



Sayyid Bilal bin Abdullah Al-Rasbi
visits Thawani
Technologies

B1

3 Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received in his office yesterday David Lammy, UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Commonwealth and Development Affairs. During the meeting, the two ministers affirmed the joint desire to follow up all areas of cooperation and means of promoting them to serve the joint interests. >A6



ment Promotion, Mohamed Alabbas, Founder of Emaar Properties, Dr Abdullah Baabood, Chair of the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University, and Michelle Karavias, Managing Director and Head of Industry Research at Fitch Solutions. Discussions underscored Oman's commitment to regulatory transparency, green growth, and fostering an agile, diversified economy fit for the future.

In his keynote address, Qais bin Mohammed Al Youssef stressed that Oman is entering a new phase of economic momentum, citing a 16.2% rise in foreign direct investment (FDI) in Q3 2024 compared to the previous year, a BBB- credit rating upgrade with a stable outlook by S&P Global, and a forecasted GDP growth of 3.4% for 2025 – outperforming many global peers.

Speakers emphasised Oman's core strengths – its geographic connectivity linking Asia, Africa, and Europe; leadership in energy transition, particularly in green hydrogen and renewables; institutional governance aligned with international standards; and its unique cultural and economic bridge between East and West. **▶**

future-ready economy.

He said the country is working towards becoming one of the world's leading green hydrogen producers, aiming to become the sixth largest by 2030.

He also pointed to positive economic indicators, including a GDP growth rate of 3.4 per cent projected for 2025, higher than the global average, and a steady rise in foreign direct investment at an annual growth rate of 18 per cent over the last five years. Al Yousef said Oman's success is backed by strong governance, transparent policies and a legal system that supports the private sector and protects investments.

The minister said Oman's sovereign credit rating has been upgraded by S&P Global to BBB- with a stable outlook, underlining growing international confidence in the country's economic fundamentals. **>A2**

OMAN

GCET and Curtin University Sign Strategic Academic Memorandum of Understanding



MUSCAT: To strengthen international academic cooperation and achieve academic excellence, and as part of the college's commitment to developing the higher education sector and exchanging successful global experiences and expertise, as well as exploring avenues for improvement and development across various fields in support of the strategic objectives of Oman Vision 2040, the Global College of Engineering and Technology (GCET) has signed an academic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Curtin University in Australia. Curtin University is one of the most prestigious academic institutions, ranked first in Australia and second globally in the field of metallurgical and mining engineering. It also holds the 174th position worldwide according to the QS World University Rankings.

The agreement was signed on Thursday, 24th April 2025, under the patronage of Her Excellency Professor Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, at the ministry's headquarters in Muscat. The signing ceremony was attended by Professor Geoffrey Elliott, Dean of GCET; Dr. Suleiman Al-Hasani, Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs and Resources at GCET; and a delegation from Curtin University led by Professor Xiaotian Zhang, Vice President for Global Affairs, accompanied by Mr. Nigel de Silva, Director of Transnational Education and Partnerships, and Professor Klaus Regenauer-Lieb, a global distinguished expert in energy and mining resources engineering.

This partnership establishes a strong foundation for cooperation between the two parties in higher education, development of academic programmes and joint degree offerings, joint scientific research, faculty and student exchanges, and fostering academic integration and sustainable development in Oman and the wider region. The MoU facilitates the exchange of expertise to support GCET's aspirations and expand its academic and research presence in sectors such as energy, sustainability, digital innovation, and mining technologies.

In her opening speech, Her Excellency Professor Rahma Al Mahrouqi praised the ambitious cooperation between the two institutions and emphasized the importance of strategic international partnerships in developing the higher education ecosystem in the Sultanate. She highlighted the role these collaborations play in empowering students, enhancing global education opportunities, and facilitating the exchange of expertise, talent, and best practices in the field.

Professor Geoffrey Elliott, Dean of GCET, reaffirmed the college's commitment to fostering joint cooperation with institutions at local, regional, and international levels. He stressed that such efforts align with the college's continuous strategy to enhance the educational experience for its students and contribute to the development of higher education in the Sultanate. He also highlighted GCET's dedication to supporting students, especially in academic and research fields, to develop their skills, competencies, and capabilities, ensuring their readiness to compete in the job market and seize the best opportunities, ultimately contributing to building Oman's future in line with national plans and future visions.

It is worth noting that GCET offers academic programmes and qualifications at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Engineering, Computing, Urban Planning, Cybersecurity, Environmental Management, and Technology. The college is committed to delivering a high-quality educational experience in line with international standards and evolving national and regional priorities, while pursuing academic excellence, innovation, and community engagement. It also focuses on graduating highly qualified professionals equipped to meet workforce needs and achieve strategic goals.

MEETING

< FROM A1 His Majesty gives audience to UK Foreign Secretary

The UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs also touched on several regional and international developments, listening to His Majesty's perspectives on these matters. The visiting minister expressed interest in the ceasefire efforts in Gaza and the pursuit of peace and stability, as well as ongoing US-Iranian negotiations through Omani mediation to reach a new agreement concerning Iran's nuclear program for peaceful purposes.

The meeting was attended by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sir Oliver Robbins, Permanent Under-Secretary at UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Dr. Lianne Sanders, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Sultanate of Oman. — ONA

TO PRESIDENT OF IRAN

HM sends cable of condolences

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Masoud Pezeshkian of the Islamic Republic of Iran on victims of an explosion that took place at the Shahid Rajaei port in the city of Bandar Abbas.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sympathies to President Masoud Pezeshkian and families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. — ONA



TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

TRA issues billing bylaw

MUSCAT: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has issued a decision to promulgate a bylaw to regulate telecom services' billing and ensure the accuracy of such billing in accordance with best global practices and standards in this field.

The bylaw seeks to ensure accurate billing for telecom services, protect beneficiary rights, promote fair competition, augment transparency, enhance service quality and apply the best standards and practices in this field. — ONA



Definitions and general provisions

The bylaw covered definitions and general provisions, licensee obligations, tariffs, cost rates, payments, auditing, performance measurement and administrative penalties.

FOREIGN MINISTRY

Oman welcomes decision to create VP post in Palestine

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed a decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee to initiate the position of Vice-President of the Executive Committee and Vice-President of the State of Palestine, and to appoint Hussein Al Sheikh to this position.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, the Sultanate of Oman congratulated Al Sheikh on his new appointment, wishing him success in performing his duties.

The Sultanate of Oman expressed the hope that the step would consolidate the unity of Palestinians and serve their legitimate aspirations to gain all their rights and establish their independent state. — ONA





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ADVANTAGE OMAN FORUM

Oman's open trade policies highlighted

< FROM A1 Highlighting Oman's open trade policies, Al Yousef said the country remains committed to expanding international economic partnerships even as protectionism rises elsewhere.

He emphasised the value of Oman's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States, offering investors a powerful platform to access one of the world's largest markets from a secure and strategically located base.

He said Oman's young, ambitious and globally minded workforce is a key advantage for investors looking at long-term opportunities.

"Our true advantage lies not only in our infrastructure or policies, but in our people," he further added.

The second day of the Advantage Oman Forum will include panel discussions with decision-makers, investor networking opportunities, success story presentations, new investment partnership signings, and specialised roundtables in priority sectors such as tourism, logistics, mining, food security, renewable energy, and information technology. The comes as Oman experiences significant growth in economic and investment fields, supported by rising international indicators.

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COMMENTARY

Allow your children to choose their own future

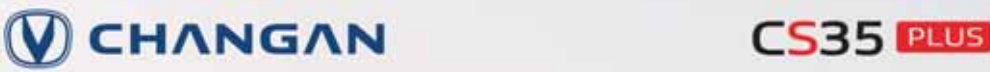


SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Letting our children choose their own career is very important as long as it is a decent profession. Children should be allowed to dream on their own and the last thing they want is a controlling parent to constantly remind them of what they could build themselves when they grow up. If your child says he wants to be a policeman, then that should be fine. Don't attempt to change their minds just because you think their talent is elsewhere. The police forces of the world do not pay big money and you may want your child to be an investment manager. Perhaps you notice his persuasion powers when he demands things from you. "He is good at taking money from me. Perhaps he would be a good businessman," you may

justify yourself. I don't want to be sarcastic but fraudsters are also good when it comes to swindle people out of their money. They have a great power of persuasion. What you are telling him, when you ask him to choose a future career of your choice, is to go for a job that would earn him loads of money. The advice 'seek your fortune from your talent' is not the one that I would pass on to my children. It is as misleading as it is vulgar. Fortune seeking should never be associated with skills or professionalism since it has the tendency to push one towards greed. I am not saying that people who made a fortune were greedy but you don't choose a career with wealth as the driving force. It takes the shine out of the real essence of living. It also blunts one's abilities to communicate with forces outside the realm of their blinding ambitions. We all see many such examples around us when parents try to live the lives of their children. When my cousin's little son said he wanted to be a mechanic, his father looked at him with a disappointment on his face. "What's wrong with you!" He

snapped at him," do you know what kind of job a mechanic does?" I knew what he had in his mind. He could see his son covered with grease from head to toe and smell of oil. He wanted to boast to his friends that his only son is going to be a doctor or something equally 'prestigious'. To him, mechanical is demeaning as it is carpentry. I could not help thinking that my cousin was a store supervisor and he failed to live his dreams. He now puts pressure to his son to live his dreams for him. If he could not be a doctor then he would make sure his son would be one. He has not realised that a child's competency is nurtured best by guiding it gently towards its natural inclination without the external and assertive influence. I wanted to ask him who would he think of when his car broke down in the middle of a busy highway? Certainly, it is not going to be a man in a white coat but a greasy-faced wizard who could still make his important appointment possible. Of course, I did not tell him that. What he has overlooked is that his son may not make a fortune but certainly his talents, whatever they are going to be, will be welcomed by many.



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T&C APPLY



BILATERAL RELATIONS REVIEWED

Royal Office Minister receives officials from UK and US

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office yesterday David Lammy, the United Kingdom's (UK) Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs and his accompanying delegation.

Al Nu'amani reviewed bilateral relations and means of enhancing them to serve joint interests.

The guest expressed his deep appreciation for the diplomatic efforts exerted by the Sultanate of Oman to bring closer the views of different parties in some regional and international issues.

The meriting was attended by Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Sultanate of Oman.

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office also received yesterday Gen. Michael E. Kurilla, Commander of the United States (US) Central Command.

The two sides explored ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in a bid to enhance the security of the two countries. They also underscored the depth of historical relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America. — **ONA**



MEETING



SAF Chief of Staff receives US official

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdul Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Camp yesterday Gen. Michael E. Kurilla, Commander of the United States (US) Central Command and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides exchanged views and discussed several military

topics of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Air Commodore Nasser Said Al Sa'adi, Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Joint Drills of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Brigadier Badr Nassir Al Kharousi, Director General of the Joint Military Intelligence and Preventive Security at COSAF and a number of senior COSAF officers. — **ONA**

Shura Council discusses draft law on arbitration



The meeting was dedicated to reviewing the draft law amending certain provisions of the current Arbitration Law in civil and commercial disputes

Times News Service



Dr. Ahmed Ali Al Saadi, head of the Committee, and in the presence of their Excellencies members of the committee. The meeting was dedicated to reviewing the draft law amending certain provisions of the current Arbitration Law in civil and commercial disputes, which has been referred to the Council by the government for study.

During the meeting, a number of experts from the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs were hosted. The committee listened to their observations and views regarding the referred draft law. Discussions

focused on the importance of enhancing the efficiency of arbitration procedures to ensure speed and fairness, in addition to supporting the Sultanate's efforts to adopt best international practices in dispute resolution.

The members gave their justifications for the proposed amendments, emphasising that the changes aim to address several practical challenges that have emerged in the implementation of the current law. The amendments are intended to create a more flexible and efficient legis-

lative environment.

