic partnership rooted in openness, international trade, and fostering dialogue on global challenges. During the visit, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met with His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Prime Minister Dick Schoof, and engaged in a comprehensive exchange on bilateral and international issues. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening

cooperation across various sectors, emphasising the importance of government-to-government collaboration and business partnerships to drive mutual economic growth and innovation. The visit also saw the signing of several agreements and memoranda of understanding that establish a framework to enhance various fields. Opportunities for trade and investment in key sectors such as energy transition, sustainable lo-

gistics and water were explored. A CEO round table followed by a reception with His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, facilitated discussions on expanding business ties. Recognizing their shared maritime heritage and strategic advantages in the maritime and logistics sectors, both nations explored ways to deepen cooperation in port development and sustainable logistics. >A3

HH Sayyid Theyyazin graces opening of Active Oman Centre, Action Point Oman

MUSCAT: HH Saayid Theyyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth on Wednesday graced over the opening of Active Oman Centre and Action Point Oman at Oman Automobiles Association. HH Sayyid Theyyazin inaugurated the new identity of Oman Automobiles Association "Active Oman". He also toured the facilities of Active Point Centre and the Action Point Oman. The centre is a sports entertainment destination that aims to empower youth to practice their hobbies and to hone their skills in an environment that stimulates innovation and contributes to developing the sports and tourism sectors. Action Point Oman features six indoor shooting ranges built based on global standards and equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Meanwhile, Active Oman Centre includes halls for padel, acrobatics, snooker, billiards, and digital golf, in addition to a bowling alley, tracks for car and bike racing, and an international karting circuit. -ONA



Muscat International Book Fair from April 24

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat International Book Fair is set to open on Thursday, April 24, 2025 and continue until 3 May, 2025, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). The opening ceremony of the book fair will be held at OCEC under the auspices of HH Sayyid Dr. Fahd Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University. Speaking at the press conference, Mohammed Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, described Muscat International Book Fair as a prominent cultural and annual event that celebrates thought and innovation. He added that the book fair serves as an intellectual gathering that brings together writers, literati and publishers from around the world, offering all an opportunity to engage in intellectual exchange and cultural dialogue. He said that this edition is in pursuance of the book fair's mission to support culture, encourage readers and provide a space for writers, authors and publishers to



showcase their works. North A'Sharqiyah Governorate will be the "Guest of Honour" at the 29th edition of Muscat International Book Fair, said Al Balushi, noting that a special pavilion will be accorded to the governorate's local culture, history, prominent figures, scholarly and humanitarian achievements, tourist destinations and various aspects of modern life in its wilayats. More than 74 media professionals from 50 media organizations around the world have been invited to attend the event, said Al Balushi, noting that this year's book fair will host a set of prominent in-

tellectuals and media professionals, writers, authors, heads of associations and publishing houses. Ahmed Saud Al Rawahi, Director of Muscat International Book Fair, said that the number of publishing houses this year will reach 674 from 35 countries. He pointed out that this year's edition of Muscat International Book Fair will include Saudi Cultural Days, an event that reflects the outstanding relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cultural days' programmes and events will be held at the pavilion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:12pm
Asr.....3:39pm
Maghrib.....6:34pm
Isha.....7:47pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:25am

Meeting outlines importance of localising jobs in tourism sector

Shura Council’s Media, Tourism, and Culture Committee continues discussions on strengthening the tourism sector in Oman with senior OCCI members

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Media, Tourism, and Culture Committee of the Shura Council hosted, on Wednesday morning, the Chair of the Tourism Committee at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), along with a number of experts from the Chamber.

The meeting discussed the proposed initiative titled “Evaluation of Nationalisation Programmes



and Policies in the Tourism Sector,” which seeks to assess the current nationalisation strategies and measure the number of jobs generated within the sector during the current and future five-year development plans.

The meeting was chaired by Abdullah Hamad Al-Harthy, head of the Committee, and attended by their excellencies the committee members. During the session, Dr. Seham Ahmed Al-Harhiya, Chair of the Tourism Committee at OCCI, highlighted the importance of localising jobs in the tour-

ism sector as a vital contributor to boosting the local economy and enhancing national capabilities. She noted that while the Omanisation rate in the sector stands at 25%, the industry has the potential to create over 50,000 jobs, particularly through the support of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Dr. Al-Harhiya further emphasized the role of OCCI’s Tourism Committee in fostering partnerships with government institutions and investors to raise Omanisation rates across all levels of the

private sector. She pointed out that the Chamber has introduced several initiatives and programmes to support private sector involvement in job localisation.

The Chamber also presented a series of recommendations aimed at enhancing the sustainability of Omanisation policies in the tourism sector. Key proposals included: integrating Omanisation as a strategic objective in national tourism policies and strategies, amending relevant legislation to empower national talent, offering training and skill development



programmes, especially on-the-job training, to align the national workforce with sector needs.

The Members of the Committee raised questions about the key challenges tourism companies face in implementing Omanisation policies, the most effective solutions to address them, and the extent to which successful international experiences in tourism localisation could be adopted in Oman.

The members also stressed the importance of raising tourism awareness, launching domestic and international promotional campaigns for tourism projects, and supporting SMEs through access to project contracts, tax reductions, and various incentives.

The discussion, and as part of

ongoing efforts to enhance the tourism sector’s contribution to economic diversification, the committee also reviewed a proposal—submitted with the participation of residents from the Wilayat of Qurayyat—to designate Qurayyat as a tourism zone. The Wilayat is home to diverse natural attractions and a rich historical and cultural heritage. The meeting explored the economic feasibility of the project, as well as the types of tourism programs and activities that could be included.

The discussions also underscored the role of such projects in preserving national identity, promoting Oman’s cultural and historical heritage, and supporting the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises.

ON APRIL 21

Shura Council to host Minister of Housing and Urban Planning

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council will host Dr. Khalfan Saeed Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, on Monday, April 21, where he will deliver his ministerial statement before the Council.

This comes within the framework of the approved ministerial statement programme for the second regular session of the Tenth Term, aimed at discussing key aspects of the Ministry’s performance and its future plans in the fields of housing and urban planning. This was stated by Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council, who noted that the Council will convene its ninth regular session for the second session (2024–2025) of the Tenth Term (2023–2027), which will be dedicated to discussing the statement by the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning.

This marks the third ministerial statement discussion within the current session’s programme, which includes statements from



four service-related ministries, in line with Article (69) of the Law of the Council of Oman. This Article stipulates that:

A joint proposal

Majlis Al Shura shall, on the basis of the majlis and the chairs of its permanent committees, decide at the beginning of every annual session on the programme for ministerial statements that will be delivered through the session and their debate topics for discussion. The chairman of the majlis shall notify the government of this programme and specify the elements

and topics that must be included in each statement in accordance with the matter or sector that the statement relates to.

The Secretary-General added that the statement will address five main themes previously identified by the Council. The foremost of these is the National Urban Development Strategy and the Ministry’s programmes under the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021–2025).

This includes reviewing the Ministry’s performance indicators concerning the strategic programmes entrusted to it, the general policy for housing and urban



planning, and the role of the national strategy in advancing planning mechanisms and achieving sustainable development across governorates. It will also examine the Ministry’s contribution to job creation in the governorates, the expected impact of the National Social Housing Plan, and policies for preparing maps and urban plans.

The second topic will focus on the legislation and regulatory frameworks governing the housing sector, including existing legal structures and prospective legislative directions related to urban planning.

The third topic will highlight inter-agency integration and collaboration, showcasing the Ministry’s efforts in fostering partnerships with government entities and the private sector, attracting real estate investments and developers, and enhancing planning standards through the development of guides and performance indicators aligned with the National Urban Development Strategy. It will also touch upon coordination with other sectors such as transport, agricultural expansion, and renewable energy.

The fourth topic will address digital transformation and procedural simplification, through the Ministry’s initiatives in applying artificial intelligence, geographic information systems (GIS), and real estate process governance.

