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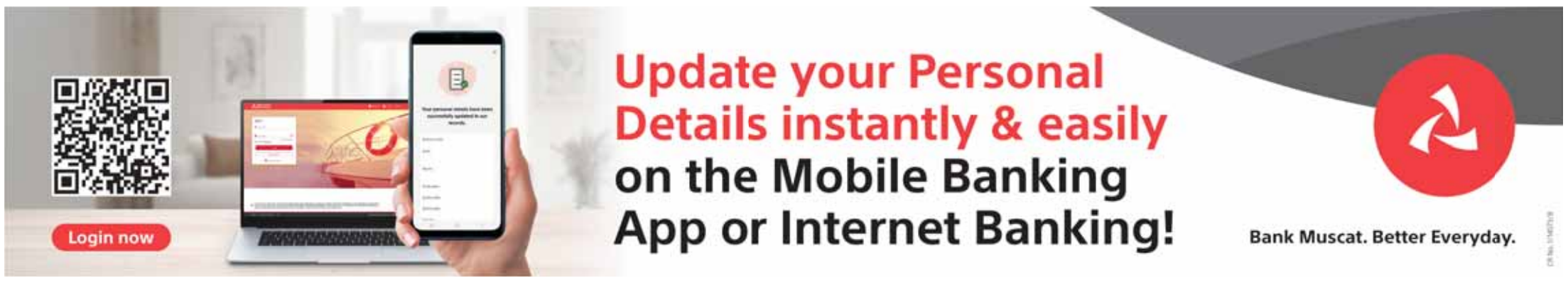

EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS

ROP extends ID card validity for citizens and expatriates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has announced amendments to the Executive Regulations of the Civil Status Law, extending the validity period of ID cards for both citizens and expatriates.

Under Decision No. 78/2025, issued by Lieutenant General Hassan Mohsin Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, the validity of expatriate resident cards has been increased from two years to a maximum of three years.

Expatriate resident cards will now be available with three validity options:
One year: OMR5 (issuance/renewal)
Two years: OMR10
Three years: OMR15

Cardholders must renew their resident card within 30 days of expiry to remain compliant with regulations.

Validity

For Omani citizens, the validity of the national ID card has been doubled from five years to ten years, with issuance and renewal fees set at OMR10. The same fee applies for lost or damaged card replacements. The last amendment to the Executive Regulations came in 2021, when a new category allowed the issuance of ID cards to citizens and residents from the age of 10, with optional issuance for younger applicants under specific guidelines.

RAFO band achieves success in European Pipe Band Championships A4

SMART CITY: OMAN BLENDING MODERNITY WITH HERITAGE

Sultan Haitham City is a prime example of smart cities, striking a balance between modernity and cultural distinctiveness

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is striving to develop smart cities that align with contemporary demands while fostering a connection between the past and present, embodying national identity and its imperatives as part of urban transformation.

The vision for the construction sector emphasises enhancing the harmony between heritage and modernity through innovative and distinctive approaches. This is clearly reflected in the integrated efforts to promote urban sustainability and human-centric development. Smart cities are being shaped by strategies that redefine the relationship between people and space, improve infrastructure, enhance quality of life, and accelerate economic growth.

National identity and its requirements are evident in projects aligned with "Oman Vision 2040." Sultan Haitham City stands as a prime example of smart cities, striking a balance between modernity and cultural distinctiveness while serving as a model for future urban development and a promising investment destination.

In this context, Hassan bin Ali Al Shukri, an architect at the Executive Office for Smart City Projects in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, states: "Smart cities in Oman are not merely digital infrastructures but tools for revitalising identity and improving quality of life. They draw inspiration from traditional Omani architecture and its deep understanding of the environment and societal behaviour. Oman adheres to timeless architectural principles that seamlessly integrate with modern technologies, such as smart sensing systems, lighting control, and climate simulation."

Al Shukri added that traditional Omani architecture offers an advanced functional model, utilising local building materials that reduce emissions and provide natural thermal insulation.

Windows and mashrabiyas (lattice screens) intelligently regulate ventilation and lighting, while compact urban planning incorporates shaded pathways to encourage walking and reduce street heat. He explained that Oman's smart cities take cues from history to shape a future rooted in people's environment and culture, transforming heritage concepts into sustainable practical solutions.

Omani heritage—including systems like aflaj (traditional irrigation), earthen buildings, and narrow alleyways—provides a scalable design framework for smart cities.

These elements become effective tools for reducing energy consumption, improving air quality, guiding pedestrian movement, and enhancing visual and urban harmony.