Dr. Al Saadi stressed the importance of joint efforts between the Council of Oman and the relevant authorities to fulfill the Sultanate's aspirations for modernizing legislation and supporting the justice system, in alignment with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. The hosting of the legal experts falls within the committee's mandate to review and develop legislation in line with legal and economic developments, thereby fostering a business- and investment-friendly environment in Sultanate of Oman.

AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC SERVICES REGULATION

Bylaw issued for operation of independent tankers in water, wastewater sectors



MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) has issued a bylaw for regulating the operation of independent tankers in the water and wastewater sector.

The bylaw was issued in implementation of provisions of the Water and Wastewater Sector Regulation Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 40/2023. It was also in pursuance of legislative frameworks on upgrading perfor-

mance efficiency and the standardisation of services within this vital sector.

The bylaw regulates the tasks of independent tanker operators in the areas of water transport and supply. It also streamlines wastewater collection and treated water transport and supply. As a result, the bylaw will enhance the quality of services and establish principles for technical and operational governance in accordance with clear-

cut and approved standards.

The issuance of the bylaw reflects the efforts made by the APSR to develop the water and wastewater sector's regulatory system and to ensure balance of interests among stakeholders. It also highlights aspirations to achieve operational efficiency and service quality in line with the Sultanate of Oman's approach to sustainability and in accordance with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. — **ONA**



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2025/048	Replacement of existing 33 KV porcelain insulator to new silicone rubber insulator of existing 33 KV overhead line from Harveel PDO area to Quitbeet Shadoon	11-May-2025	19-May-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/059	Replacement of components/ assets in existing Mamurah PSS and Raysut-A PSS	11-May-2025	19-May-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/062	Operation & Maintenance of Reverse Osmosis Water Desalination Plant at Wadi Ara	11-May-2025	19-May-2025	105.000
DISC/2025/063	Operation & Maintenance of Reverse Osmosis Water Desalination Plant at Sharbithat	11-May-2025	19-May-2025	1575.000
DISC/2025/064	Operation & Maintenance of Reverse Osmosis Water Desalination Plants at Dahboon, Barbazoom & Rubkoot	11-May-2025	19-May-2025	1575.000

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- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, "Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
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FORUM IN DHOFAR

Projects and initiatives of Finance Ministry reviewed

SALALAH: The Ministry of Finance reviewed several of its key projects and initiatives, including the Unified Government Financial System (Maliyah), the Unified Treasury Account, the National Register of Government Assets, the Programme and Performance Budgeting application, the Government Services Pricing Project, as well as the Public Expenditure Control Initiative, the Beneficiary Services System, and the update of the bay-law of the Financial Law.

This took place during the Ministry of Finance' forum, organised by the ministry yesterday at the Millennium Hotel in Salalah, Dhofar Governorate, to introduce its projects and programmes.

Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance delivered a speech emphasizing that the forum reflects the ministry's commitment to enhancing communication and institutional integration, as well as promoting its projects and initiatives aligned with Oman Vision 2040.

These efforts support the push toward sustainable and effective financial management.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Finance has worked in recent years to develop the financial system by launching a series of strategic projects, which have



reliance on external financing, and generating direct financial savings that have supported developmental spending priorities.

The forum featured a visual presentation on the ministry's key projects and initiatives, along with a discussion session with participants from various entities and institutions.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the Ministry of Finance's projects, which seek to enhance public financial management efficiency through expenditure control, procedural governance, and increased transparency.

— **ONA**

significantly contributed to achieving positive outcomes. These include reducing the public debt-to- GDP ratio, decreasing

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THE ADVANTAGE OMAN FORUM

Lulu’s Yusuff Ali praises local workforce, focuses on Oman’s growing investment potential

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Yusuff Ali M. A., the founder of Lulu Group International, has long recognised the immense potential of Oman's workforce, with the company's commitment to hiring more Omani as a cornerstone of its local operations.

Praising the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of Omani employees, Yusuff Ali shared his insights on the country's growing investment opportunities and Lulu's expanding role in driving the nation's economic progress.

"Oman's workforce is one of its greatest assets. They are punctual and very hard working," founder and chairman of Lulu Group International said on Sunday. He was speaking on the sidelines of the Advantage Oman Forum 2025, which began at St. Regis, following his participation as a speaker in one of the sessions at the forum

He said: "We currently employ over 3,500 Omani nationals over 36 outlets across the Sultanate, and we are committed to increasing that number. Our employees are hardworking, honest and ded-



icated, and we believe in investing in their development through specialised training programmes."

Yusuff Ali emphasised Lulu's ongoing efforts to provide Omani talent with the necessary skills to excel in both retail and manufacturing sectors.

He went on to highlight the broader investment landscape in Oman, citing the nation's strong economy, stable security environment, and continued infrastructure advancements.

"Oman has transformed into an investment hotspot, thanks to its stable economy, secure environment, and ongoing upgrades in infrastructure," he said. "The government's proactive approach in creating a favourable business

climate offers tremendous opportunities in tourism, manufacturing, retail, and other sectors."

Lulu Group is also deepening its presence in Oman, with plans for further expansion. "We're not just focusing on retail but are also growing our e-commerce and Q-commerce (quick commerce) operations. Our new procurement centre is operational, and we are increasing the sourcing of local products," he added.

In addition to its retail expansion, Lulu is moving into local manufacturing, with plans for increased meat and vegetable processing. "We are committed to expanding our manufacturing and processing capabilities to support the local economy and meet the growing demand for high-quality products," said Yusuff Ali.

On the topic of foreign investment in the Sultanate, Ali encouraged global investors to look to Oman, citing its improving business environment. "Oman is continuously refining its regulations and making it easier to do business. With transparency and clear policies, this is an excellent time for foreign investors to come and explore the opportunities available," he said.



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	31-Mar-25 RO'000	31-Mar-24 RO'000		31-Mar-25 RO'000	31-Mar-24 RO'000
Interest Income	2,234	1,147	Assets		
Net unrealised gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss («FVTPL»)	10	-	Investment at amortized cost	32,241	3,068
	2,244	1,147	Investment assets at fair value through profit and loss («FVPL»)	5,017	-
Expenses:			Investment in Deposits	111,649	50,538
Management fees	(185)	(100)	Bank Balances	20,039	34,697
General and administrative	(248)	(28)	Interest Receivables	5,145	1,799
	(433)	(128)	Total Assets	174,091	90,102
Net Profit for the period	1,811	1,019	Liabilities:		
Earnings per unit	0.016	0.015	Short term loan	(16,603)	-
			Accruals	(84)	(53)
				(16,687)	(53)
			Net Assets Value (NAV)	157,404	90,049
			Composition of net assets:		
			Units issued	110,567	66,513
			Retained Earnings	46,837	23,536
			Net Assets Value (NAV)	157,404	90,049
			Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	1.4236028	1.3538584

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Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

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Raysut Cement Company announces new Board of Directors to Drive Growth, Governance, and Sustainability

SALALAH: Raysut Cement Company (RCC), Oman's largest cement manufacturer and a key regional player in the Middle East and East Africa, has announced the election of a new Board of Directors for the 2025–2028 term. The appointment brings together a dynamic group of seasoned leaders with proven expertise in industry, investment, infrastructure, banking, public-private partnerships, and sustainability.

This board renewal comes at a strategic moment for the company as it continues to pursue operational excellence, regional expansion, and green innovation in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. The new Board reflects RCC's commitment to strong governance, stakeholder trust, and long-term growth.

The elected Chairman, Jamal Shamis Saud Al Hooti, brings over four decades of leadership in Oman's industrial and cement sectors, having previously served as CEO of Oman Cement and co-founding Sohar Cement. Khalid Masud Ansari, a seasoned chartered accountant and former KPMG partner, joins as a board member with more than 40 years of experience in audit, advisory, and corporate governance.

Rashed Mohammed Al Kaabi adds to the board his 18+ years of expertise in investment, project development, and strategy, having held senior leadership roles across regional companies, including CEO of Al Ain Farms. Saeed Hamed Al Dhaheri, a finance executive with global board experience, brings a strong background in managing international development and investment projects.

Joining them is Khalil Fadhl Al Mansoori, a civil engineer with deep expertise in finance, international trade, and strategic development across global

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Raysut Cement Company S.A.O.G

This board renewal comes at a strategic moment for the company as it continues to pursue operational excellence, regional expansion, and green innovation in alignment with Oman Vision 2040.

markets. Ahmed Al Bahar Al Rawas contributes over 30 years of leadership in infrastructure and public service, having overseen major utility and civil engineering projects across Dhofar.

Furthermore, Ali Abdullah Al Zadjali brings 22 years of experience in construction, mining, and value-added mineral development. He is the founder of Duqm Quarries and currently serves as President of Rocks Minerals Holding. Asma Ali Al Zadjali, a banking expert with over 20 years of experience in operations, transformation, and governance, is recognized for her role in driving digital innovation and leading institutional change in the financial sector.

Completing the board is Abdullah Mohammed Al Abri, a strategic investment and public-private partnership expert with more than 26 years of experience.

He has led numerous national projects and played a key role in shaping Oman's economic de-

velopment and policy reform.

Commenting on the new appointments, Dr. Hilal Saif Al Dhamri, Acting CEO of Raysut Cement Company, stated: "This new Board of Directors is not only a strong signal of governance and strategic direction—it is a catalyst for growth. With the support of its esteemed members, we will be able to build on RCC's legacy and accelerate our efforts toward regional leadership, innovation, and environmental stewardship."

Raysut Cement remains focused on delivering high-performance cement solutions, expanding into high-growth markets, and reducing its carbon footprint, reinforcing its role as a key partner in the future of infrastructure across the region.

About Raysut Cement Company

Raysut Cement Company (RCC) is the largest cement manufacturer in Oman and one of the leading producers in the Gulf region. Established in 1981 in Salalah, RCC supplies high-quality cement products to markets across the Middle East. With a strategic focus on innovation, sustainability, and regional expansion, RCC has built a strong reputation as a trusted partner for infrastructure and construction projects. The company is committed to operational excellence and environmentally responsible manufacturing, contributing to Oman's industrial development and aligning with Oman Vision 2040.

For more information, visit www.raysutcement.om. For media coordination, please contact: Mohammed Ahmed Al Ibrahim, Senior Manager Corporate Communication & Marketing. Phone: +968 90999388. Email: m.alibrahim@raysutcement.com.om

**A'SAFFA FOODS**
S.A.O.G

**الصفا للأغذية**
S.A.O.G

A'Saffa Foods S.A.O.G
P.O.Box: 3436, PC: 112, Sultanate of Oman
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER RESULTS – YEAR 2025

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of A'Saffa Foods SAOG, I have pleasure in presenting the financial results for 1st Quarter ended 31st March 2025.

Performance Review

Sales for the 1st Quarter ended 31st March 2025 was RO. 14,743,913/- as compared to RO. 21,318,259/- during the same period of 2024. Sales for Q1-2025 was less than Q1-2024 because last year sales include the sale of carry forward stocks. The Net Profit (consolidated) for the period ended 31st March 2025 was RO. 1,691,574/- as compared to net profit (consolidated) RO. 1,971,743/- for the same period of 2024.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said for the encouragement and support given by his Government and pray to Almighty ALLAH(swt) to provide Oman and its people peace and prosperity under His Majesty's wise leadership.

We also take this opportunity to thank all customers, shareholders and staff for their continued support and confidence in the Company.