The fifth and final topic will discuss future challenges and opportunities for sustainable cities and integrated residential neighbourhoods, focusing on cost, social values, financing mechanisms, and their role in addressing the growing backlog of social housing applications.

AT WADI KABIR



Muscat GadiNada Utsava to be held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Karnataka government’s GadiNada Kannada Authority is organising the “Muscat GadiNada Utsava” at Wadi Kabir, Muscat, on Friday, April 18.

During this event, in the presence of official representatives of the Karnataka Government and leaders from the Oman Ministry of Tourism, several accomplished non-resident Kannadigas will be felicitated and honoured.

Janab Shamsheer Ahmad Barik from the Beary community has been selected for the GadiNaada Achiever award, in recognition of his contributions in the social, educational, and industrial sectors.

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OXFORD BUSINESS GROUP

Oman outlines its initiatives to emerge as a top investment, travel destination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman is advancing its long-term vision for economic diversification, with travel and sustainability at its core. A new Global Platform video by Oxford Business Group features an exclusive interview with Salim AlMahruqi, Oman’s Minister of Heritage and Tourism, and Azzan Albusaidi, Oman’s Undersecretary of Tourism, highlighting the country’s ongoing efforts to position itself as a leading investment and travel destination.

Luxury hospitality projects

Under Oman Vision 2040, tourism has been identified as a key pillar for economic growth, with a target of attracting 12 million visitors by 2040. Strategic initiatives are being implemented to modernise the sector and enhance its global competitiveness, including the development of integrated tourism complexes (ITCs), luxury hospitality projects, and niche tourism experiences such as adventure and astral tourism. As part of these efforts, Oman is expanding its connectivity, with 500 shuttle flights set to operate between October and April, and the upcoming launch of a regional marketing office in Singapore to strengthen engagement with Asia-Pacific markets, including Australia and New Zealand.

Sustainability remains a cen-



tral priority for Oman’s tourism agenda, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the country’s national net-zero target for 2050. In line with this, Oman is developing the Yiti sustainable city, which will be the country’s first carbon-neutral tourism development. Additionally, all tourism initiatives are required to incorporate sustainability principles, ensuring responsible sector growth.

Salim AlMahruqi emphasised the government’s commitment to fostering investment and innovation in tourism.

“Oman offers a compelling

combination of stability, rich cultural heritage, and breathtaking landscapes, making it an attractive destination for investors and visitors alike. Our focus on sustainability ensures that growth is achieved in a responsible and forward-looking manner,” he stated.

Azzan Albusaidi highlighted the importance of Oman’s tourism strategy in driving economic expansion.

“The development of our tourism sector under Vision 2040 is not just about increasing visitor numbers; it is about creating high-value experiences that respect our cultural and environmental herit-

age. We are committed to fostering a sustainable industry that benefits both local communities and international investors,” he said.

Dana Agarbicean, OBG’s Country Director in Oman, underscored the broader significance of Oman’s tourism strategy. “Oman Vision 2040 presents a clear roadmap for sustainable economic diversification, with tourism as a cornerstone of this transformation. The strategic initiatives being implemented will not only enhance Oman’s appeal as a global tourism destination but also support long-term economic resilience,” she said.

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OMAN AND THE NETHERLANDS

Aim to further boost trade ties



<FROM A1 In this regard, discussions were held on enhancing collaboration between the Ports of Sohar and Salalah, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, as well as on innovative marine construction initiatives harnessing ocean currents as part of their shared commitment to sustainability. The two nations reiterated their commitment to advancing the energy transition, focusing on decarbonisation, renewable energy, and green hydrogen. Cooperation in water management was also a key area of discussion, building on the long-standing expertise of both countries in sustainable water solutions.

Acknowledging the importance of people-to-people connections, Oman and the Netherlands committed to strengthening cooperation in governance, cultural exchange, science, and sports. Both nations emphasised knowledge

exchange and innovation, aligning with the triple helix model, where government, academia, and business collaborate for sustainable development.

Oman and the Netherlands reiterated their shared commitment to global peace and stability through dialogue and diplomacy. They exchanged views on regional developments and emphasised constructive engagement in addressing global challenges.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the visit and their determination to build on this momentum for the benefit of both countries. Looking ahead, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of the Netherlands remain committed to strengthening their historic and strategic relationship, deepening cooperation across key sectors, and fostering a future built on collaboration and mutual understanding". — **ONA**

THREE-DAY STATE VISIT

HM the Sultan leaves the Netherlands

AMSTERDAM: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik left the Kingdom of the Netherlands this evening after a three-day state visit.

His Majesty was seen off at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol by Rear Admiral Ludger Brummelaar, Chief of the Military House of the King, Reinette Klever, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development and some officials in the Netherlands.

Upon his departure, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik sent a cable of thanks to King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and his spouse Queen Máxima.

In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the accompanying delegation.

His Majesty lauded the outcomes of his meeting with the King and the Prime Minister, as it was an opportunity to promote the relations and opening new vistas for partnership and cooperation in various spheres.

His Majesty the Sultan wished the King and the Queen permanent success to achieve further aspirations of progress and prosperity for the Dutch people.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the visit by a high-ranking official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Shihab bin



Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Dr. Madeeha bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Eng. Salim bin Nassir Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Salim Al Harthy, Ambassador of Oman to the Netherlands. — **ONA**





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HM meets President of Dutch Senate, Speaker of House of Representatives

The meeting reviewed areas of cooperation and partnership between the two countries and means of promoting them to serve the joint interests

THE HAGUE: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met at the Dutch Parliament in The Hague on Wednesday with Prof. Jan Anthonie Bruijn, President of the Dutch Senate and Dr. Martin Bosma, Speaker of the House of Representatives.



The meeting reviewed areas of cooperation and partnership between the two countries and means of promoting them to serve the joint interests. The meeting was attended by the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan, as well as several members of the Dutch Parliament. At the conclusion of the visit, His Majesty signed the VIP visitors’ register at the Dutch Parliament, expressing his delight. His Majesty underlined the advanced bilateral relations and the keenness to further developing them across various spheres. — **ONA**



AT ROYAL PALACE

In honour of HM the Sultan, King of Netherlands hosts official dinner



AMSTERDAM: In honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and his spouse Queen Máxima hosted an official dinner at the Royal Palace. Prior to the dinner, His Majesty shook hands with the distinguished guests attending the banquet. Then, His Majesty the Sultan delivered a speech on this occasion. It reads as follows: “Your Majesties, It is a great honour to be here in the Netherlands to celebrate the enduring friendship between our two nations. I extend my sincere gratitude for your warm hospitality and the invaluable contribu-

tions that have strengthened our partnership over the years. This warm reception is a reflection of the deep-rooted cooperation between our nations, which has flourished over centuries through maritime trade, exploration, and mutual curiosity. This visit stands as a testament to the historic ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Early Dutch merchants and voyagers have extended bridges of friendship since the 17th century, forming the foundation for today’s dynamic collaboration. Today, this legacy is reflected through Suhar Port, which is a joint venture be-

tween Asyad Group and the Port of Rotterdam to manage and operate the port of Suhar and the free zone. This Port stands as a symbol of our seafaring heritage and our shared commitment to innovation, collaboration and a forward-looking vision. It has become a thriving hub for global trade and investment—a testament of what can be achieved when nations work together with openness and determination. Dutch expertise in clean energy and water management is globally recognized, and I am grateful that this visit has provided an opportunity to discuss our collaboration and early successes, particularly in green hydrogen production and in-

novative water solutions. Beyond economic collaboration, our two nations continue to strengthen ties through political consultations, academic exchanges, and cultural dialogue. The mutual understanding between our peoples has never been stronger. As we continue to uphold our common values—justice, multilateralism, and the rule of law—I am confident that our collaboration will contribute to promote peace and stability in Europe and the Middle East. Building on our shared achievements in logistics, commerce, and energy, we must now extend our cooperation to address pressing

global challenges, particularly in upholding international law and ensuring security for all. In these efforts, we must be judicious in our perspectives and bold in our actions, recognizing that our shared responsibility in shaping a better future extends beyond our borders. Your Majesties, As we move forward with this shared vision, allow me to conclude by reaffirming my deep appreciation for the enduring friendship between Oman and the Netherlands. I look forward to the privilege of welcoming Your Majesties to Muscat soon and to continuing our collaborative efforts in the months and years ahead.