He emphasised that the foundations of Omani architecture—environmental adaptation, sustainable construction, terrain harmony, and intelligent resource management—must endure in smart cities. >A6

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MUSCAT
38°

ASTRONOMICAL EVENT

Oman's skies to witness peak of Perseid meteor shower tomorrow

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The skies of Oman are currently graced by the Perseid meteor shower, visible to the naked eye across various governorates—particularly in dark locations away from light pollution.

The phenomenon, which will continue until 24 August, will reach its peak from Tuesday evening until the early hours of Wednesday morning.

It is one of the most captivating astronomical events for stargazers and astrophotography enthusiasts worldwide.

"Any place where it is very dark, with no lighting, is recommended. That way, there is no light pollution," an expert said.

Given its pristine natural environment, experts described places such as Ras Al Jinz as quintessential to stargazing.

"Places such as Ras Al Jinz are ideal, but may be a bit far for residents of Muscat. But if they can make it there, then it would be a fantastic experience for them."

He also said, "Towards the beach in Qantab, there are places with no lighting at all and no light pollution. Even the houses are compact. It is also a quiet and ideal environment to watch the meteor showers."

"Yiti, towards the wadi, is another wonderful place for stargazing. The only thing is the mountains, which may obstruct the view," he added.

Under ideal conditions, between 80 and 100 meteors can be seen per hour. However, within cities, the number may be much lower.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
e-payment service for accident damage

1 Muscat Governorate continues to raise awareness about e-services associated with the municipal sector. Requesting payment for damage service from traffic accidents to public properties is one of the digital activities . >A4

OMAN
Omani-Bahraini Products Exhibition

2 The fifth edition of the "Omani-Bahraini Products Exhibition" opened on Sunday in Salalah. The event is organised by the Omani-Bahraini Friendship Association. >A6

SPORTS
School Beach Games Championship starts

3 The first round of the School Beach Games Championship commenced on Sunday with beach handball and beach volleyball competitions, organised by the Omani School Sports Association in Dhofar Governorate. >A8

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:17pm
Asr	3:43pm
Maghrib	6:48pm
Isha	8:04pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:21am

EUROPEAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

RAFO band achieves success

EDINBURGH: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) band made a remarkable appearance at the European Pipe Band Championships in Perth, Scotland.

The band secured first place in the drums category for Grade Four and sixth place overall in the same category, triumphing over 147 bands from around the world.

This achievement is a result of the band's outstanding performance and high level of discipline during the competitions, reflecting its advanced artistic level and professionalism. -ONA

BATON-BEARING COMPETITION

RAO band wins in Scotland

EDINBURGH: Warrant Officer Thani Mohammed Khamis Al Amri, member of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) band, won 6th place in the baton-bearing competition at Grade 5 of the World Music Competition in Scotland.

The competition, held in the Scottish city of Perth, saw the participation of 147 bands from different countries around the world, within 3B category, in preparation for the World Championship that will be held later in Glasgow, Scotland.

Grade 5 included bagpipe and drum competitions, the performance of musical pieces, military discipline and individual baton competitions.

The band has so far won 16 cups and awards across the cities of Renfrew, Dumbarton, Dundonald, Bridge of Allan, and Perth. It will conclude its participation in Glasgow, with the World Bands Competition (World Music Competition). -ONA

Conference aims to enhance innovation, professional growth

The programme includes dialogue sessions and workshops that address key issues related to labor market changes and future skills

SALALAH: The Conference on Government Transformation and Sustainable Leadership began on Sunday in the Wilayat of Salalah, the Governorate of Dhofar.

Organised by the Ministry of Labour over three days as part of the Labour Forum 2025, the conference brings together experts and specialists from Oman and other GCC countries.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Salim Mustahail Al Maashani, Advisor at the Diwan of Royal Court, with the attendance of Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour, and a number of officials.

In his speech, Nasser Salim Al Hadrami, Director General of the Directorate General of Labour in Dhofar, affirmed the Ministry's commitment to building an integrated system of innovation and empowerment.

He highlighted the launch of qualitative initiatives that contribute to human resource development and the preparation of a generation of leaders capable of driving transformation.

He also pointed to recent achievements in developing policies, digital platforms, leadership programmes, and capacity-building, as well as implementing projects that enhance partnerships with the private and academic sectors.

The conference programme includes dialogue sessions and workshops that address key issues related to labour market transformations and future skills.

It showcases the latest technologies and work strategies to foster innovation, professional development, and increased productivity. Sessions will also cover topics such as behavioural engineering, government leadership, competencies, talent empowerment, and smart management.

The first session, titled "Modern Organisational Structures: From Bureaucracy to Institutional Agility," presented working papers on institutional challenges in administrative bodies, tools for organisational restructuring and re-engineering procedures, and international practical case studies.