Chairman of the Board

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests that, in either Arabic or English, within 07 days of receipt of the request on the address mentioned above

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Parent Company		Group	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	54,586,312	55,070,561	58,382,753	59,035,312
Right Of Use Assets	3,983,515	1,284,813	4,292,449	1,449,646
Capital Advances / CWIP	80,237	582,023	80,237	582,023
Intangible assets	1	49	1	49
Investments in subsidiaries	1,350,000	1,350,000	-	-
Investments accounted for using the equity method	6,339,049	5,504,549	6,339,049	5,504,549
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	45,795	46,225	45,795	46,225
	66,384,909	63,838,218	69,140,284	66,617,802
Current assets				
Inventories	9,631,096	8,010,285	10,902,210	9,169,425
Biological assets	3,180,492	3,010,790	3,180,492	3,010,790
Trade and other receivables	15,521,857	18,309,103	15,696,246	18,608,575
Term deposits	3,300,000	3,300,000	3,300,000	3,300,000
Cash and bank balances	736,418	844,783	969,745	886,248
	32,369,863	33,474,961	34,048,693	34,975,038
	98,754,772	97,313,179	103,188,977	101,592,840
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
Legal reserves	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,566,804	4,585,882
Retained earnings	26,599,669	24,735,825	30,217,989	28,177,342
Other Reserve	(2,431,642)	(2,431,642)	(2,431,642)	(2,431,642)
TOTAL EQUITY	40,168,027	38,304,183	44,353,151	42,331,582
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	30,193,762	32,391,543	30,193,762	32,480,192
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)	3,917,960	1,374,622	4,256,643	1,560,481
End of service benefits	1,588,239	1,402,104	1,708,873	1,486,918
Deferred tax liabilities	1,234,116	825,051	1,410,906	1,010,910
	36,934,077	35,993,321	37,570,184	36,538,501
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	7,207,887	12,437,394	7,288,665	12,585,031
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)	337,856	108,546	346,162	108,546
Trade and other payables	14,106,926	10,469,735	13,630,815	10,029,180
	21,652,668	23,015,675	21,265,642	22,722,757
TOTAL LIABILITIES	58,586,745	59,008,996	58,835,826	59,261,258
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	98,754,772	97,313,179	103,188,977	101,592,840
Net assets per share (RO)	0.335	0.319	0.370	0.353

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Parent Company		Group	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
Revenue From Contracts with Customers	14,743,913	21,318,259	14,455,585	21,063,744
Cost of sales	(10,566,123)	(16,338,409)	(9,910,422)	(15,691,383)
Gross profit	4,177,790	4,979,850	4,545,162	5,372,361
Selling and distribution expenses	(1,371,200)	(1,644,515)	(1,371,200)	(1,644,515)
General and administrative expenses	(747,564)	(808,947)	(809,549)	(871,889)
Other income	7,817	8,746	7,817	9,511
Profit before interest & tax	2,066,842	2,535,134	2,372,230	2,865,468
Finance income	46,029	48,762	46,029	48,762
Finance cost	(689,515)	(700,033)	(698,820)	(708,783)
Finance cost (net)	(643,486)	(651,271)	(652,791)	(660,021)
Profit before tax and associate gain	1,423,356	1,883,863	1,719,439	2,205,447
Share of net Gain from associate accounted for using the equity method	230,051	114,251	230,051	114,251
Profit before tax	1,653,407	1,998,114	1,949,490	2,319,698
Income tax expense	(213,503)	(299,177)	(257,916)	(347,955)
Profit and total comprehensive income	1,439,904	1,698,937	1,691,574	1,971,743
Basic earnings per share (RO)	0.012	0.014	0.014	0.016

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, UK explore ways to boost ties

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received in his office yesterday David Lammy, UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

During the meeting, the two ministers affirmed the joint desire to follow up all areas of cooperation and means of promoting them to serve the joint interests.

The two sides also emphasised the importance of continued consultation, coordination, and cooperation in all efforts that would strengthen the foundations of regional security, stability and peace. They also supported resolving issues through dialogue and diplomatic means, ensuring greater benefits for all countries and peoples.

The Foreign Minister underlined Oman's support for negotiations aimed at finalising a free trade agreement between the GCC countries and the United Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by Munthir Mahfoudh Al Manthri, Sir Oliver Robbins, Permanent Under-Secretary at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Dr. Lianne Sanders, UK Ambassador to Oman. — **OMA**





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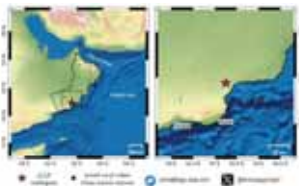
MEASURING 5.0 ON RICHTER SCALE

Moderate earthquake recorded in Dhofar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A moderate earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale was recorded on Sunday afternoon in Oman's Dhofar Governorate.

According to the Sultan Qaboos University Earthquake Monitoring Centre, the tremor struck at 2:32PM local time, with its epicentre located approximately 155 kilometres northeast of Salalah.



The quake occurred at a depth of 4 kilometres. The earthquake was registered in the Wilayat of Shaleem and the Hallaniyat Islands, part of the Dhofar region, according to the Centre.

ADVANTAGE OMAN FORUM

Role of risk culture, psychological safety highlighted

Throughout the day, several recurring themes emerged: the future of investment is inseparable from sustainability, innovation, and technology; green and blue economies are central pillars of future national strategies; cross-border collaboration, risk-resilient financing, and smart public-private partnerships are increasingly critical; and investors must embrace resilience, agility, and strategic alliances to thrive amid global disruption.

The second session, "Risky Business," brought attention to the role of risk culture and psychological safety in enabling organisations to make bold decisions. It was moderated by HH Dr Adham Al Said, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Sultan Qaboos University. The speakers included Eng Saeed Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology; Azzan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Heritage and



Tourism and Chairman of Omran; and Creon Butler, Director, Global Economy and Finance Programme at Chatham House.

Discussions included how companies that adapt quickly and manage uncertainty can emerge stronger, using examples of businesses that navigated disruption successfully.

The third session, "A Defining Moment," focused on the corporate world's growing accountability for environmental stewardship. Moderated by Najla Al Jamali,

Chief Executive of OQ Alternative Energy, the speakers included Eng Salim Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals; Dr Abdullah Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority; and Luigi Di Maio, Special Representative for the Gulf Region at the European Union and former Foreign Minister of Italy.

Experts discussed solutions such as adopting the circular economy model, investing in green technologies, and the vital importance of public-private collabora-

tion to mitigate climate change and preserve biodiversity.

The fourth session, "Beyond the Comfort of Certainty," highlighted how modern leadership demands flexibility, creativity, and the willingness to break from traditional models. Speakers shared real-world examples of organisations that reinvented themselves and thrived by embracing innovation.

Dr Florian Klein, Co-founder and Managing Partner at ananki.ai, moderated the session that featured Dr Said Al Saqri, Minister of Economy; Mohammed Al Ardhi, Chairman of the Muscat Stock Exchange and Executive Chairman of Investcorp; and Yusuf Ali M.A., Founder and Chairman of Lulu Group International.

The final session, "Storytelling Nations: Power, Perception and Place," explored how businesses can move beyond raw data to create narratives that resonate emotionally with customers, building lasting brand loyalty and trust —

essential assets in an increasingly crowded global market.

Richard Quest moderated the engaging session that included the participation of Mohammed Al Barwani, Chairman of MB Holding Group; Dushyant Thakor, Deputy Executive Director at WAIPA (World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies); and Jonathan McClory, Research Associate at Hertford College, Oxford University; and Mohammed Al Eissa, Chief Corporate Planning and Communications Officer at Omran Group.

HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said toured an accompanying exhibition that featured major government entities, private sector companies, and investment opportunities across logistics, tourism, energy, manufacturing, technology, and food security.

Participants praised the clarity of Oman's Vision 2040 strategy, which focuses on empowering the private sector, nurturing national

talent, balancing environmental protection with development, and promoting diversified economic growth beyond oil and gas.

Despite acknowledging global headwinds — such as geopolitical volatility, inflationary pressures, and market fragmentation — the overall mood was one of optimism. Oman's firm steps toward economic diversification, energy transformation, and regulatory modernisation were seen as strong signals for serious global investors.

On the second day, the Advantage Oman Forum will transition to direct Government-to-Business (G2B) engagement sessions, offering investors an opportunity to meet senior government officials across key sectors. The agenda will also feature success story presentations and a landmark signing ceremony — expected to reinforce Oman's shift from dialogue to action, strengthening its standing as an emerging force in the global investment ecosystem.

MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST DISCUSSED



Chairman of Strategic, Defence Studies Academy receives Saudi military delegation

MUSCAT: Maj. Gen Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies received in his office at Bait Al Falaj Camp on Sunday a delegation from King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz College for Command and Staff of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's National Guard.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a range of matters of common interest, notably in academic fields.

The meeting was attended by several senior officers from the Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies.

Meanwhile, the visiting delegation also visited the Joint Command and Staff College (CSC) at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

Upon the delegation's arrival at the college, they were received by Brigadier Saif Hamad

Al Yousefi, Commandant of the Joint Command and Staff College (CSC).

During the visit, the delegation watched a presentation on the college and its curricula, as well as its training and educational programmes. Moreover, the delegation toured the college's facilities and departments.

Furthermore, the delegation visited on Sunday the National Defence College (NDC) at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies in Bait Al Falaj Camp.

Upon their arrival at the NDC, they were greeted by Brigadier Mansoor Ali Al Amri, Acting Commandant of the NDC.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the college's strategic curricula. They also toured the NDC's departments and various facilities.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

SNF's manufacturing plant in Salalah to produce high-performance anionic polymers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: SNF, a specialty chemical company and an expert in water chemistry, announced the official inauguration of its new Regional SNF Technology Centre (RSTC) in Oman, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to innovation and excellence in the Gulf region.

The inauguration ceremony, held on Wednesday, brought together key stakeholders, government representatives, industry leaders, and SNF executives to celebrate the opening of this state-of-the-art facility.

Addressing a press meet at the launch of the RSTC Oman, the R&D hub for the entire Gulf region, Jimmy Nesbitt, SNF Middle East Manager, said: "We are hopeful of beginning polymer production at our plant in Salalah in Oman. We have ambitious plans in the Sultanate and are investing \$250 million in various projects. The opening of RSTC will boost SNF's involvement in Oman."

Is'haq Salim Al Shaqsi, Operation & Business Development Manager, said: "The RSTC will not only cater to the needs of Oman but also for the region. We will also be closely working with various universities in the region, providing them training and later job opportunities."

The Salalah plant is designed to produce high-performance anionic polymers that will play a crucial role in enhancing chemical EOR capabilities and meeting the fast-growing needs of regional clients.

"The RSTC is also expected to create local employment opportunities, generate In-Country Value (ICV), and establish Oman as a key



player in the Middle East's polymer market," Al Shaqsi added.

The centre will support oil and gas innovation in the region, focusing on polymer research for enhanced oil recovery (EOR), specialising in carbonate reservoirs, water shut-off, and other cutting-edge technologies. It will also provide critical technical support throughout the lifecycle of SNF's projects, ensuring efficiency and sustainability.

Nesbitt further said, "In line with our commitment to ICV, SNF has prioritised local recruitment and talent development. With cooperation with Omani universities and institutions in the GCC region, SNF is helping to foster the next generation of experts in oilfield technologies and sustainability practices. The RSTC Oman is more than just a technical facility — it is a hub for knowledge exchange and skill development, creating long-term value for Oman's workforce and industry."

Strategically located in Oman, the RSTC will serve as a central hub for research, development, and technical support for SNF's oil and gas activities across the Gulf.

"This inauguration reflects SNF's long-term commitment to the Gulf region and our belief in the power of local innovation," said Thomas Divers, RSTC Director at SNF.

"With the RSTC now fully operational, we are ready to accelerate the development of advanced polymer technologies that meet the evolving challenges of the energy sector," Christophe Rivas, SNF Oil & Gas Director said.

Cutting-edge solutions

The RSTC-Oman is equipped with advanced laboratory infrastructure and staffed by highly specialised engineers and technicians. Its core mission is to support the development and optimisation of polymer-based solutions, including High Performance Anionic Polymers (HPAM), for enhanced oil recovery (EOR), hydraulic fracturing, water shut-off, drilling & cementing, and production chemicals. Driving collaboration and local impact.

The centre's proximity to oil and gas fields in the region allows SNF to deliver faster, more tailored technical support through-

out the lifecycle of energy projects. The RSTC fosters a dynamic environment for knowledge sharing and skill development through workshops, technical training, and hands-on collaboration.