Thank you.” On his turn, the King of the Netherlands delivered a speech in which he renewed his welcome to His Majesty the Sultan and the official accompanying delegation. He underlined his country’s commitment to diversifying areas of partnership and investment between the two nations, in a manner that boosts the economic growth in the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of the Netherlands across various sectors. The dinner was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and some senior officials in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. — **ONA**



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SOUTHEAST ASIA TOUR

Xi Jinping meets Malaysian leaders

KUALA LUMPUR: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Malaysia's king, Sultan Ibrahim, on Wednesday during a tour of Southeast Asia in the wake of the Trump administration's sweeping tariffs. Later on Wednesday, Xi will hold talks with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at a state dinner at the administrative capital of Putrajaya outside Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian Foreign Ministry said both leaders will sign multiple bilateral agreements.

New bilateral agreements during US trade war
On Monday, Chinese President Xi met with To Lam, Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary and Vietnam's President Luong Cuong. China and Vietnam signed multiple agreements on cooperation in supply chains and a joint railway



project. Xi also promised higher access for Vietnamese agricultural exports to China. "As beneficiaries of economic globalization, both China and Vietnam should strengthen strategic resolve, jointly oppose unilateral bullying acts, uphold the global free trade system, and keep global industrial and supply chains stable," said Xi, according to a statement from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. US President Donald Trump reacted to China

and Vietnam's meeting as their attempt "to figure out how do we screw the United States of America." In Malaysia, Xi is expected to discuss a free trade agreement between China and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Vietnam and Cambodia are members, and Malaysia is this year's ASEAN chair. Oh Ei Sun from the Pacific Research Center of Malaysia think tank told the Associated Press that Xi's Southeast Asia tour was like "a group of friends huddling together for warmth against harsh weather". But China's territorial claims in the South China Sea are a point of issue with both Vietnam and Malaysia. Malaysian PM Ibrahim stated last year that Malaysia will not bow to China's demands for stopping its oil and gas exploration in an oil-rich South China Sea. -**ow**



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UNITED STATES

Joe Biden slams Trump's handling of Social Security Administration

CHICAGO: Former US President Joe Biden has criticised the Trump administration's handling of the Social Security Administration, CNN reported. He did not mention Trump's name directly in his remarks. However, he warned against cuts and changes taking place at the Social Security Administration and accused the current administration of taking a "hatchet" to the organisation. In his first remarks since leaving office in January this year, Biden said, "Look what's happened now. Fewer than 100 days, this new administration has made so - done so much damage and so much destruction. It's kind of breathtaking it could happen that soon."



A massive reorganisation, including slashing staff and changing policies - led by tech billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency is underway at the agency. People of the US concerned that their benefits are at risk have been flooding Social Security's phone lines and field offices. Biden said, "There's 7,000

employees, 7,000 out the door in that time. Including the most seasoned career officials. Now they're getting ready to push thousands more out the door," CNN reported. Without mentioning Musk's name, Biden criticised a culture he compared to "tech startups" in the new administration. He said, "They're following that old line from tech startups - the quote is, 'move fast, break things.' Well they're certainly breaking things. They're shooting first and aiming later. And as a result, the result is a lot of needless pain and sleepless nights." -**ANI**

STRONG SUPPORT

Indian PM reaffirms India's green strategic partnership with Denmark

NEW DELHI : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reaffirmed India's strong commitment to the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership in a recent conversation with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen. Both leaders discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest. In a post on X, PM Modi shared, "Glad to speak with PM Mette Frederiksen. Reaffirmed our strong support for the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership and enhancing cooperation across sectors for the benefit of our people. We also discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest." Both leaders discussed various aspects of bilateral relations as well as global developments in a telephonic conversation today. Recalling high-level exchanges between both countries ever since



the launch of the Green Strategic Partnership in 2020, the leaders noted the expansion of the Green Strategic Partnership in various fields, which has created favourable conditions for Danish investments in India to contribute to the green transition. The leaders also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest, added Prime Minister's Office press

release. PM Modi said that he was looking forward to the 3rd India- Nordic Summit scheduled to be held later this year in Norway, and his meeting with Prime Minister Frederiksen at that time. India and Denmark established diplomatic relations in September 1949, rooted in shared democratic values and a mutual commitment to regional and global peace and stability. The relationship has evolved over time, with significant milestones such as the elevation of bilateral ties to the level of a "Green Strategic Partnership" during the Virtual Summit held on 28 September 2020. This partnership emphasises collaboration in areas such as renewable energy, climate action, and green technologies, aligning with both countries' priorities for sustainable development.

The Indian community in Denmark plays a crucial role in fostering bilateral ties, with approximately 21,000 NRIs and PIOs residing in the country. This community includes professionals from various sectors, including IT, medicine, engineering, finance, and academia. Notable cultural exchanges are evident in Denmark, with several public spaces named after Indian leaders, including Gandhi Park (Gandhi Plaeene), Indiakaj (road named after India), and Nehru Road near Aarhus University, symbolising the deep-rooted connections between the two nations. Trade and economic relations between India and Denmark have grown steadily over the years. India's exports to Denmark include textiles, apparel, vehicles, metal goods, and leather products. -**ANI**



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SPORTS

Oman LNG partners with international racing star Ahmad Al Harthy

Al Harthy is proudly flying the flag for Oman once again in 2025 in the globe's biggest motor racing series of its kind

MUSCAT: International racing driver Ahmad Al Harthy is delighted to welcome Oman LNG as the newest member of his prestigious partner portfolio, confirming a key association ahead of this weekend's second round of the FIA World Endurance Championship.

Al Harthy, who is proudly flying the flag for Oman once again in 2025 in the globe's biggest motor racing series of its kind with Team WRT and BMW, has agreed an important partnership with Oman LNG – which was established by Royal decree in 1994 for the production of liquified natural gas.

Based in Qalhat, near Sur, Oman LNG prides itself on corporate social responsibility with a major focus on integrity and professionalism, values all shared wholeheartedly by multiple FIA World Endurance Championship LMGT3 podium finisher Al Harthy. Additionally, the Omani – who is partnered with Italian global sporting icon Valentino Rossi and South Africa's Kelvin van der Linde in the No.46 BMW M4 LMGT3 in FIA WEC – shares Oman LNG's guiding principles around teamwork, accountability, respect and empowerment.



New partnership

Through the new partnership, Oman LNG will reach a global audience as Al Harthy races across the world from Europe to Brazil, the USA to Japan. Notably, of course, the season finale in November will take place in Bahrain in the Middle East. Helping to promote the company's work internationally, Oman LNG joins a prestigious group of partners associated with Al Harthy.

Hamed Al Naamany, Chief Ex-

ecutive Officer Oman LNG, said: "Oman LNG is proud to partner with Omani motor racing champion Ahmad Al Harthy as he represents the Sultanate on the global stage. This partnership reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting national talent and promoting excellence in sports.

"As Ahmad competes in the prestigious FIA World Endurance Championship across key international arenas, we stand firmly behind him and look forward to seeing the Omani flag fly high through his remarkable achievements."

Ahmad Al Harthy said : "I'm really delighted to be partnering with Oman LNG, this is an incredibly important new and prestigious partnership with great synergies between us – not least the focus we all place on integrity, teamwork and corporate social responsibility. We will be racing in some key markets for Oman LNG where the aim will be to share and enjoy some great successes together."

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Punjab Kings create history, defend lowest total in IPL to stun KKR



MULLANPUR : In one of the most astonishing feats in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, Punjab Kings (PBKS) pulled off a remarkable 16-run victory over defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in a low-scoring thriller at Mullanpur in the IPL 2025 season. The match will be remembered for PBKS successfully defending the lowest total ever in the league's history -- 111 runs.