During the opening ceremony, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Directorate General of Labour in Dhofar Governorate and Salalah Port Services Company.

This agreement aims to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors and support the Ministry of Labour's efforts in human resource development and the employment of job seekers, thereby serving the public interest.

The conference aims to stimulate innovation and professional development and to review the latest technologies and innovations in the labour market to increase productivity.

It also seeks to promote social dialogue and professional communication to foster fruitful cooperation among specialists and stakeholders, provide a decent work environment, and improve labor policies in line with economic and technological developments. -ONA

MUSEUM OF THE FRANKINCENSE LAND

Dhofar exhibition showcases mountain, marine environment

SALALAH: An exhibition titled "Dhofar: A Natural History Wonder" was inaugurated on Sunday at the Museum of the Frankincense Land in Salalah.

The exhibition is organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in cooperation with the Natural History Museum in Muscat and the Museum of the Frankincense Land in Dhofar Governorate.

The exhibition was opened under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Agency, and will run until 31 August.

The exhibition showcases the mountain and marine environments of Dhofar, displaying a diversity of rare wildlife found worldwide, along with the various plants that grow across the governorate's wilayats. It also features a scientific collection on the natural history of Dhofar.

Usama Mohammed Al Rowas, Director of the Museum of the Frankincense Land, stated that the exhibition, launched by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, aims to enhance environmental protection awareness, highlight the importance of conserving natural resources, and provide an educational and recreational platform for visitors of all ages.

He added that the exhibition is uniquely displayed across different halls of the Museum, making it accessible to all visitors during the Khareef (monsoon) season.

This is intended to activate the governorate's role as a global tourist destination.

He also noted that the exhibition contributes to supporting Omani identity, documenting local natural heritage, and fostering opportunities for scientific research and collaboration with academic and community institutions. -ONA

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Opportunities in Al Dhahirah Governorate explored

IBRI: Al Dhahirah Governor's Office on Sunday organised a workshop on strategic analysis as part of steps to draft Al Dhahirah governorate's comprehensive development plan.

The workshop was attended by representatives of government departments and private sector establishments, as well as members of the local community.

The workshop began with a review of key outcomes of the earlier stage of work on drafting the governorate's strategy.

Then, the participants held sessions on analysing the governorate's core competencies that offer it a competitive advantage over other areas.

The participants discussed the promising economic sectors, including mining, agriculture and logistics. They also engaged in analysing the external environment using the PESTEL model and reviewed market gaps and possible investment opportunities. -ONA

COMMENTARY

The theatre of life in Salalah

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I am in Salalah this week and I met someone who was once a very powerful business executive whose word would send a shiver in the corporate culture in Oman.

As I cast my thoughts in the past, I remember him as an arrogant man who hurt the feelings of almost everyone who crossed his path, both professionally and socially. Many would say that "power got into his head" and controlled his way of thinking. He ruined the careers of many people who worked under him in the name of "professionalism."

He never understood the meaning of that word and he never cared anyway. He trampled on the feelings of his employees all the time. But when I was looking at him while he was walking in the hotel's lobby, no one would guess what he was when he was in the seat of power.

Let me correct myself. In this hotel, he was not "walking" but "shuffling" his steps like a baby who was learning to walk while two people were holding each of his hands. He did not see me and I never made an attempt to get near him. Two decades ago, when he was in the pinnacle of his career, he put a condition when I asked for an appointment to see him.

His secretary told me, apologetically, that he would only see me in his office if I "wear a tie and a suit". First, I thought he was joking but the secretary assured me that he was not. I picked up my notebook and left never to return again in his office.

Of course, it was tempting for me to go to him in this Salalah hotel and reminded him. But I did not, because after taking a second look at him, he would not remember me. In his condition, he would not remember anyone. But again, there are many such people like him around. I am sure all of us would know one.

When power gets into the head, it can become very addictive. Such people hold a mental leash whipping at people under their command without mercy. The only problem is that they do not see what lies on their future path. But one day, it goes "wham", and the roof of their lives comes down heavily collapsing at them.

Again, while still in Salalah, I noted so many other things that I normally don't when I am in Muscat. Not just the beauty around me and the good weather. But the people from different backgrounds of life. They all appear to have the same target and that is to have a good time during the fabulous Khareef season.

There is more for them. Bursting the stress of their daily lives, changing their routine or just a curiosity to see something new. I would sometimes watch them and try to figure out what is in their minds as they eat, walk or just simply sit quietly.