Aligned with SNF's global sustainability goals, the centre supports Oman's economic diversification and ICV initiatives by prioritising local recruitment and academic partnerships.

A strategic milestone in SNF's global expansion

The opening of RSTC Oman is part of SNF's broader \$250 million global investment plan, which aims to enhance R&D capabilities and strengthen local service across key markets. With this facility, SNF strengthens its presence in the Gulf and reinforces its position as a global leader in polymer chemistry for energy applications.

SNF is a specialty chemical company and an expert in water chemistry and all its products are used to treat, preserve, and recycle water. The company helps to reduce energy needs and carbon intensity while contributing to the responsible extraction of key mineral resources essential to the energy transition.

As a global leader in designing and manufacturing water-soluble polymers, SNF continuously improves a range of more than 1,000 products, which helps preserve natural resources, encourages recycling, and improves industrial process efficiencies. In addition, SNF products have several complementary functionalities making them suitable for many applications such as solids-liquid separation, viscosity modification, and friction reduction.

Several killed, many hurt as vehicle plows into Vancouver festival crowd

The incident occurred shortly after 8 am near East 41st Avenue and Fraser Street, where the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party was underway



VANCOUVER: Several people were killed and multiple others injured after a vehicle drove into a crowd attending a street festival in Vancouver on Saturday evening, police said, as per reports by CBC News.

The incident occurred shortly after 8 am near East 41st Avenue and Fraser Street, where the Lapu

Lapu Day Block Party was underway. Vancouver police confirmed that the driver involved is in custody and emphasised that the incident was not a hit-and-run.

In a post on X, the Vancouver Police Department said, "A number of people have been killed and

multiple others are injured after a driver drove into a crowd at a street festival at E. 41st Avenue and Fraser shortly after 8 am to night. The driver is in custody. We will provide more information as the investigation unfolds."

Authorities said further details

would be shared as the investigation progresses.

Videos posted on social media earlier in the evening showed emergency crews attending to several people lying on the ground, with some appearing seriously injured.

CBC News has contacted the Vancouver Police Department for additional updates. Meanwhile, political leaders expressed their shock and condolences over the tragedy. The NDP, which had held a campaign event at the festival earlier in the day, reacted swiftly, reported CBC News.

Lapu Lapu Day

In a statement posted on X, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said he was "horrified to learn of an incident at Vancouver's Lapu Lapu Day celebrations that injured and killed innocent people," adding that his thoughts were with the victims, their families, and Vancouver's Filipino community "who were coming together today to celebrate resilience."

Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim also released a statement, saying he was "shocked and deeply saddened" by what he described as a "horrific incident" at the festival. "Our thoughts are with all those affected and with Vancouver's Filipi-

no community during this incredibly difficult time," he said.

British Columbia Premier David Eby expressed similar sentiments, posting on X that he was "shocked and heartbroken" to learn of the lives lost and the injuries sustained at the celebration. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre also reacted, saying he was "shocked" by the "horrific news" and thanked first responders for their efforts at the scene, while offering support to the Filipino community and all those affected.

The Lapu Lapu Day event, held for the second consecutive year in Vancouver, commemorates Lapu Lapu, an Indigenous resistance leader in the Philippines who fought against Spanish colonization in the 16th century, CBC News reported.

Organisers had described the event as an opportunity to honour Filipino heritage and celebrate the enduring spirit of bayanihan -- the tradition of collective community effort. **-ANI**

FIRST MEETING

Trump questions Putin's willingness to stop Ukraine war

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump has questioned his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin's willingness to stop the war and criticised recent missile strikes in Ukraine, CNN reported. Trump said after his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Vatican on the sidelines of Pope Francis' funeral, on Saturday.

It was the first meeting between the two leaders since their meeting in the White House, when Zelenskyy faced criticism from Trump and Vice President JD Vance over what they saw as a lack of gratitude for American support.

In a post shared on his social



media platform, Truth Social, as he was heading back to the US from Rome, Trump hinted at imposing sanctions against Moscow after Russia's latest missile attack on Ukraine and questioned whether

Putin wants to stop the war.

Donald Trump even criticised former US President Barack Obama and suggested that he "made it possible for Russia to steal Crimea from Ukraine with-

out even a shot being fired."

In a post shared on Truth Social on Saturday, Trump shared, "No matter what deal I make with respect to Russia/Ukraine, no matter how good it is, even if it's the greatest deal ever made, The Failing New York Times will speak BADLY of it. Liddle' Peter Baker, the very biased and untalented writer for The Times, followed his Editor's demands and wrote that Ukraine should get back territory, including, I suppose, Crimea, and other ridiculous requests, in order to stop the killing that is worse than anything since World War II. Why doesn't this lightweight reporter say that it was Obama who

made it possible for Russia to steal Crimea from Ukraine without even a shot being fired. It was also Liddle' Peter who wrote an absolutely fawning, yet terribly written Biography, on Obama. It was a JOKE! Did Baker ever criticize the Obama Crimea Giveaway? NO, not once, only TRUMP, and I've had nothing to do with this stupid war, other than early on, when I gave Ukraine Javelins, and Obama gave them sheets."

"This is Sleepy Joe Biden's War, not mine. It was a loser from day one, and should have never happened, and wouldn't have happened if I were President at the time. I'm just trying to clean up the

mess that was left to me by Obama and Biden, and what a mess it is. With all of that being said, there was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days. It makes me think that maybe he doesn't want to stop the war, he's just tapping me along, and has to be dealt with differently, through "Banking" or "Secondary Sanctions?" Too many people are dying," he added.

Trump and Zelenskyy spoke ahead of the funeral of Pope Francis. Describing his meeting with Trump as "good," Zelenskyy said that talks focused on "full and unconditional ceasefire."



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SPORTS

SPANISH MOTOGP

Marquez claims maiden MotoGP victory in Spain



MADRID: Alex Marquez claimed a memorable MotoGP win on Sunday as the Spaniard secured his maiden victory at the top level. The 29-year-old won the Spanish MotoGrand Prix in style to take the lead in the overall MotoGP standings after five rounds from his older brother, six-time world champion Marc Marquez. The Ducati-Gresini rider came home clear of Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo, who held off Ducati-Lenovo's Francesco Bagnaia for second place. Quartararo, the 2021 world champion, started in pole position and secured his first Grand Prix podium since 2023. Marc Marquez made contact with team-mate Bagnaia on a

thrilling opening lap before sliding off on lap three. The older Marquez, who won three of the first four rounds, battled back to finish in the points in 12th. Alex Marquez started fourth on the grid and, after his brother's mishap, forced his way past Bagnaia to move into second before making an aggressive move up the inside of Quartararo to take the lead on lap 11. Marquez, who is in his sixth season in MotoGP and his third with Ducati-Gresini, gradually extended his lead to secure victory and go one point clear of his brother in the overall standings before the next race in France in two weeks. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool crowned champions

LONDON: Liverpool clinched a record-equalling 20th Premier League title on Sunday in a stunning debut season for Arne Slot after beating Tottenham Hotspur 5-1 at Anfield. The 46-year-old, who took on the seemingly unenviable task of succeeding Jürgen Klopp last summer, becomes the first man in Liverpool's illustrious history to win the championship in his debut season with the club. Anfield was ready to celebrate at kick-off, but there was an early setback when Dominic Solanke unexpectedly headed Spurs in front after 12 minutes. Liverpool hit back quickly, Luis Díaz's equaliser awarded after a VAR review, before Alexis Mac Allister smashed home in the 23rd minute to put the hosts in front. Cody Gakpo struck from a corner before half-time to leave the outcome all but guaranteed. The second half was a sun-kissed title party, crowned when Mohamed Salah swept in for Liverpool's fourth – and the Egyptian's 28th league goal of an extraordinary season. Salah was poised to add another with 20 minutes left, but Destiny Udogie reached the ball first for an unfortunate own goal. Liverpool's triumph and the end of Manchester City's four-season reign as Premier League

champions has appeared inevitable for some time with the club building a commanding lead over their nearest challengers, Arsenal, since the turn of the year. Arsenal's draw with Crystal Palace on Wednesday left Slot's side needing one point from their final five matches and they sealed the title with four games remaining. Victory brings Liverpool level with their fallen rivals, Manchester United, on 20 league championships. It is their second Premier League title in five years but unlike in 2019-20, when Klopp's team ended the club's 30-year wait for a 19th league crown behind closed doors, their latest triumph was celebrated in front of jubilant supporters. **Man United held** Rasmus Højlund's injury-time strike salvaged a point for Manchester United as they drew 1-1 in their Premier League match on Sunday, while leaving Bournemouth to rue a contentious red card decision that undermined their bid for European qualification. Andoni Iraola's Bournemouth side appeared to be on course for a crucial victory, thanks to Antoine Semenyo's 11th goal of the season midway through the first half. - Agencies



Suryakumar, Bumrah dazzle in MI's fifth straight victory

Hosts cruised to a 54-run win over Lucknow Super Giants at Wankhede Stadium on Sunday

MUMBAI: Mumbai Indians (MI) extended their winning streak to five matches, securing a comfortable 54-run victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) at Wankhede Stadium on Sunday. With a dominant performance in front of 19,000 young fans, MI climbed to 12 points in 10 games, while LSG succumbed to their first defeat against MI in a league-stage fixture. Half-centuries from Ryan Rickelton (58) and Suryakumar Yadav, who also became the third-fastest player to 4000 IPL runs, set the tone for MI's towering total of 215. Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult then put on a clinic with the ball, the former taking 4 wickets for 22 runs, while Boult backed him up with 3 for 20, as LSG collapsed to 161 all out. Mayank Yadav made his first appearance of the season, replacing Shardul Thakur, and was handed the new ball. Despite a few early signs of rustiness, including a



bouncer that flew over Rickelton's head, Mayank found his rhythm with slower balls and picked up two wickets for 40 runs in his four-over spell. MI, however, started with a bang, as Rickelton, after surviving a potential run-out, blasted 58 off 32 balls, including two sixes off Digvish Rath. Rickelton's aggressive approach allowed MI to race to 66 runs in the powerplay. After a quick-fire start, he was dismissed by Rath, caught at point, but not before setting the stage for a strong total. In came Suryakumar, who wasted no time in getting into the

groove. He launched Mayank Yadav over his head for a six and continued his assault with boundaries from Avesh Khan and Rathi. As MI looked to accelerate, Suryakumar brought up his 4000 IPL runs with a cheeky ramp shot, adding a couple of sixes over fine leg in a 16-run over off Prince Yadav. Despite losing Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya in quick succession, Suryakumar kept the scoreboard ticking, making 54 off 28 balls. With MI at 157 for 5 in 15 overs, they were well-positioned to push for a total beyond 200, but Mayank took another important wicket,

dismissing Hardik Pandya for a mere 5 runs. MI's lower order, however, ensured the runs kept flowing, with Naman Dhir and Corbin Bosch smashing sixes at the death. Four full-tosses from Avesh Khan in the 20th over helped MI post a challenging 215 for 7. LSG's response got off to a solid start, with Aiden Markram and Mitchell Marsh finding the boundaries early on. However, a series of quick wickets brought the chase to a screeching halt. Bumrah was in fine form, dismissing Markram with a well-placed short ball. Pooran also perished cheaply, miscuing a re-



verse sweep off Karn Sharma. At 60 for 1 after 6 overs, LSG looked on track, but MI's bowlers turned the screws. Boult and Jacks kept the pressure on, with Boult's slower balls accounting for Mitchell Marsh (34 off 24) and Ayush Badoni (35 off 22). LSG were 110 for 4 at the 13-over mark, and the required run rate soared to almost 12 per over. With 76 runs needed from 30 balls, Bumrah returned to finish the game off. He sent down a series of devastating yorkers, claiming three wickets in his final spell. Miller was dismissed with a low full toss, while Abdul Samad's mid-

dle stump was flattened by a well-executed slower yorker. Avesh Khan followed, bowled out for a duck as LSG slipped to 142 for 8. Despite a couple of sixes from Ravi Bishnoi, the game was beyond LSG. Boult and Bosch cleaned up the tail, ensuring MI's fifth consecutive win. Bumrah's four-wicket haul and Boult's three wickets completed a clinical performance from MI, who emerged victorious by 54 runs. **Brief scores:** Mumbai Indians 215/7 (Rickelton 58, Suryakumar 54; Mayank 2-40, Avesh 2-42) beat Lucknow Super Giants 161 (Badoni 35, Marsh 34; Bumrah 4-22, Boult 3-20).