After being bundled out for just 111 in 15.3 overs, the odds were heavily stacked against Punjab. However, their bowlers, led by Yuzvendra Chahal and Marco Jansen, turned the game as KKR were skittled out for just 95 in 15.1 overs. The previous lowest total defended in IPL was 116/9 by Chennai Super Kings against Punjab Kings back in 2009 at Durban.

KKR's chase started on a disastrous note, losing both openers with just 7 runs on the board. Quinton de Kock managed 2, while Sunil Narine fell for 5. Captain Ajinkya Rahane and youngster Angkrish Raghuvanshi tried to steady the ship with a 55-run partnership, but Chahal broke through

by dismissing Rahane for 17.

Raghuvanshi looked promising with his knock of 37 off 28 deliveries, but once he fell to Chahal, the collapse began. Glenn Maxwell removed Venkatesh Iyer for 7, while Chahal returned to get Rinku Singh stumped for 2. On the very next ball, Chahal dismissed Ramandeep Singh for a golden duck, tilting the game in Punjab's favour.

KKR's lower order offered little resistance. Harshit Rana, who had earlier impressed with the ball, was bowled with the team reeling at 79/8. Vaibhav Arora was set up brilliantly by Arshdeep Singh and dismissed for a duck. Andre Russell tried to counter-attack, smashing 17 off 11, but was the last man to fall, bowled by Jansen.

Every Punjab bowler contributed to the remarkable win. Chahal starred with figures of 4/28, while Jansen bagged 3/17. Xavier Bartlett, Arshdeep Singh, and Maxwell chipped in with one wicket each.

This stunning result not only handed Punjab Kings a morale-boosting win but also etched their name in IPL folklore. – Agencies



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
Oman Crude (June delivery 2025) rose by 15 cents to reach \$66.72 per barrel, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). Average price of Oman Crude (April delivery) has stabilised at \$77.63 per barrel, \$2.36 per barrel lower than March delivery. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,304.44 points, up by 0.62% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.42% at 387.90 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, SMN Power Holding, down 10.00%, was the top loser. **>B2**

Oman inks pact to build world’s first Liquid Hydrogen Corridor to Europe

The corridor will enable the export of RFNBO-compliant liquid hydrogen from Oman’s Port of Duqm to the Port of Amsterdam and key logistics hubs in Germany and onward to other European countries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of the state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Sultanate of Oman signed a historic Joint Development Agreement (JDA) to establish the world’s first commercial-scale liquid hydrogen corridor linking Oman to the Netherlands and Germany.

The agreement marks a critical point in the global energy transition journey and brings Oman one step closer to becoming the leading hub for green hydrogen production and export.

The corridor will enable the export of RFNBO-compliant liquid hydrogen from Oman’s Port of Duqm to the Port of Amsterdam and key logistics hubs in Germany,



including the Port of Duisburg, and onward to other European countries.

At the heart of this corridor is the world’s largest hydrogen liquefaction, storage, and export termi-

nal to be established in the Port of Duqm. Hydrom, as the orchestrator of Oman’s green hydrogen sector, will ensure upstream production is aligned with national plans and that the project integrates

seamlessly into Oman’s broader hydrogen infrastructure and policy framework.

OQ, Oman’s energy transition enabler, leading the liquefaction infrastructure, will develop the

hydrogen plant along with related storage and export facilities, contributing directly to the corridor’s supply capabilities and Oman’s national hydrogen targets. The centralised facility will draw from Duqm’s growing renewable hydrogen developments, leveraging the port’s strategic location as a global maritime hub and Special Economic Zone.

The centralised liquefaction plant will be supported by revolutionary maritime transportation vessels developed by ECOLOG to ship liquid hydrogen with zero boil-off, ensuring greater efficiency and reduced losses.

On the European side, the corridor will be anchored by re-gasification import terminals in the Port of Amsterdam from which the hydrogen will be distributed to industrial offtakers in the Netherlands and Germany via gas pipeline networks, rail connections, and barge distribution through the Dutch canal network.

“Today’s landmark signing demonstrates how Oman is turning its hydrogen ambitions into concrete projects aligned with global demand and national priorities,” said H.E. Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Chairman of Hydrom. “While this corridor will enable the large-scale export of Omani hydrogen to Europe, its true value lies in how it supports our broader vision of an integrated sector that advances our national objectives. From industrial diversification and infrastructure development to job creation and capacity building, we are committed to building a future-ready sector that will position Oman at the center of green hydrogen global supply chain and deliver tangible economic value

for the country.”

This agreement represents a landmark moment in our commitment to clean energy,” stated Ms. Sophie Hermans, the Dutch Minister for Climate and Green Growth. “By linking Omani green hydrogen with Europe’s energy needs, we are advancing our shared climate goals and establishing a sustainable energy future.”

Oman’s green hydrogen sector, led by Hydrom, is fast becoming one of the world’s most structured and investment-ready ecosystems. To date, large-scale green hydrogen projects have been awarded to consortiums from 22 global companies all of which have commenced development activities within their blocks in Duqm and Dhofar. Hydrom is also preparing to launch its third land auction round later this month, focused on mid-scale projects and aimed at aligning upstream production with downstream industries, further reinforcing Oman’s strategy to become a competitive and integrated global hydrogen hub.

The agreement was signed by eleven public and private sector entities from Oman, The Netherlands, and Germany represented by Hydrom and OQ alongside the Port of Amsterdam, Port of Duisport, ECOLOG, EnBW, Tata Steel, Advanced Methanol Amsterdam (AMA), Hynetwork Services (HNS), and the Port of Duqm Company (PODC).

The signing follows three feasibility studies jointly commissioned by Hydrom and partners in 2024 and delivers on the ambitions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding on green energy co-operation signed between Oman and the Netherlands at COP27.

OMAN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

OIA contributes to improving Oman’s credit rating

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) contributed in the Sultanate of Oman’s successful improvement of its credit rating. This is reflected in Standard and Poor’s latest report issued in March 2025 which affirmed Oman’s BBB- credit rating with a positive outlook.

Oman Investment Authority undertook a key role in achieving this milestone by implementing governance and debt reduction measures on its local companies.

OIA managed to reduce the debt of its subsidiaries from OMR11.4 billion in 2021 to OMR9.2 billion by the end of Q3 2024. One of the most notable examples is OQ Group – which saw a significant improvement in its credit rating, leading to a reduction in its net debt to profits ratio and strengthening its financial and operational sustainability. In addition, Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company (OQ8) successfully passed the Lenders Reliability Test (LRT) just recently, which

enabled it to unlock over RO 800 million in shareholder guarantees. Moreover, OIA worked on negotiating loan terms with banks to make them more cost-effective and flexible.

Additionally, to enhance financial governance and the independence of its subsidiaries, OIA took steps to reduce government guarantees on loans for major companies such as OQ, Asyad, and Nama. The total value of these guarantees was lowered from OMR3.2 billion in 2021 to OMR1.8 billion in 2024, and new government guarantees on loans were completely halted. This strategic shift reduced financial risks for the government and encouraged companies to rely on their own investment capabilities to fund new projects.

In February 2022, OIA introduced its Code of Governance for OIA Entities, aiming to regulate debt management and ensure adherence to transparent financial standards. This framework

organizes investment activities and loan management, enhances financial and operational performance, aligns corporate plans with sustainable development goals, achieves balance between economic and strategic objectives, and promotes efficient use of resources.

Furthermore, OIA has worked to enhance transparency by requiring companies to disclose financial performance data, which builds trust with credit rating agencies and international financial institutions. Additionally, through strategic partnerships, OIA has attracted foreign investments into key local sectors, strengthening foreign currency reserves. These initiatives reflect OIA’s commitment to achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040 by reinforcing trust in the Omani economy, contributing to building a strong and sustainable economic future, and positioning the Sultanate of Oman as a trusted investment destination. - **OMA**



SAFE-HAVEN BULLION



Gold prices hit record high on weak dollar

SINGAPORE: Gold prices on Wednesday scaled a record peak as a weaker dollar, escalating trade tension and concerns over global economic growth fuelled demand for safe-haven bullion.