LONDON MARATHON

Assefa shatters women's marathon record, Sawe dominates men's race



LONDON: Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa smashed the world record in the women's only field at the London Marathon on Sunday, while Kenya's Sebastian Sawe claimed victory in the men's race with an impressive time of 2:02:27. Assefa, the Olympic silver medalist, surged ahead of 2021 champion Joyciline Jepkosgei with just 10km remaining. She crossed the finish line in 2:15:50, beating the previous record, set by Peres Jepchirchir of Kenya in London last year, by 26 seconds. Jepkosgei finished second, nearly three minutes behind, with 2023 winner and Olympic champion Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands taking third. In the men's race, Sawe, making his marathon debut, made a decisive move just after the 31km mark. His rivals, including world-class athletes like Jacob Kiplimo and Eliud Kipchoge, could not

respond as he stretched his lead, finishing 1:10 ahead of his nearest competitor. Kiplimo, making his full marathon debut, finished second in 2:03:37, while Kenyan Alexander Mutiso Munyao secured third place with a time of 2:04:20. Great Britain's Mahamed Mahamed finished ninth, while Olympic triathlon champion Alex Yee came in 14th. Eilish McColgan impressed in her marathon debut, setting a Scottish record of 2:24:25, beating Steph Twell's previous mark. McColgan finished eighth, a place ahead of Rose Harvey. In the wheelchair races, Switzerland claimed a double for the second consecutive year. Catherine Debrunner broke her own course record in the women's race, while Marcel Hug triumphed in the men's race, securing his seventh London Marathon victory.

Assefa, who finished second in last year's race, reflected on her victory, expressing how special it felt to win after experiencing difficulties the previous year. "The weather suited me better this time," she said, adding, "I am really pleased with how the race went." Meanwhile, Sawe, who had trained extensively for the race, shared his delight after securing the win. "I am so happy. This is my fastest time for the London Marathon," he remarked, acknowledging his preparation as key to his success. **Elite women's race results:** 1. Tigst Assefa (ETH) – 2:15:50, 2. Joyciline Jepkosgei (KEN) – 2:18:43, 3. Sifan Hassan (NED) – 2:18:59. **Elite men's race results:** 1. Sebastian Sawe (KEN) – 2:02:27, 2. Jacob Kiplimo (UGA) – 2:03:37, 3. Alexander Mutiso Munyao (KEN) – 2:04:20. - Agencies

GLOBAL GROWTH TO SLOW

Global growth is forecast to slow to 2.3% in 2025, slipping below the 2.5% threshold often associated with a global recession, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in its latest report. This marks a sharp deceleration compared to already sluggish pre-pandemic growth rates.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,279.21 points, up by 0.13% from previous close. The Shariah Index ended up by 1.63% at 397.70 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 9.64%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 10.00%, was the top loser.

HH Sayyid Bilarab visits Thawani Technologies, tours the facilities

The visit comes as part of a series of visits aimed at motivating promising startups, understanding their aspirations, and enhancing their role in the national economy

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Honorary President of the Programme of Omani Promising Startups (POPS), on Sunday visited “Thawani Technologies”, the first licensed financial technology company in the Sultanate of Oman.

The visit comes as part of a series of visits aimed at motivating promising startups, understanding their aspirations, and enhancing their role in the national economy.

During the visit, HH Sayyid Bilarab toured the facilities of “Thawani”, which was established in 2016 and has successfully intro-



duced innovative payment solutions that meet local market demands while supporting national digital transformation efforts under Oman Vision 2040.

The company showcased its key achievements in deploying advanced technologies, including smartphone solutions, facial and palm biometric payment systems, artificial intelligence (AI), deep learning, and secure payment cards. It also highlighted its notable local and international accomplishments, such as winning the Innovation Unit Award for Entrepreneurship in 2020 and the Best FinTech Company in the Middle East Award in 2024.

During the meeting with HH Sayyid Bilarab, the company’s specialists presented their regional expansion plans, which include entering regional and international markets to strengthen the pres-

ence of Omani startups abroad. HH Sayyid Bilarab lauded the company’s successes in leveraging modern technologies to enhance digital payment and collection systems, emphasizing the importance of startups continuing to develop their capabilities and keep pace with global innovations.

Accompanying HH Sayyid Bilarab during the visit were Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications,

and Information Technology; Dr. Saif bin Abdullah Al Haddabi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation for Research and Innovation; Eng. Said bin Abdullah Al Mantheri, CEO of Oman Information and Communications Technology Group (ITHCA); and members of the Supervisory Committee of the Programme of Omani Promising Startups (POPS).

— ONA



OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

OETC ensures full preparedness for summer 2025 energy demand surge

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the reliability and sustainability of the electricity transmission network, the Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC), a member of the Nama Group, has confirmed its full readiness and the preparedness of its technical teams and operational systems to respond to the expected increase in energy demand during the summer of 2025, which is anticipated to see a significant rise in loads by more than 10%.

This confirmation comes following a series of specialized technical workshops organized by OETC, aimed at reviewing summer load forecasts, discussing best practices for economically efficient operation of generation units, and showcasing innovative technical solutions that can support the efficiency of operations and enhance the stability of the electrical network across the Sultanate’s governorates.

The workshops included reviews of key new projects and Grid Stations that have recently entered or are expected to enter service before the summer. Notably, the 400 kV overhead lines project connect-



ing Ibri and Rustaq to Al Jafnain in Muscat Governorate was highlighted for its role in improving network performance. The sessions also covered the condition of assets that underwent meticulous maintenance, discussed the challenges faced by technical teams during maintenance operations, and explored the effective solutions implemented to overcome them. Additionally, the workshops addressed topics related to OETC’s five-year plans to develop the network and strengthen its infrastructure.

In this context, Eng. Sultan Al Rawahi, General Manager of the

Load Dispatch Center (LDC) at OETC, stated regarding the readiness of teams and electrical systems: “All vital systems and technical teams at the company are fully prepared to operate with high efficiency during the upcoming period. With more than 1000 megawatts of clean solar energy added, the production capacity from renewable sources has increased to over 1550 megawatts. This will significantly impact power distribution operations, diversify energy sources, and address the challenges of integrating them into the network. This ensures contin-

ued service at the highest levels of quality and reliability throughout the summer, a season that typically witnesses a marked increase in power demand across all sectors”.

Al Rawahi added: “OETC is committed to reviewing and monitoring all operational processes to ensure they are implemented according to the highest standards of quality and efficiency, with the goal of enhancing the sustainability of the electricity network across the Sultanate. These efforts include training campaigns, field visits, and development studies aimed at improving the capabilities of technical teams, increasing the adoption of modern technologies, and embracing innovative, smart solutions aligned with sector developments.”

It is worth noting that OETC is the entity responsible for transmitting and managing electricity within the national transmission network, which operates at high voltages of 132 kV and above. The company transmits electricity from production plants to load centers across all governorates of the Sultanate. Additionally, it manages the 220 kV interconnection lines between Oman and the GCC Interconnection Network.

REINFORCING OMAN’S TOURISM VISION



Omran gears up for Arabian Travel Market 2025

MUSCAT: Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) announces its participation in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025, taking place from 28 April to 1 May in the city of Dubai. The Group will participate under the Sultanate of Oman’s official pavilion, managed by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MoHT), alongside key tourism stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

Omran Group’s participation reflects its ongoing efforts to support national initiatives aimed at expanding Oman’s global tourism reach, strengthening partnerships, and attracting strategic investments

Omran Group’s participation reflects its ongoing efforts to support national initiatives aimed at expanding Oman’s global tourism reach, strengthening partnerships, and attracting strategic investments

Through its diverse portfolio of integrated destinations, world-class hospitality assets, and sustainable tourism developments, Omran Group continues to play a vital role in advancing projects that align with the National Tourism Strategy and the broader goals of economic diversification.

Commenting on the Group’s participation, Hashil Obaid Al Mahrouqi, Chief Executive Officer of Omran Group, said: “Our presence at Arabian Travel Market underscores Omran’s commitment to supporting the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in showcasing Oman as a promising and competitive tourism destination. ATM serves as a global platform to present our key initiatives and hospitality assets while engaging with inter-

national stakeholders to explore collaborative opportunities that contribute to Oman’s tourism growth story.”

The event also provides Omran Group with the opportunity to engage with global tourism professionals and industry leaders, gaining valuable insights into emerging trends, innovations, and best practices in tourism development.

Omran Group’s participation in ATM 2025 supports the broader objective of enhancing Oman’s visibility and appeal in international tourism markets. It offers a platform for the Group to reaffirm its commitment to collaborative efforts that advance the national tourism agenda, while contributing to shaping informed, forward-looking conversations with global stakeholders.

GROWTH

Engineering goods exports from India reach record high in 2024-25, hit \$116.7bn

NEW DELHI: Registering a year-on-year growth of 6.74 per cent, engineering goods exports from India reached its all-time high of \$116.67 billion in fiscal 2024-25, surpassing the previous high of \$112.10 billion achieved in fiscal 2021-22. The value of total engineering exports stood at \$109.30 billion in 2023-24.

While the US remained the top destination for Indian engineering exports in 2024-25, significant export growth was also noted in the UAE, Singapore, Nepal, Japan, and France, according to the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC), which issued a statement on Sunday.

Engineering goods exports to

the US grew 8.7 per cent to USD 19.15 billion in 2024-25 from USD 17.62 billion in 2023-24.

Notably, engineering exports outweighed the broader merchandise exports in terms of growth as India’s exports saw a marginal 0.08 per cent year-on-year increase in 2024-25. As a result, the share of engineering exports in India’s overall merchandise exports increased to 26.67 per cent in 2024-25 from 25.01 per cent in the previous fiscal.

Remarkable

“The performance of Indian engineering exports was remarkable in 2024-25 as it came during a period of extreme global uncertainty following geopolitical disturbances

and economic slowdown in major developed and emerging nations. This was further aggravated by US President Donald Trump’s decision to raise import duty on dozens of its trade partners, including India,” said Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India.

As many as 28 out of 34 engineering panels recorded positive growth. In comparison, the remaining six engineering panels, including iron and steel, as well as non-ferrous sectors such as copper and aluminium products, office equipment, other construction machinery, and mica products, recorded negative growth during April-March 2024-25, the Council stated.

North America maintained its spot as the number one export destination with a share of 20.5 per cent, followed by the EU (17.1 per cent) and West Asia and North Africa (16.7 per cent) in 2024-25.

In cumulative terms, all regions experienced growth, barring Oceania (-10.4 per cent) and the EU (-1.9 per cent) in the financial year ending March 2025.

Despite achieving a record high figure in 2024-25, Indian engineering exports declined every month in March 2025. Engineering exports in March 2025 were recorded at USD 10.82 billion, down from USD 11.27 billion in March 2024, representing a 3.92 per cent year-over-year decline. —ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Maha Ceramics, up 9.64%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 10.00%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,279.21 points, up by 0.13% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.63% at 397.70 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 9.64%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 10.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1135 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 9.1 million, with more than 60.69 million shares changing hands. Out of 54 traded securities, 19 advanced, 12 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 92K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 86K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 6K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,518.93 points, up 0.22%. Prices of Liva Group, Al Sharqia Investment, Oman & Emirates

Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Global Financial Investments were up by 2.96%, 2.86%, 1.56%, 1.27%, 1.25% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman United Insurance, Ominvest were down by 4.17%, 0.94%, 0.46% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,758.63 points, up 0.83%. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Flour Mills were up by 9.64%, 9.45%, 1.16% respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Gulf International Chemicals, A'Saffa Foods, Oman Cement were down by 5.11%, 2.99%, 2.20%, 0.26% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.07% before closing at 1,532.89 points. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Muscat Gases, SMN Power Holding, Phoenix Power, Ooredoo were up by 6.76%, 4.94%, 4.09%, 1.70%, 1.21% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Al Suwadi Power, Renaissance Services were down by 10.00%, 1.49%, 0.35% respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index.....	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value.....	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,279.21	4,255.65	4,279.21	4,273.44	5.77	0.13	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,518.93	7,484.30	7,518.93	7,502.49	16.44	0.22	
Industry Index	5,776.71	5,710.25	5,758.63	5,711.31	47.32	0.83	
Services Index	1,538.37	1,528.38	1,532.89	1,533.94	-1.05	-0.07	
MSX Shariah Index	398.20	393.30	397.70	391.33	6.38	1.63	
MSX TR INDEX	6,325.31	6,290.49	6,325.31	6,316.78	8.53	0.13	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,910.87	8,869.83	8,910.87	8,891.39	19.48	0.22	
SERVICES TR IDX	7,008.71	7,017.04	7,076.49	7,018.34	58.15	0.83	
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,956.09	1,943.38	1,949.13	1,950.46	-1.33	-0.07	
	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
	60,690,476	9,103,727	1,135	27,058,483,053	19	12	23	54

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 27

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (IND)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	944,436	117,377	16	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.127	0.012	9.449	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.100	30,580,000
OM0000004440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	37,128	2,652	7	0.071	0.074	0.071	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO	148,600	9,214	13	0.062	0.066	0.062	0.065	0.064	0.001	1.563	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.100	7,921,875
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	50,700	4,108	5	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000002988	OOREDOO	33,689	5,636	10	0.168	0.168	0.165	0.167	0.165	0.002	1.212	0.165	0.165	0.167	0.100	108,707,686
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,435,521	327,822	47	0.228	0.230	0.226	0.230	0.228	0.002	0.877	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.100	1,771,460,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,894,302	473,453	28	0.250	0.253	0.249	0.253	0.251	0.002	0.797	0.253	0.253	0.250	0.100	1,899,118,457
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	256,948	208,160	35	0.815	0.817	0.811	0.817	0.814	0.003	0.369	0.817	0.811	0.817	0.100	612,750,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENGG & INVESTMENT	10,306	1,195	2	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.100	17,480,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	30,000	1,680	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.100	19,943,129
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	32,765,785	4,225,963	108	0.129	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	860,242,015
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	36,672	2,788	9	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	13,300,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	227,917	15,408	12	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	45,892,345
OM0000008072	QO GAS NETWORKS	13,328,345	1,687,649	141	0.128	0.128	0.126	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.100	554,319,862
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	3,819	1,470	9	0.385	0.385	0.384	0.384	0.385	-0.001	-0.269	0.384	0.384	0.385	0.100	127,055,121
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	960	277	1	0.289	0.289	0.289	0.289	0.289	-0.001	-0.345	0.289	0.288	0.290	0.100	68,322,490
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	9,953	2,185	3	0.220	0.220	0.219	0.219	0.220	-0.001	-0.455	0.219	0.216	0.219	0.100	204,920,840
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	21,500	4,520	5	0.211	0.211	0.210	0.211	0.213	-0.002	-0.939	0.211	0.210	0.214	0.100	21,100,000
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	128,400	8,426	13	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.483	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	47,150,918
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	100	40	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.409	-0.009	-2.200	0.400	0.380	0.400	0.100	48,000,000
Total		20	51,263,081	7,101,117	467											

Parallel Market																
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	26,378	4,801	12	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.166	0.016	9.629	0.182	0.180	0.000	0.100	10,010,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	1,189,623	191,006	119	0.156	0.162	0.156	0.158	0.148	0.010	6.757	0.158	0.159	0.162	0.100	6,769,193
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	20,100	1,669	5	0.083	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.081	0.004	4.938	0.085	0.082	0.084	0.100	2,550,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	100	23	1	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.220	0.009	4.081	0.229	0.213	0.233	0.100	45,716,532
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	10,000	2,780	2	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.270	0.008	2.963	0.278	0.000	0.275	0.100	110,746,067
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	148,800	8,928	11	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	465,691	36,801	29	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	22,965,610
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,700	738	3	0.432	0.437	0.432	0.437	0.432	0.005	1.157	0.437	0.425	0.437	0.100	72,398,875
OM0000009908	QO BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	4,211,274	426,974	231	0.101	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	352,868,067
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	2,500	265	1	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.852	0.106	0.106	0.115	0.100	9,540,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	10,000	710	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	6,035,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	24,100	1,603	3	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.045	0.047	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,048	2,164	3	2.065	2.065	2.065	2.065	2.065	0.000	0.000	2.065	2.065	2.065	0.100	185,230,500
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	76	12	1	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.156	0.000	0.100	364,196,907
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	185	41	1	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.218	0.001	0.000	0.219	0.215	0.219	0.100	9,976,944
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	100	24	1	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.212	0.235	0.100	42,261,789
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	2,000	666	1	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.000	0.000	0.333	0.300	0.333	0.100	23,812,444
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PROD MARKTG	800	830	2	1.020	1.040	1.020	1.040	1.040	0.000	0.000	1.040	1.020	1.040	0.100	71,760,000
OM0000003521	GALEAF ENGG & CONTRACTING	180,407	12,089	21	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.073	0.100	13,600,952
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	693,750	68,028	22	0.098	0.100	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.100	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	1,000	67	2	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.065	0.067	0.100	10,421,877
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	83,705	6,446	14	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.067	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	39,164,610
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	3,093	362	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.119	0.100	69,198,115
OM0000009759	QO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	631,009	172,701	93	0.275	0.275	0.273	0.274	0.275	-0.001	-0.364	0.274	0.270	0.274	0.0102	192,000,000
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	345,537	36,431	56	0.106	0.106	0.104	0.104	0.107	-0.003	-2.804	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	541,709,405
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	34,668	2,290	6	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.065	0.067	-0.002	-2.885	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.100	1,365,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	56,318	2,589	6	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.048	-0.002	-4.167	0.046	0.045	0.049	0.100	3,910,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	19,186	12,532	7	0.655	0.655	0.631	0.631	0.665	-0.034	-5.113	0.631	0.600	0.640	0.100	59,069,905
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	195	53	1	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.300	-0.030	-10.000	0.270	0.000	0.270	0.100	43,300,000
Total		29	8,173,143	993,621	656											

OFFICIAL DATA

China's international trade in goods, services hits \$592bn



BEIJING,: The value of China's international trade in goods and services reached 4.27 trillion yuan (about \$592.57 billion) in March 2025, up 6 % year-on-year, official data showed. Of the total, the export of goods stood at 2.13 trillion yuan and the imports reached 152 trillion yuan, resulting in a surplus of 603.4 billion yuan, Xinhua News Agency said.

The export of services reached 239.3 billion yuan and the import reached 379.1 billion yuan, resulting in a deficit of 139.8 billion yuan, according to data from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange. In US dollar terms, the country's exports of goods and services amounted to \$329.9 billion in March. -ONA

UN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD expects global growth to slow to 2.3% in 2025





WHY BRAZIL FACES A WATER CRISIS

Brazil has been enduring severe water shortages, from the Amazon rainforest to the Pantanal wetlands. Here's what the South American country is getting wrong

Home to the largest river in the world by volume, the Amazon, Brazil holds about 12% of global freshwater reserves. As a result, many Brazilians have long run with the narrative that their water is abundant. But that is changing.

“This myth needs to be broken because we are seeing a series of problems related to water use and a change in availability,” said Juliano Schirmbeck, technical coordinator of a MapBiomias report on water.

For the past four years, the Brazilian monitoring platform has been going through an archive of satellite images, dating all the way back to 1985, to track the area of aquatic surfaces in Brazil month by month.

On average, these areas have been shrinking over the past decades, with recent years particularly badly affected. Just from 2023 to last year, the country lost about 400,000 hectares of water surface. That's more than five times the size of Singapore.

Last year, Brazil was plagued by water shortages from the north to the south. Authorities declared a state of water scarcity in five major river basins, and wildfires ravaged the Amazon rainforest and Pantanal wetlands after months of drought.

The trend lays bare an uncomfortable truth. Even countries with vast freshwater resources, like Brazil, are at risk of water crises due to deforestation, climate change and poor management.

Water crises affect Brazilians' wallets

Brazil has experienced three major water crises in recent history — in 2001, 2014-2015 and 2021. These years were marked by low rainfall leading to water rationing, failing crops and power outages, as the country generates around 60% of its electricity from hydropower. And that has had an impact on Brazilians' pocketbooks.

“During the drought in 2021, electricity prices went up, food prices went up,” said Augusto Getirana, a research scientist at

NASA's Hydrological Sciences Laboratory.

And such impacts are felt beyond Brazil, which is a leading exporter of beef, soy, corn and sugar.

“A water crisis in Brazil is a world crisis,” said Getirana.

Deforestation increasing in 'Brazil's water tank'

But it is Brazil's role as an agribusiness powerhouse that threatens the nature that provides it with so much water.

Crops and pastures require vast amounts of space. And, historically, businesses and farmers have acquired this land by clearing forest, often illegally.

Most of that deforestation is now happening in the Cerrado, a savanna that many refer to as “Brazil's water tank.” Its trees' roots go deep underground, bringing rainwater to aquifers that replenish some of the country's most important springs.

The Cerrado lost 8,174.17 square kilometres (3,156.06 square miles) of vegetation from August 2023 to July 2024, according to the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE). That's about 2,000 square kilometers more than in the Amazon.

“This project of turning Brazil into a farm for the world is promoting the loss of entire ecosystems,” said Luciana Gatti, a senior researcher for INPE. And that has implications across Brazil and abroad.

'Flying rivers' provide vital rainfall

That's because the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest, also plays a crucial role in Brazil's water cycle.

Winds from the east bring water that has evaporated from the Atlantic Ocean to the Amazon, where it falls as rain. Like giant pumps, the trees soak up the water and release it back into the atmosphere. This way, the forest produces a large part of its own rainfall.

But some of the moisture the trees transpire also travels past the Andes to central and southern regions of Brazil and on to Argentina



and Paraguay through humid air currents known as “flying rivers.”

“If you transform the Amazon rainforest into a giant cattle pasture, those flying rivers won't be there,” said Philip Fearnside of Brazil's National Institute for Research in Amazonia.

That could have disastrous consequences for cities like Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, where the “flying rivers” act as a vital source of rain.

“There is no more leeway to lose water when it comes to that part of Brazil,” Fearnside added, remembering how Sao Paulo struggled during the 2014 crisis.

“The city almost ran out of water,” Fearnside said. “If that drought had lasted a little longer,

it would have been a huge catastrophe.”

Climate change intensifies the problem

Some of the droughts Brazil has experienced in recent years were made many times more likely by climate change.

Of course, growing water consumption and natural phenomena like El Nino also played their part. But when emissions heat the atmosphere, that can raise temperatures and change rainfall in complex ways. It often falls in intense and spaced-out bursts rather than moderately over a longer period.

That's how one part of Brazil could go through crippling drought and the other through devastating

floods last year.

These types of extremes make it ever more important for Brazil to properly manage its freshwater resources.

“Brazil's economy and policies have been built around the idea that it's a water-rich country. Water management has focused on hydropower,” said Getirana.

That means protecting water sources from pollution, drainage or overuse often takes a backseat politically. To step it up, Brazil urgently needs to collect more data, he added.