Spot gold climbed 1.3 percent to \$3,270.12 per ounce, having previously touched a peak of \$3,275.20 per ounce during the session.

Meanwhile, US gold futures saw a rise of 1.4 percent, reaching \$3,286.30.

The dollar index declined by 0.4 percent against its counterparts, rendering gold more appealing to holders of other currencies. - **OMA**

BILATERAL COOPERATION

OQ signs pacts to catalyse global energy transformation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ, a global investment energy group, joined His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on His state visit to the Netherlands, celebrating 400 years of maritime relations between the two countries, at the invitation of King Willem-Alexander. During this historic visit, OQ joined ten major industry players to advance bilateral cooperation in energy, technology, and sustainable industrial growth.

As Oman and the Netherlands deepen their partnership at a pivotal moment for the global energy transition, OQ steps forward as a powerful enabler, building strategic alliances that turn shared ambition into tangible action. From green hydrogen to next-generation industrial infrastructure, OQ is reinforcing its role as a bridge be-



tween regions, a magnet for investment, and a catalyst for a cleaner, more connected future.

“At OQ, we believe progress is powered by partnerships,” said Ashraf Hamed Al Mamari, Group CEO of OQ. “This collaboration

with the Netherlands is more than diplomacy, it’s a shared blueprint for economic diversification, green industrialisation, and future energy resilience. We’re not only building infrastructure; we’re building opportunity, linking

Oman’s geography and talent with Europe’s energy needs and climate ambitions.”

Backed by its integrated portfolio and strategic role as a state-owned enterprise, OQ is forging partnerships that strengthen

global supply chains, accelerate technology transfer, and enable both nations to co-create solutions aligned with the EU’s Fit for 55 strategy and Oman Vision 2040.

Strategic collaboration

As the first steps in this new chapter of strategic collaboration, OQ signed two significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that signal intent, capability, and momentum. The first, with Royal Vopak, reinforces OQ’s commitment to developing Duqm into a world-class industrial and storage hub.

The second agreement, signed in collaboration with Hydrom, the Port of Duqm, and leading European partners, sets the stage for the world’s first commercial liquid hydrogen corridor. The project, which will connect the Port of Duqm with the ports of Amsterdam and Duisburg, is poised to be-

come a transformative milestone for global green hydrogen flows.

These developments underscore OQ’s strategic role in positioning Oman as a global energy connector, linking resource-rich regions with clean energy demand centres across Europe and Asia. Through its leadership, Duqm is evolving into a next-generation industrial ecosystem powered by clean fuels, technology transfer, and international collaboration. Guided by ESG principles and a long-term vision for productive energy, OQ’s partnerships go beyond infrastructure.

They enable knowledge exchange, foster innovation, and deliver sustainable value. As Oman and the Netherlands deepen their historic cooperation, OQ stands at the forefront, connecting continents and shaping the energy systems of tomorrow.

MARKET



MSX index ends higher

Al Maha Ceramics, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, SMN Power Holding, down 10.00%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,304.44 points, up by 0.62% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.42% at 387.90 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, SMN Power Holding, down 10.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1,312 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR4.94 million, with more than 32.92 million shares changing hands. Out of 69 traded securities, 22 advanced, 24 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR214,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR137,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR76,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,579.00 points, up 0.59%. Prices of Takaful Oman, National Finance, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Investments, National Bank Oman were up by 9.76%,

5.09%, 2.53%, 2.00%, 1.79% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Oman & Emirates Investment, Taageer Finance, Al Madina Takaful were down by 9.38%, 6.25%, 4.55%, 2.86%, 1.30% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,637.77 points, up 2.31%. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Muscat Thread Mill, Voltamp Energy, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Flour Mills were up by 10.00%, 10.00%, 10.00%, 7.76%, 2.63% respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, A'Saffa Foods, Oman Cables Industry were down by 3.57%, 2.90%, 0.90%, 0.53%, 0.09% respectively. Services Index was up by 0.01% before closing at 1,536.76 points. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, Al Maha Marketing, Al Suwadi Power, Abraj Energy were up by 4.00%, 2.94%, 1.49%, 0.44% respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Muscat Gases, Oman Oil Marketing, Al Jazeera Services, Barka Desalination were down by 10.00%, 5.56%, 3.45%, 1.99%, 1.56% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

TRUAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,304.44	4,275.15	4,304.44	4,278.02	26.42	0.62
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,579.00	7,524.12	7,579.00	7,534.28	44.72	0.59
Industry Index	5,637.77	5,551.48	5,637.77	5,510.23	127.53	2.31
Services Index	1,541.87	1,526.38	1,536.76	1,536.65	0.11	0.01
MSX Shariah Index	388.66	380.65	387.90	382.48	5.42	1.42
MSX TR INDEX	6,362.60	6,319.30	6,362.60	6,323.55	39.05	0.62
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,982.06	8,917.02	8,982.06	8,929.07	53.00	0.59
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,927.97	6,821.94	6,927.97	6,771.25	156.72	2.31
SERVICES TR IDX	1,960.53	1,940.84	1,954.04	1,953.90	0.14	0.01
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
32,921,348	4,937,418	1,312	27,173,690,268	22	24	23	69

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,464,998	178,173	111	0.117	0.136	0.115	0.125	0.116	0.009	7759	0.125	0.123	0.136	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,300	675	4	0.505	0.520	0.505	0.520	0.500	0.020	4,000	0.520	0.510	0.520	0.100	49,400,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	55,699	21,948	9	0.389	0.395	0.389	0.395	0.387	0.008	2,067	0.395	0.384	0.395	0.100	130,694,720
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	35,510	4,970	3	0.279	0.285	0.279	0.285	0.280	0.005	17,786	0.285	0.285	0.280	0.100	465,384,711
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	20,000	1,140	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1,786	0.057	0.056	0.059	0.100	20,299,256
OM0000003586	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	4,084,494	53,191	50	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.002	1,538	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.100	475,475,508
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	323,325	21,952	24	0.068	0.069	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.001	1,483	0.068	0.067	0.069	0.100	48,571,631
OM0000002246	ALBAYTINAH POWER	32,750	12,225	6	0.370	0.374	0.370	0.374	0.370	0.004	1,081	0.374	0.374	0.374	0.100	46,117,897
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	256,680	58,692	22	0.228	0.232	0.228	0.230	0.228	0.002	0,877	0.230	0.229	0.231	0.100	215,213,667
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,875,264	423,136	70	0.225	0.228	0.224	0.226	0.225	0.001	0,444	0.226	0.225	0.226	0.100	174,065,200
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	96,300	20,700	5	0.214	0.215	0.214	0.215	0.215	0.000	0,000	0.215	0.212	0.215	0.100	21,500,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	3,685	431	2	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0,000	0.117	0.113	0.128	0.100	17,550,000
OM0000000440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	101,850	7,403	7	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0,000	0.072	0.068	0.072	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,279,984	322,744	25	0.253	0.253	0.251	0.253	0.253	0.000	0,000	0.253	0.253	0.253	0.100	1,899,118,457
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	92,158	27,757	15	0.300	0.304	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0,000	0.300	0.289	0.300	0.100	70,922,000
OM0000003986	COREDOCO	148,198	24,470	36	0.166	0.168	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0,000	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.100	107,405,798
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	38,000	3,572	6	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0,000	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	89,729,763
OM0000004925	ALBAYTINAH POWER	37,112	3,942	12	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0,000	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.100	46,567,233
OM0000008072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	3,257,507	423,443	117	0.130	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.130	0.000	0,000	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.100	562,981,110
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	280,659	212,444	41	0.818	0.818	0.812	0.815	0.816	-0.001	-0.123	0.815	0.815	0.818	0.100	611,250,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	11,575	4,375	4	0.378	0.378	0.378	0.380	0.380	-0.002	-0.528	0.378	0.388	0.380	0.100	45,380,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	519,718	43,244	23	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	57,189	4,389	16	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.299	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	13,300,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	163,500	10,151	10	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.066	-0.003	-4.545	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.100	7,678,125
Total	34	14,249,792	2,972,136	619												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	52,608	7,111	12	0.131	0.143	0.131	0.143	0.130	0.013	10,000	0.143	0.140	0.143	0.100	2,520,184
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,171,045	772,890	71	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.000	10,000	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.100	61,784,887
OM0000005006	ALMAHA CERAMICS	90,043	8,302	14	0.144	0.154	0.143	0.154	0.140	0.014	10,000	0.154	0.145	0.154	0.100	8,470,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	5,100	230	2	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.041	0.004	9,756	0.045	0.041	0.045	0.100	11,250,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	10,000	1,240	1	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	5,085	0.124	0.114	0.128	0.100	75,407,691
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	235	247	1	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.020	0.030	2,941	1.050	1.050	1.050	0.100	72,450,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	116,800	43,632	2	0.390	0.391	0.390	0.391	0.381	0.010	2,825	0.391	0.392	0.395	0.100	64,661,625
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	10,662,462	858,523	184	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.079	0.002	2,532	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	23,262,680
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	98,424	4,376	9	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.001	2,000	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.100	4,335,000
OM0000009738	QI EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,000,000	353,300	123	0.277	0.280	0.276	0.280	0.277	0.003	1,083	0.280	0.250	0.280	0.100	101,024,000,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	64,876	6,324	11	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.001	1,031	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	21,921,397
OM0000002549	BANK DHUFAIR	95,357	9,474	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.144	0.001	0,894	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.100	225,370,350
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	8,000	568	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0,000	0.071	0.071	0.078	0.100	6,033,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAIR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	3,040	213	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0,000	0.070	0.070	0.074	0.100	13,837,385
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	5,735	487	2	0.078	0.086	0.078	0.086	0.086	0.000	0,000	0.086	0.078	0.086	0.100	5,375,000
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	85,529	4,120	5	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0,000	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.100	14,743,024
OM0000002900	OMAN ARAB BANK	102,391	12,399	7	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.000	0,000	0.133	0.134	0.135	0.100	225,370,350
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	127,457	7,631	14	0.059	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.060	0.000	0,000	0.060	0.059	0.061	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	18,887	6,011	3	0.260	0.270	0.260	0.270	0.270	0.000	0,000	0.270	0.250	0.290	0.100	107,561,072
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	160	330	1	2.198	2.198	2.198	2.198	2.200	-0.002	-0.091	2.198	2.060	2.190	0.100	197,160,600
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	19,555	2,304	4	0.117	0.118	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.1		