Numbers on water above and below the ground

Schirmbeck, who coordinated the MapBiomias report, said analyzing

satellite images of rivers and lakes helps track weather extremes. The area of water surfaces can reflect how rain patterns change over the years.

“It's a fast-acting parameter when we speak of climate change,” he said.

Beyond that, Getirana also hopes to see Brazil step up its data collection on groundwater. Since more than 80% of the population meets its needs with surface water, groundwater could become a backup plan.

“If your river dries out, you can go for your groundwater,” said Getirana. “But you need data and research to understand how much water you can get from aquifers without depleting them.”

Brazil currently monitors its groundwater at around 400 sites — a number that pales in comparison to the North American network's 16,000 sites. In India, it's 22,000.

And there are many more factors that can be measured. How much water do certain communities need? What sources are available to them? What are the levels of pollution?

Because it's only by surveilling and managing its freshwater that Brazil can keep track of its reserves to see if they are as abundant as many like to say they are. **-DW**

SPORTS

Barcelona edge Real Madrid to lift Copa de Rey in Seville

Kounde slams decisive goal in extra-time to give Catalan giants win after a stormy final

SEVILLE: Jules Kounde lashed in an extra-time screamer as Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-2 to win the Copa del Rey in a remarkable Clasico in Seville on Sunday.

After a 2-2 draw in 90 minutes and with penalties appearing inevitable, the Barcelona defender took possession of the ball 22 yards out and drilled a fine effort into the bottom corner.

Barca had been by far the better side in the first half and led through Pedri's fantastic first-time strike from outside the box after Lamine Yamal's cut-back.

Real improved dramatically after Kylian Mbappe came on as a substitute, and he curled a free-kick, which he had won, into the bottom corner via the inside of the post.

Aurelien Tchouameni then headed Real ahead from Arda Guler's corner. But Barcelona levelled when Ferran Torres ran onto Yamal's long ball and rounded goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois before slotting in.

Hansi Flick's side thought they had a chance to win it in injury time when they were awarded a penalty for a Raul Asencio tackle on Raphinha but the decision was overturned after a long video assistant referee check.

That meant the game went to extra-time, when Kounde's fourth goal of the season was the difference.

The build-up to the game had been dominated by scrutiny of the match officials - and it finished with Antonio Rudiger and Lucas



Vazquez being shown straight red cards from the Real bench.

That was the last meaningful act of a first Clasico final in a major tournament since 2014, when Gareth Bale scored a fantastic late winner for Real in a 2-1 victory.

England midfielder Jude Bellingham was also sent off after the final whistle for angrily confronting officials.

The pre-match build-up had focused on referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea and Real Madrid.

Real's TV channel published a video criticising the referee in various aspects, as they have done with other officials, and he talked about the impact that had on him at an emotional news conference on Friday.

The club distributed highly critical press releases that evening, but denied reports they could pull out of the game.

That backdrop meant every decision the referee made was going to be under scrutiny, but to neu-

tral observers there were none too controversial.

Both teams had goals ruled out for clear offside - and Mbappe was denied a penalty for another clear offside in the build-up.

But the major talking point came in the 96th minute with the game at 2-2.

Asencio slid in on Raphinha, and De Burgos Bengoetxea pointed to the spot. But after a check of over three minutes he came back and booked Raphinha for diving before overturning the decision.

Right at the end of the 120 minutes, it all boiled over. As Mbappe tried to shrug an opponent off, the referee gave a free-kick against him.

The Real bench were furious. Several players ran onto the pitch and Rudiger appeared to throw something at the official.

Rudiger, who had to be held back by several team-mates, and Vazquez were dismissed, and moments later the final whistle went to confirm Barcelona's win.

Bellingham also had to be restrained by team-mates after approaching officials in "an aggressive attitude", for which he was sent off.

Flick's first major Barca trophy

Former Bayern Munich boss Flick has now won all three Clasicos since taking charge of Barca in the summer.

One was the Spanish Super Cup final, but this counts as his first major trophy with the Catalans.

Conversely, it could have been Carlo Ancelotti's last chance to add one final crown at Real. The Italian legend is widely expected to be replaced at the end of the season - and they sit four points behind La Liga leaders Barca, although there is one more Clasico to come in the league.

The fourth and final Clasico of the season, in La Liga on 11 May, could go a long way to deciding if Barcelona will win the double. In fact Barcelona could win the treble, as they face Inter Milan in the Champions League semis. - Agencies

ITALIAN COACH

Real boss Ancelotti set for Brazil talks

MADRID: Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti is set for more talks about taking over as Brazil coach before the 2026 World Cup qualifiers in June.

The 65-year-old Italian will meet representatives acting on behalf of the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF).

Ancelotti said his future was "a topic for the next weeks, not today", following Real's stormy Copa del Rey final defeat by Barcelona in Seville on Saturday.

However, Brazilian businessman Diego Fernandes, who has been acting on behalf of the CBF, was spotted at the match.

It is understood Fernandes' latest visit to Europe includes a plan to try to persuade Ancelotti to take the Brazil job as soon as the Spanish domestic season is over.

That would mean Ancelotti leav-



ing Real before this summer's Club World Cup in the United States.

Ancelotti is the No.1 choice to replace Dorival Junior, who was sacked after Brazil's 4-1 defeat

by old rivals Argentina in Buenos Aires last month.

Brazil are fourth in the South American World Cup qualification table.

While they are not in any danger of failing to qualify for the expanded 48-team tournament to be jointly held in the United States, Canada and Mexico next year, the CBF feel Ancelotti would give Brazil the best chance of winning it.

The CBF previously wanted to appoint Ancelotti for last summer's Copa America but failed in their pursuit. Ancelotti has won two La Liga and three Champions League titles across two spells at Real, including both trophies last season.

However, his side are four points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona with five matches remaining and were beaten 5-1 on aggregate by Arsenal in the Champions League quarter-finals. Bayer Leverkusen's Xabi Alonso is reportedly a candidate to replace Ancelotti at the Bernabeu. - Agencies

COPA DEL REY

Rudiger apologises for throwing object at referee



SEVILLE: Antonio Rudiger has apologised after being sent off for throwing an object at the referee during Real Madrid's Copa del Rey final defeat by Barcelona.

Rudiger and Real team-mate Lucas Vazquez, who had both been substituted, were shown straight red cards for angrily reacting to a foul given against Kylian Mbappe shortly before the final whistle.

Real's England midfielder Jude Bellingham, 21, was also later sent off for dissent.

Referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea said in his report that centre-back Rudiger, 32, was dismissed for "throwing an object from the technical area, which missed me". Rudiger reportedly threw an ice cube at the official, external.

"There's definitely no excuse for my behaviour," Rudiger posted on an Instagram story. "I'm very

sorry for that. "Sorry again to the referee and to everyone I have disappointed."

The Germany defender could be facing a lengthy ban, according to the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) disciplinary code.

If sanctioned under article 101, which covers "assault against referees", states players may be banned for three to six months if "the act was a single act and did not cause any harmful consequences".

If the act is deemed as having posed a "serious risk" even without the referee requiring medical attention, the suspension could extend to between six months and a year. - Agencies

ATHLETICS

London to bid for 2029 World Athletics Championships

LONDON: London will bid to host the 2029 World Athletics Championships after a feasibility study found the competition could bring a £400m benefit to the economy.

Athletic Ventures - a body made up of UK Athletics (UKA), the Great Run Company and London Marathon Events - is behind the move to bring the event back to the capital.

London hosted the World Championships in 2017, while Birmingham will host the Europeans in 2026.

A formal expression of interest will be submitted to World Athletics in September with the bid dependent on securing £45m in government support for delivery.

"London 2017 showed the world what this city and this country can do," said UK Athletics president and Olympic gold



medallist Dame Denise Lewis.

"It was an incredible example of how we can unite behind a vision - full stadiums, global energy and a lasting impact. I was proud to help bring that event to life, and I know we can do it again in 2029.

"It's a powerful reminder of what this city - and this country - can achieve.

"Global sporting events generate far more than just medals - they ignite economies, inspire communities, and shine a light on everything we have to offer as a nation."

This year's World Championships will take place in Tokyo, Japan while China's capital Beijing will host the 2027 event. - Agencies

BOXING RIVALRY

Eubank outpoints bitter rival Benn in emotional fight

LONDON: Chris Eubank Jr narrowly beat bitter foe Conor Benn as one of Britain's most rancorous and long-running boxing rivalries lived up to the hype at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Sunday.

Both fighters showed wild aggression, taking the centre of the ring and letting their hands go in a 12-round edge-of-your-seat fire-fight. Neither boxer could land the telling blow but it was the experience of Eubank, 35, which prevailed as all three judges scored it 116-112.

He claims bragging rights in a family feud which began 35 years ago when their legendary fathers first fought.

"I knew I could do that, I just needed someone to bring that out of me and I didn't think that he would be the guy to do that," Eubank said. - Agencies

Lexus introduces all-new LX 700h featuring advanced hybrid system

The introduction of this new LX trim highlights Lexus’ commitment to bringing the best-in-class innovative and luxury products for enriching the ownership experience for its customers

MUSCAT: Built to tackle rough terrains, Lexus is pleased to announce a new addition to the flagship LX SUV series: the all-new LX 700h, featuring an advanced hybrid system.

The introduction of this new LX trim highlights Lexus’ commitment to bringing the best-in-class innovative and luxury products for enriching the ownership experience for its customers.

As powerful as ever, the LX features a twin turbocharged 3.5L V6



engine, producing 341 horsepower and 790 Nm of torque, paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission. The new hybrid system increases fuel efficiency to 10.6 km/l and reduces carbon emissions to 213 g/km. The hybrid control

system intelligently manages the transition between engine-only and motor-only modes, optimizing performance based on driving conditions.

The new Lexus LX 700h prioritizes reliability and durability, en-

suring excellent performance both on-road and off-road. In line with Lexus’ brand philosophy and its efforts toward achieving a net-zero carbon future, this was the only model in the Lexus lineup that did not have a hybrid option.

Marking the start of its electrification journey in the Middle East as part of the Lexus Overtrail project, the LX hybrid combines signature comfort with a range of lifestyle-enhancing options. The driver-focused cockpit features

a Panoramic View Monitor with Multi-Terrain Mode, four cameras, rain-sensing front and rear intermittent wipers, a smart entry system and a head-up display to provide confidence and control. Immerse into elevated luxury with ambient lighting, an illuminated entry system, premium leather seats, and ventilated sporty front seats for all passengers with USB Chargers. Additional features include a wireless charger for the front row and a 10-speaker premium surround sound system with Apple and Android compatibility for seamless connectivity.

Safety remains a top priority at Lexus, thanks to its advanced safety system, and Lexus Safety Sense 3.0, which consists of a Pre-Collision System, Lane Departure Alert, Lane Tracing Assist, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Auto High Beam, and other notable features.

Beloved in over 90 countries worldwide, the LX also offers a variety of exhilarating trim levels, including the 7-seater LX Turbo Sport, 5-seater LX Sports Edition, and the confidence-inspiring 4-seater Lexus Grandeur or Kuro, each meticulously crafted to provide a refined driving experience. Lexus’ LX series is known for its compelling blend of luxury, power, and rugged capability—the 2025 LX models continue that legacy.

DIVE AWARDS



Sohar International wins ‘Bank of the Year in Digital Innovation’ award

MUSCAT: In recognition of its outstanding contributions to advancing digital banking through the use of cutting-edge technology to enhance customer experience, streamline operations, and drive transformation across its services, Sohar International was honored with the ‘Bank of the Year in Digital Innovation’ Award at the DLive Awards 2025.

The accolade was presented during the exclusive DLive Conference, organized by Muscat Media Group and held at the JW Marriott Hotel, OCEC, Muscat. Under the compelling theme ‘The Next in Digital Innovation’, the event brought together more than 150 influential C-level executives, government dignitaries, technology innovators, industry specialists, and digital transformation professionals. Ahmed bin Jaafar Al-Musalmi, Governor of the Central Bank of Oman, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. Representing Sohar International at the ceremony were Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Government and Private Banking Officer, and Sajeel Bashiruddin, Chief Digital Officer—reflecting the bank’s unwavering dedication to spearheading transformative digital solutions within Oman’s banking sector.

Commenting on this significant achievement, Abdulwahid Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, “This recognition highlights Sohar International’s strategic commitment to digital innovation—integrated across every function of our organization. We strive to anticipate evolving customer expectations and respond with intelligent, user-centric solutions that drive both efficiency

and experience. By embedding advanced digital capabilities into our framework, we’ve fostered a culture of continuous improvement and agility. Our transformation journey extends beyond systems and platforms; it delivers tangible impact for individuals, businesses, and society at large, while contributing meaningfully to Oman’s economic development. At Sohar International, we view innovation not just as a tool, but as a responsibility—to empower communities and help position Oman as a regional force in digital progress.”

The event served as a platform to explore the future of digital innovation through high-impact discussions and expert insights. Panel discussions at the event covered relevant topics such as ‘Digital Innovation: Advancing Oman’s Vision 2040’ and ‘AI – Shaping the Future of Work, Life and Beyond’ as well as a presentation on ‘Embedding Sustainability into transactions through innovative fintech and blockchain technologies’.

Sohar International’s recognition at this milestone event reflects its forward-thinking approach and consistent leadership in redefining banking excellence. By prioritizing technological innovation, the bank ensures it remains responsive to dynamic market requirements, regulatory landscapes, and global digital trends.

The award reaffirms Sohar International’s role as a catalyst for digital progress. As the bank continues to evolve, it remains committed to delivering meaningful solutions, enhancing community impact, and supporting Oman’s long-term vision.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

MHD Automobiles brings Alfa Romeo experience within reach



MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles, the exclusive distributor of Alfa Romeo in the Sultanate of Oman, announced limited-time special pricing on select Alfa Romeo models. This exclusive offer presents a rare opportunity for automotive enthusiasts to own a piece of Italian performance and design excellence at exceptional value.

The Alfa Romeo Tonale Ti, a compact SUV blending everyday practicality with signature Italian flair, is now available from OMR

13,995. Built for urban living and inspired by Alfa Romeo’s racing heritage, the Tonale is the perfect introduction to the brand.

The Alfa Romeo Giulia Veloce, a sports sedan that strikes a perfect balance between elegance and athleticism, is now priced from OMR 18,995. With rear-wheel drive and a driver-centric cockpit, it offers a dynamic, engaging driving experience.

The Alfa Romeo Stelvio Veloce, known for its commanding road

presence and precision handling, is now available from OMR 21,995. Equipped with all-wheel drive, it delivers refined performance with confidence and comfort.

For enthusiasts seeking uncompromising performance, the Giulia Quadrifoglio delivers pure driving exhilaration with its 2.9L twin-turbocharged V6 engine — a true sports sedan starting from OMR 33,995. For those who desire the same racing DNA with the versatility of an SUV, the Stelvio Quad-

rifoglio combines commanding road presence with precision handling, starting from OMR 36,995.

Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles LLC, commented: “Alfa Romeo is more than a brand — it’s a symbol of passion, performance, and timeless design. With these special prices, we’re inviting more customers in Oman to experience the thrill and prestige of Alfa Romeo ownership.”

Stock is limited and pricing varies by model and variant.

PARTICIPATION

Vodafone Oman returns to Muscat Book Fair with curated experience designed for students and explorers at heart



MUSCAT: Building on its journey of connecting people, Vodafone Oman has returned to the Muscat International Book Fair in its 29th edition with a renewed passion for knowledge. This year, the Vodafone space goes beyond books to offer an engaging experience that celebrates exploration and learning, inspired by the very people who walk through its doors.

Under the theme “Alam Al Maarifa”, Vodafone’s participation reflects its belief that knowledge is not one-size-fits-all; it is personal, evolving, and deeply connected to everyday life. The space is an open platform for discovery, where young minds can discover ideas and explore conversations that speak to their world. At the centre of it all are a series of interactive discussions and workshops featuring voices from across Oman’s

creative and intellectual landscape. From storytelling and travel to music and coffee culture, the sessions promise engaging discussions and inspirational reflections.

Vodafone’s participation this year reaffirms its belief that technology, when placed in the right context, can open new pathways to knowledge, curiosity, and personal growth. “Alam Al Maarifa” is a continuation of the company’s commitment to being where young people are, understanding what drives them, and responding with tools that are relevant to their lives. Whether it’s access to a book, a conversation that inspires, or a solution that simplifies their day, Vodafone is working to redefine what it means to be a telecom partner in today’s world; one that listens, adapts, and grows alongside its community.

ROUND-UP

Alizz Islamic Bank organises tree planting event for its employees

The engagement reflects the bank’s commitment to environmental awareness programmes and fostering a sense of collective responsibility toward both society and the environment driven by a commitment to creating a better future for generations to come

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank organised a tree planting event for the bank’s employees at the head office in Wilayat Baushar.

The engagement reflects the bank’s commitment to environmental awareness programmes and fostering a sense of collective responsibility toward both society and the environment driven by a commitment to creating a better future for generations to come.

Alizz Islamic Bank underlines the importance of raising awareness amongst the public and professionals on climate issues and inspiring collective action that is instrumental to support Oman in

its endeavor to achieve net-zero by 2050 and play its global part in helping realize the UN Sustainable Development Goals related to climate change and sustainability.

Alizz Islamic Bank believes that all sectors should join hands and spread awareness of the environment by starting with their employees. By focusing on the bank staff and fostering this spirit of collaboration, Alizz Islamic Bank is trying to nurture a sense of environmental stewardship in the community. Believing that together, we can significantly help the environment and reduce our carbon footprint.



SUPPORT



Bank Muscat takes part in International Book Fair 2025

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced its strong support for the 29th edition of the Muscat International Book Fair, which is being held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre until 3 May 2025. This year’s fair was inaugurated under the patronage of H.H. Sayyid Dr Fahad bin Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University.

The exhibition reinforces its role as a key cultural event in the Sultanate, striving to enhance community awareness and foster a vibrant cultural movement. This annual gathering ignites interest in reading, offering visitors access to the latest cultural publications and books from local, regional and international publishers.

This year’s festival is experiencing a positive visitor turnout, focused on enriching Omani culture through a variety of events, lectures, and seminars. With participation from 35 countries, the fair showcases over half a million titles from more than 600 publishing houses, including 27,464 Omani publications. The fair also includes a Children’s Corner where an area has been allocated for family activities, a theatre, reading corners and cultural workshops. Notably, North A’Sharqiyah Governorate is this year’s “Guest of Honour”, emphasizing its significant social and cultural contribution while highlighting its rich historical features.

As part of its participation, Bank Muscat will host a live interaction workshop on May 3rd from 1 to 2 pm, focusing on financial literacy through the “Maliyat Academy” initiative and Maliyat Platform. The workshop will fea-

ture a Q&A segment to encourage visitor engagement. This topic was selected to highlight the importance of financial literacy as a vital tool for empowerment in a rapidly evolving world. This initiative aligns with the Bank’s broader strategy to enhance financial awareness and deliver innovative banking solutions that promote financial inclusion and foster a financially literate and stable society.

The Bank is committed to strengthening partnership with governmental, private and non-governmental organisations to effectively organise events and initiatives that promote sustainable development across various sectors in the Sultanate. Through its active participation in social and cultural activities, Bank Muscat deepens its commitment to this cause. The Bank actively collaborates with organisers in order to maximize the achievements of the exhibition, showcasing the richness of Oman’s cultural heritage to an increasingly diverse audience.

As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate for the past four decades, Bank Muscat has the largest banking network in Oman, including ATMs and CDMs at various locations, including the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This network offers customers a fast, secure, and convenient banking experience for various transactions, including cash withdrawals, real-time bill payments, fund transfers, and PIN management, available 24/7 across all governorates. Additionally, Bank Muscat’s Mobile Banking app provides a range of services, allowing visitors to complete transactions, including book purchases at the exhibition.

TELECOM SPONSOR

Awasm powers knowledge and connection at 29th Muscat International Book Fair 2025

MUSCAT: Awasm, the leading fiber-optic broadband service provider in Oman, is proud to announce its participation as the official Telecom Sponsor of the highly anticipated 29th Muscat International Book Fair, taking place from 24th of April to the 3rd of May 2025 at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

While AWASR’s sponsorship focuses on supporting the infrastructure and overall experience of the book fair, the company is particularly excited to highlight ASHAL, its complimentary educational platform available to all AWASR customers. This initiative underscores AWASR’s deep commitment to fostering education and providing valuable resources to families across the Sultanate.

“AWASR is delighted to be the Telecom Sponsor of the 29th Muscat International Book Fair,” said Eng Adnan Al Alawi, CEO of AWASR. “We believe that providing access to quality education is paramount. ASHAL represents our commitment to going beyond just providing internet connectivity. We want to empower our customers with tools that support their growth and development, and we are proud to offer this platform completely free of charge.”

Visitors to AWASR’s booth, located at the book fair, will have the opportunity to learn more about AWASR’s cutting-edge fiber-optic technology and its wide range of



internet packages designed to meet the diverse needs of homes and businesses across Oman. AWASR team will be on hand to answer questions, provide demonstrations, and offer exclusive promotions during the book fair.

“We believe that access to infor-

mation and knowledge is crucial in today’s digital age,” added Eugen Comendant, AWASR’s Chief Commercial Officer.

“Our partnership with the Muscat International Book Fair reflects our dedication to empowering individuals through connec-

tivity and supporting initiatives that promote learning and cultural enrichment.”

Visit AWASR’s booth at the 29th Muscat International Book Fair to discover how their advanced internet solutions can enhance your digital life.

SERVICES FOR MODERN LIFE

BankDhofar Ladies Account continues to offer wide range of financial and lifestyle benefits

MUSCAT: Designed to cater to the needs of Omani and expatriate women across the Sultanate, BankDhofar’s Ladies Account continues to offer a wide range of financial and lifestyle benefits. It boasts improved benefits including, a higher interest rate on high yield accounts, and exclusive merchant offers.

The key feature of the enhanced offering is the visually distinctive new vertical purple debit card, providing a modern and personalised way for Ladies Account holders to manage their finances. Additionally, account holders benefit from the preferential high yield interest rates of up to 4.15 percent on savings, allowing customers to grow their wealth while maintaining easy access to their funds.

Additionally, the Bank recently launched an exclusive credit card, offering a range of services such as exemption from annual fees for the first year, and benefiting from exclusive rewards through the



reward points program that can be redeemed through the mobile banking application or website. In addition BankDhofar’s Ladies credit card also offers unlimited airport lounge access in Muscat, Salalah and Duqum, comprehensive travel and purchase protection, and global acceptance in millions of locations across the world.

Commenting on the significance of the account, Amjad Al Lawati,

Chief Retail Banking Officer of BankDhofar said, “BankDhofar has long been dedicated to serving the specific financial needs of women in Oman through the Ladies Account. Introduction of the exclusive vertical purple debit card, alongside other enhanced benefits, underscores our ongoing commitment to this important segment.

The account is open to female Omani nationals and expatriates

aged 23 years or above, with the minimum age of 18 years for those who have their salary assigned to BankDhofar.”

The bank’s strategy is centered on providing an exceptional and unique experience to customers through distinctive and exclusive services and offers, and deepening existing relationships and retaining them. The bank anchors on relationship banking growth oriented model built on customer centricity, accountability, collaboration, performance driven.

BankDhofar’s extensive branch network of 131 branches, including Dhofar Islamic across Sultanate of Oman ensures convenient access for all customers. The bank also provides comprehensive mobile banking services, including bill payments (mobile and utility), cardless cash withdrawals, and Dhofar Pay, Apple Pay, and Samsung Pay activation, facilitating seamless and secure financial management.

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