OM0000002697

QI MUUSHROOM PRODUCTS

OM0000000990

OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SPZ)

OM0000008447

OMAN BIT FUND

OM0000007084

MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION

OM0000000691

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OM0000001020

ASTAD SHIPPING

OM0000002226

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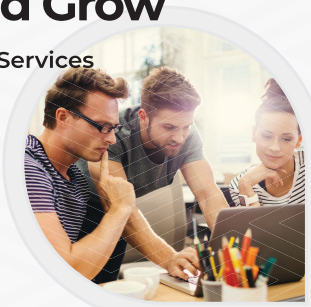
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Indian male MBA(HR) & B.tech (Comp) with nearly 10 yrs of over all experience seeks job. Contact: +968 94168194, +91 9745020204, Email: gokulgopan91@hotmail.com

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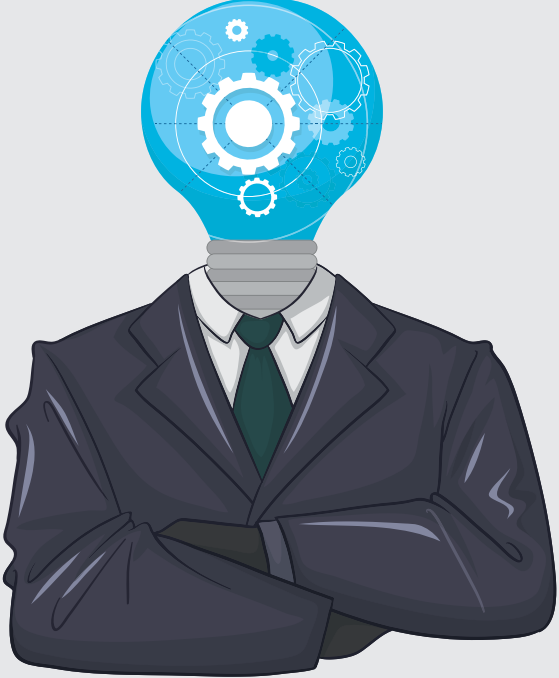
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LIFESTYLE



**OpenAI
is developing
X-like social network
platform**

OpenAI has developed an internal prototype that adds a social feed to ChatGPT, suggesting the new network could be integrated into the ChatGPT application rather than launched as a standalone application

OpenAI has developed a new social network similar to X platform, formerly known as Twitter, in a move aimed at expanding the company's business beyond traditional artificial intelligence.

According to a report published by American technology news website, The Verge, OpenAI has developed an internal prototype that adds a social feed to ChatGPT, suggesting the new network could be integrated into the ChatGPT application rather than launched as a standalone application.

The report indicated that the company's CEO, Sam Altman, has already begun gathering feedback on the project from outside the company. This move is likely aimed at enabling OpenAI to collect direct data from users to more accurately train its intelligent models, in addition to being an attempt to diversify the company's activities. -ONA

Barcelona through, Dortmund falls despite Guirassy treble

Barcelona thus advances to the semifinals with a 5-3 aggregate win, while Dortmund bows out to focus on the Bundesliga

BERLIN: Serhou Guirassy scored a stunning hat-trick, but Borussia Dortmund was knocked out of the UEFA Champions League by Barcelona on Wednesday night, despite a spirited 3-1 win in the quarterfinal second leg. Trailing 4-0 from the first leg, Dortmund came out with a clear sense of purpose. The breakthrough came early when Guirassy chipped in a Panenka penalty in the 11th minute after Pascal Gross was fouled by Barca goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny. It was the striker's 11th goal of the tournament, a new club record for a single Champions League season. Dortmund continued to press and Guirassy and Gross both went close before the break. The host's physical approach and high pressing made things uncomfortable for Barcelona, although clear-cut chances were few and far between, as the visitors slowed the tempo through possession. The second half brought renewed drama. Guirassy headed in his second of the night from close range in the 49th minute to give the home side some hope. But the momentum was short-lived just



five minutes later when Ramy Bensebaini inadvertently turned a low cross into his own net to halt the comeback. Nevertheless, Dortmund refused to give up. Substitute Julien Duranville set up Guirassy for his

third of the night 20 minutes from time to bring the crowd back to life. A disallowed goal from Julian Brandt followed, and despite relentless attacking in the final minutes, Dortmund couldn't find the two goals they needed to force ex-

tra time. "We believed from the first minute and you saw that today," said defender Niklas Sule. "I'm incredibly proud of the team." Barcelona thus advances to the semifinals with a 5-3 aggregate

win, while Dortmund bows out to focus on the Bundesliga. "Full credit to Dortmund, they played very well. A fantastic team, and to be honest, I had a feeling we might lose tonight. The atmosphere here is incredible, the fans really carry the team. Not much went our way today. So, congratulations to Dortmund for the win, but also to my team, we are through to the semifinals, and that's what counts," said Barcelona coach Hansi Flick. -Agencies

CRICKET

FOOTBALL

Shreyas Iyer secures ICC Men's Player of the Month

NEW DELHI : Indian batter Shreyas Iyer achieved the accolade of the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for March 2025, surpassing competitors Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra from New Zealand, as per a report from ICC. Iyer emerged as the top run-scorer for India with 243 runs, contributing significantly to India's success in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Dubai and Pakistan. Iyer's receipt of this award signified that India has claimed it consecutively, with Shubman Gill winning the accolade for February. Iyer played an integral part in India's 2025 Champions Trophy journey, serving an important function in the middle-order. His exceptional stroke-play helped India navigate the middle overs, and his ability to stabilize the innings while establishing important partnerships was crucial in leading his team to a triumphant campaign. Iyer expressed his gratitude and honour for being named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for



March. He highlighted the significance of the award, especially in

a month when India won the ICC Champions Trophy. He credited his teammates, coaches, and support staff for their contributions to his success. "I'm truly honoured to be named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March. This recognition is incredibly special, especially in a month where we lifted the ICC Champions Trophy -- a moment I will cherish forever. Being able to contribute to India's success on such a big stage is something every cricketer dreams of. I'm grateful to my teammates, coaches, and support staff for their unwavering support and belief," Shreyas Iyer said as per ICC. The 30-year-old amassed 172 runs in three matches during March, maintaining an average of 57.33, with a moderate strike rate of 77.47, which featured some impressive innings. Iyer was the second-highest run-scorer of the Champions Trophy 2025, only 20 runs behind Rachin Ravindra. -Agencies

Champions League: Real Madrid look for another Bernabeu miracle

MADRID: Real Madrid needs another Santiago Bernabeu miracle on Wednesday to overturn its Champions League first-leg defeat to Arsenal and progress to the semi-finals of the competition. Last week saw Declan Rice's two stunning free kicks and a smart finish from Mikel Merino give Arsenal a 3-0 win in London and leave Real Madrid with a mountain to climb if the club wants to retain the title. However, the Santiago Bernabeu has seen plenty of miracle comebacks from Madrid in recent seasons, with two goals in the closing minutes last season against Bayern Munich seeing it to the final, while the previous year saw Rodrygo score two goals in two minutes to force extra-time against Manchester City, when Madrid had again looked dead and buried. There is no doubt that Real Madrid has the talent and the firepower to overturn the result, with players such as Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr. and Jude Bellingham,



but it is also true that the team needs to improve on recent performances. Apart from the defeat to Arsenal last week, Madrid was poor in Saturday's narrow 1-0 win away to struggling Alaves, while the previous weekend saw a 2-1 defeat at home to Valencia. Midfielder Dan Ceballos could be available after injury, while Aurelien Tchouameni should also return after missing last week's defeat due to suspension. Coach Carlo Ancelotti will also probably play Fran Garcia at left back after seeing how David Alaba suffered against Bukayo Saka, while Lucas Vazquez will play at right back to allow Fede Valverde to bring more energy to midfield, with Luka Modric probably dropping to the bench. Arsenal's injury problems worsened in its 1-1 draw at home to Brentford on Saturday, with Thomas Partey suffering a problem which makes him a doubt for Wednesday, while midfielder Jorginho is also doubtful after a heavy knock in the ribs, while Gabriel, Kai Havertz and Gabriel Jesus are long-term absentees. -Agencies

MOTORSPORTS

The mastermind powering Aston Martin's 2026 F1 vision

BEIJING: Few engineers have shaped Formula 1 like Andy Cowell. As head of Mercedes' powertrain division, he helped create the engine that powered the Silver Arrows to seven consecutive Constructors' Championships between 2014 and 2020 - an era of dominance that redefined what technical excellence looked like. So when Cowell returned to F1 after four years away, it was reasonable to assume he'd join another top team. Instead, he chose Aston Martin - a squad with serious ambition but a middling track record. Why? "I missed Formula 1," Cowell told Xinhua before the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka. "I love the industry and the high pace of performance development, and Lawrence's vision to take a team that had fallen into administration

and chart the journey to the top of the sport is a great challenge to be part of." 'Lawrence' is Lawrence Stroll, the Canadian billionaire and fashion mogul who purchased the cash-strapped outfit known as Racing Point in 2018. Since rebranding it as Aston Martin, Stroll has poured money into expanding infrastructure, attracting top talent, and laying out a multi-year plan to reach the front of the grid. But five years into the project, results remain elusive. A promising start to 2023 gave way to a lackluster 2024, prompting the removal of technical director Dan Fallows and the demotion of ex-team principal Mike Krack, whose place Cowell has taken. However, despite hiring Cowell and luring legendary designer Adrian Newey away from Red



Bull, Aston Martin remains mired in F1's lower midfield, sitting only eighth in the Constructors' championship after four races of 2025. Stroll's hands-on approach - "phone calls every other day, visits to the factory each week," - has made him one of the sport's most involved team owners. But there's

a growing sense that the team needs more than investment and energy. "For a long time, success for this team was just surviving a season," Cowell says. "Now the target is to reach the front of the grid. That requires a completely different mindset." -Agencies

In leading the transformation from underdog to polished contender. Cowell's task goes beyond engineering. "It's about understanding what makes the fastest race car, and how to align the whole organization around that." At Mercedes, Cowell fit into a finely-tuned operation. At Aston Martin, he's helping construct one from the ground up, all while trying to stay competitive. It's a balancing act many teams struggle with, especially in F1's tightly congested midfield, where fractions of a second can separate glory from anonymity. **ALL ROADS LEAD TO 2026** Despite an underwhelming set of results so far in 2025, much of Aston Martin's current focus is aimed at 2026, when the sport undergoes a major technical reset.

That year, Aston Martin will also become a full works partner with Honda, installing a power unit tailored to their chassis and developing their own transmission for the first time. It's a technical leap that could level the playing field, if executed well. Cowell calls it "a big change point," one that comes with "big expectations and big opportunities." Newey, who joined Aston in March, is already focusing on the 2026 car, contributing to early concept decisions and helping shape the team's long-term design philosophy. But focusing too far ahead can carry its own risks. While rivals like McLaren and Red Bull continue developing race-winning cars in the present, Aston Martin risks becoming a team in permanent rebuild. -Agencies

IN PICTURES



Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
This picture shows the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, is dotted with distinctive buildings. A blend of traditional and modern architecture makes the city full of charm. *Xinhua*



Cambodia celebrates three-day Lunar New Year
Tourists visit the Angkor Wat in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. *Xinhua*



Khushi Kapoor poses for a picture during the opening ceremony of the MAMI Film Festival 2025
Bollywood actress Khushi Kapoor poses for a picture during the opening ceremony of the MAMI Film Festival 2025, in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*



ICRC says conflict in Sudan “major protection crisis”
This undated picture shows a patient talking to a girl inside a hospital managed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Atbara city, Sudan. *Xinhua*



Beijing sends first China-Europe freight train in 2025
An aerial drone photo shows a China-Europe freight train bound for Moscow of Russia waiting for departure at a logistics centre in Beijing, capital of China. It is estimated that the train will cover a distance of about 9000 kilometres in 16 days. *Xinhua*



Vancouver unveils official host city poster for 2026 FIFA World Cup
An official host city poster for the 2026 FIFA World Cup is unveiled during a press conference at BC Place in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Vancouver unveiled the official host city poster showcasing the integration of local characteristics with the spirit of the tournament. *Xinhua*



Job fair held during Mega Career Expo 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia
Jobseekers attend a job fair during Mega Career Expo 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Exceptional promotion on Bestune B70 Comfort

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a manufacturer's warranty of six years or 250,000 km, giving customers confidence in the durability and support behind their investment. This limited time offer is valid until April 20, 2025, and is the perfect opportunity to step into a refined sedan at a price that reflects both practicality and generosity.

Bestune B70 Comfort
The Bestune B70 Comfort is a thoughtfully crafted sedan that merges elegant design with dynamic performance. Its sleek profile is enhanced by LED headlights and daytime running lights, and 18-inch alloy wheels, while a panoramic sunroof brings an open, airy feel to the cabin. Inside, the atmosphere is equally refined, offering leather seats, a 6-way power-adjustable driver's seat, and a multi-function leather-wrapped steering wheel. Comfort is further elevated by dual-zone automatic climate control, allowing personalised temperature settings for driver and passenger alike.

Safety is a core focus in the Comfort variant, with a suite of protective technologies including ABS, EBD, Brake Assist, Electronic Stability Control, and an Electronic Parking Brake with Auto Hold. It is also equipped with front and side airbags, as well as a rear-view camera, providing peace of mind in every journey.
For daily convenience, features such as keyless entry, push-button start, cruise control, and a 6-speaker infotainment system ensure the B70 Comfort is as intuitive as it is enjoyable to drive. Under the bonnet, the 1.5L turbocharged engine delivers 158 horsepower and 258 Nm of torque, paired with a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission for a responsive and efficient drive.
Bestune B70 Limousine
The Limousine variant of the Bestune B70 stands out for its impressive fusion of design sophistication and performance upgrades. Its commanding road presence is accentuated by 19-inch alloy

wheels, intelligent high-beam control, puddle lamps, rhythmic rear LED lights, and a sporty square tailpipe, combining elegance with athletic appeal.
The interior of the B70 Limousine is tailored for an executive feel, with ambient lighting, including a starry sky headliner and door accent lights, creating a calming and upscale atmosphere. Comfort features such as heated front seats and a seat courtesy function enhance passenger well-being. Advanced safety and driver assistance features include a 360-degree 3D camera system, adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, lane-keeping assist, traffic sign recognition, and blind spot monitoring. These systems work together to provide a high level of situational awareness and support while on the road.
Technological refinement is at the heart of the B70 Limousine's cabin, where a 12.3-inch infotainment screen, a 7-inch LCD digital cluster, and a wireless charging pad create a connected and clutter-free space. Performance is equally impressive, with a 2.0L turbocharged engine producing 215 horsepower and 340 Nm of torque, matched to a 6-speed automatic transmission for a smooth and commanding drive.
With its current offer on the B70 Comfort, Bestune Oman invites customers to experience premium motoring during the season of giving, complete with generous benefits that make ownership as rewarding as the drive itself.

Dhofar Islamic leads Islamic banking sector through 25 branches across Oman

MUSCAT: The Islamic banking sector in Oman has seen a transformative journey since its inception over a decade ago. Today, it plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth, financing critical projects, and aligning with Oman Vision 2040.
Amor Said Mohamed Al Amri, DGM & Head of Retail Banking Dhofar Islamic, highlighted the sector's robust growth. "Over the last 10 years, Islamic banking in Oman has matured significantly, gaining a growing share of the market. This progress reflects the expertise, visionary leadership, and ability to innovate while meeting the needs of society and investors alike.
Dhofar Islamic, formerly known as Maisarah Islamic Banking, has emerged as a key player in Oman's Islamic banking sector. Its recent rebranding signifies a renewed commitment to innovation and customer-centricity. "The new Dhofar Islamic identity embodies a blend of heritage and modernity, symbolized by our logo's transition from a single star to a galaxy of capabilities, reflecting our core values of ethical banking, transparency, and excellence.
The bank has made significant strides in expanding its offerings, launching innovative products like the Savings Plan and MasterCard World Credit Card, and



supporting the financing of major projects across sectors such as energy, real estate, and infrastructure. It has also established a 10-Year OMR 250 million Sukuk Al Musharaka Program, enabling it to tap into Islamic capital markets.
Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is a top priority for Dhofar Islamic. The bank provides financing, training, and consulting services to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. It has also significantly invested in digital banking, enhancing customer experiences through mobile applications and electronic payment systems.
Dhofar Islamic's 25 branches network and its growing portfolio of Sharia-compliant products are testaments to its commitment to meeting the diverse needs of its customers. By continually innovating, embracing sustainability, and supporting national development, Dhofar Islamic is set to play an even greater role in shaping the future of Islamic banking in Oman.

GOLDEN SPONSOR

Sohar International supports Gulf Traffic Week 2025

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its commitment to community engagement and road safety, Sohar International was honoured for its participation as the Golden Sponsor of Gulf Traffic Week 2025.
This prominent regional initiative, organized in collaboration with the Royal Oman Police (ROP), was held under the theme "No Phone While Driving." The campaign aimed to raise public awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and to encourage responsible road behavior.
The official opening ceremony took place at Mall of Oman, under the patronage of Issa Hamed Al Azri, Secretary General of the Supreme Judiciary Council. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Government and Private Banking Officer at Sohar International. The ceremony marked the formal launch of the nationwide awareness drive and underscored the collective commitment to promoting road safety across the Sultanate.
Commenting on the occasion, Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Government & Private Banking Officer at Sohar International, stated: "At Sohar International, we view our participation in the Gulf Traffic Week not merely as a corporate responsibility, but as a national duty. Partnering with esteemed institutions such as the Royal Oman Police allows us to contribute meaningfully to raising public awareness around critical safety issues. Through our sponsorship, we aim to make a tangible impact in reducing such risks, protecting lives, and empowering a more informed and safety-conscious community."
Following the opening, a comprehensive exhibition and a se-



ries of activations were rolled out across Oman, drawing strong attendance and active participation from diverse segments of society. Visitors engaged in a range of educational and interactive experiences designed to highlight the dangers of mobile phone use while driving—one of the leading causes of traffic accidents. The program also emphasized the importance of seatbelt use for all passengers and encouraged the adoption of safer driving habits across all age groups.
The exhibitions featured awareness booths, live demonstrations illustrating the impact of mobile phone use on driver focus, and interactive workshops tailored to various social groups—further enhancing public understanding of essential road safety practices.

By supporting Gulf Traffic Week 2025, Sohar International continues to play a vital role in championing initiatives that protect lives, enrich communities, and promote a culture of responsibility and safety across the nation.
During the opening ceremony, Sohar International was honored with a token of appreciation, acknowledging its role as a Golden Sponsor and its meaningful support of the initiative. The ceremony also recognized the winners of various traffic-related competitions held throughout the week. Gulf Traffic Week 2025 strongly resonates with Sohar International's sustainability vision, which emphasizes protecting lives, empowering communities, and fostering a culture of accountability and safety.

ACADEMICS



Gulf College celebrates graduation of 24th & 25th cohorts of Master's, Bachelor's with honours and Diploma in Higher Education

MUSCAT: Gulf College celebrated the graduation of its 24 and 25 cohorts on Monday and Tuesday, 14 and 15 April, with a total of 676 graduates receiving their Master's, Bachelor's with Honours, and Diploma in Higher Education. In various specialisations, through academic affiliation with Cardiff Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom.
The graduation ceremony for the 24th cohort, held on Monday, 14 April, was under the patronage of Dr Saif Bin Abdullah Bin Suleiman Al-Haddabi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation for the 25th cohort ceremony, held on Tuesday, 15 April, was under the patronage of Azan Bin Qasim Bin Mohammed Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, and took place at the main auditorium of Gulf College's campus in South Mabelah.
The ceremonies commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a speech from Prof. Ali Al-Badi, Dean of the College, in which he stated: "Gulf College has undertaken concerted efforts to design and develop new academic programmes aimed at enhancing students' skills and preparing a generation of innovative and creative professionals. These graduates are well-



equipped to meet the evolving needs of both local and international labour markets, contribute meaningfully to economic development, and apply their knowledge to address real-world challenges. They are also empowered to conduct scientific research and studies across a range of disciplines, aligned with their specialisations, in pursuit of practical and forward-thinking solutions."
Following this, Prof. David Brooksbank, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Enterprise, Global Engagement and Civic Mission, and Dean and Professor of Enterprise at Cardiff Metropolitan University, delivered a speech on behalf of the university. The event also featured a speech by graduate Khadija Al-Zadjali, representing the 24th cohort, and graduate Nasser Al-Hinai for the 25th cohort, in addition to national poetry recitations by invited poets.
Subsequently, the patrons of

the ceremony and the university delegation, joined by Dr Issa Sabeel Al-Balushi, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Prof. Ali Al-Badi, Dean of the College, honoured the top graduates and distributed certificates to the graduates who earned their Master's, Bachelor's with Honours, and Diploma in Higher Education.
The celebration concluded with commemorative group photos of the graduates alongside the ceremony's patron, the university delegation, and attending dignitaries. The programme was presented by student Salim Al-Rahbi.
This graduation reflects the college's commitment to equipping its students across all disciplines with modern academic foundations and scientific competencies. The graduates have met all academic requirements and achievement levels necessary for earning their degrees and joining the workforce.

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