Every one of them have their own story. The young may well try to figure out how to cope with the professional dictators of their carriers while the old reflect if they had lived their lives differently. But for me, it was about the theater of life. We were born, we lived and now we are somewhere in the playhouse of life.

And that is what is all about.

Awareness drive on e-service for accident damage

This service allows beneficiaries to conveniently accomplish their transactions online through the unified government e-services portal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Governorate continues to raise awareness about e-services associated with the municipal sector.

Requesting payment for damage service resulting from traffic accidents to public properties is one of the digital engagement activities implemented as part of the 2025 plan to support decision-making in digital transformation fields.

This service allows beneficiaries to conveniently accomplish their transactions online through the unified government e-services portal, within the framework of the governorate's directives to promote digital transformation and simplify procedures.

This service aims to issue a letter of clearance regarding the payment of damage costs to public properties, such as lighting poles, roads, and landscaping, in accordance with specific regulations.

These regulations include providing a copy of the identity card of the person causing the accident or their representative, a substantial damages assessment form from the Royal Oman Police (ROP), and a technical report from the relevant entity at Muscat Municipality clarifying the damages.

It is also required that there be no valid insurance and that the accident be resulting from cases not covered by insurance, such as certain exceptional conditions, including the accident occurring while the person responsible was in an abnormal state.

To obtain the service, applicants should first submit their request online and attach the required documents.

The specialist employee then reviews and approves the application, notifies the beneficiary to finalise the payment, and obtains the clearance letter.

The transaction is completed within one to five working days, depending on the implementing the required documents and data.

Applications can be submitted through the Unified Government e-services portal or through Sanad Service centres.

The Muscat Governorate conducted a questionnaire to monitor public awareness of this service, followed by an awareness campaigns through its digital platforms, to clarify the procedures of benefit from the service, and simplify the application steps.

Thus it enhances the acceptance of e-municipal services and improving the interaction with beneficiaries.

NAMA WATER SERVICES

7 water, sanitation projects underway in Bausher

MUSCAT: Nama Water Services is moving forward with its strategic projects to integrate essential services and enhance the infrastructure system across Oman's governorates and wilayats.

These projects include the sanitation sector, which covers sewage networks, treatment plants, and pumping stations, as well as treated water networks.

Among the most prominent projects currently being implemented in Muscat Governorate are a package of seven sanitation network projects in the Wilayat of Bausher, with a total cost of OMR123 million.

Eng. Jaafer Muhanna Al Hadrami, Project Manager for the Second Unit in Muscat Governorate, explained that the ongoing projects in Bausher include main and sub-lines for sanitation networks, totaling 311 kilometres in length.

This also includes a 34-kilometre potable water network and other project components and annexes.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, he said that the construction of a sanitation network in Bausher Heights is currently underway at a cost of OMR17.5 million.

The project, which will benefit 60,000 people, is expected to be completed in 2028 after a four-year implementation period.

It includes 68 kilometres of sanitation networks, 1,100 inspection chambers, and 6,850 household connections. He noted that the project is currently 10 percent complete.

He added that a sanitation network construction project is also being implemented in South Al Azaiba at a cost of OMR5.6 million. This project will benefit 13,000 people and is expected to be completed in 2027 over a three-year period.

It involves 49 kilometres of sanitation networks, 1,714 inspection chambers, and 722 household connections, with a completion rate of 12 percent.

Eng. Jaafer Al Hadrami confirmed that work continues on the first phase of the sanitation network rehabilitation project in North Al Ghubrah and North Al Azaiba, with a cost of OMR24 million.

The project was awarded at the end of June and is expected to begin implementation after mid-September 2025.

With a four-year timeline, it is set to be completed in 2028. The project involves a four-kilometre main sanitation line, the replacement of 812 inspection chambers, and the rehabilitation of the existing four-kilometre main line that connects the sanitation networks of North Al Ghubrah and Al Azaiba to the pumping station, as well as the replacement of 80 deep inspection chambers.

He said that to enhance pumping operations for the ongoing projects, Nama Water Services is currently implementing a pumping station project in Bausher and Al Ansab at a cost of OMR21 million.

Expected to be completed in 2028 over a four-year period, the project includes a pumping station with two 17-kilometre force mains and a 3.5-kilometre gravity-fed sanitation line to collect from the Al Ansab and Bawsher networks.

The Project Manager for the Second Unit at Nama Water Services in Muscat added that the company is continuing to implement the sanitation network project in Al Ansab, which is 8 percent complete.

It includes 4,180 household connections and is expected to be completed in 2028 over a four-year period. The project comprises 75.5 kilometres of sanitation networks and 1,160 inspection chambers, with an implementation cost of OMR25.7 million.

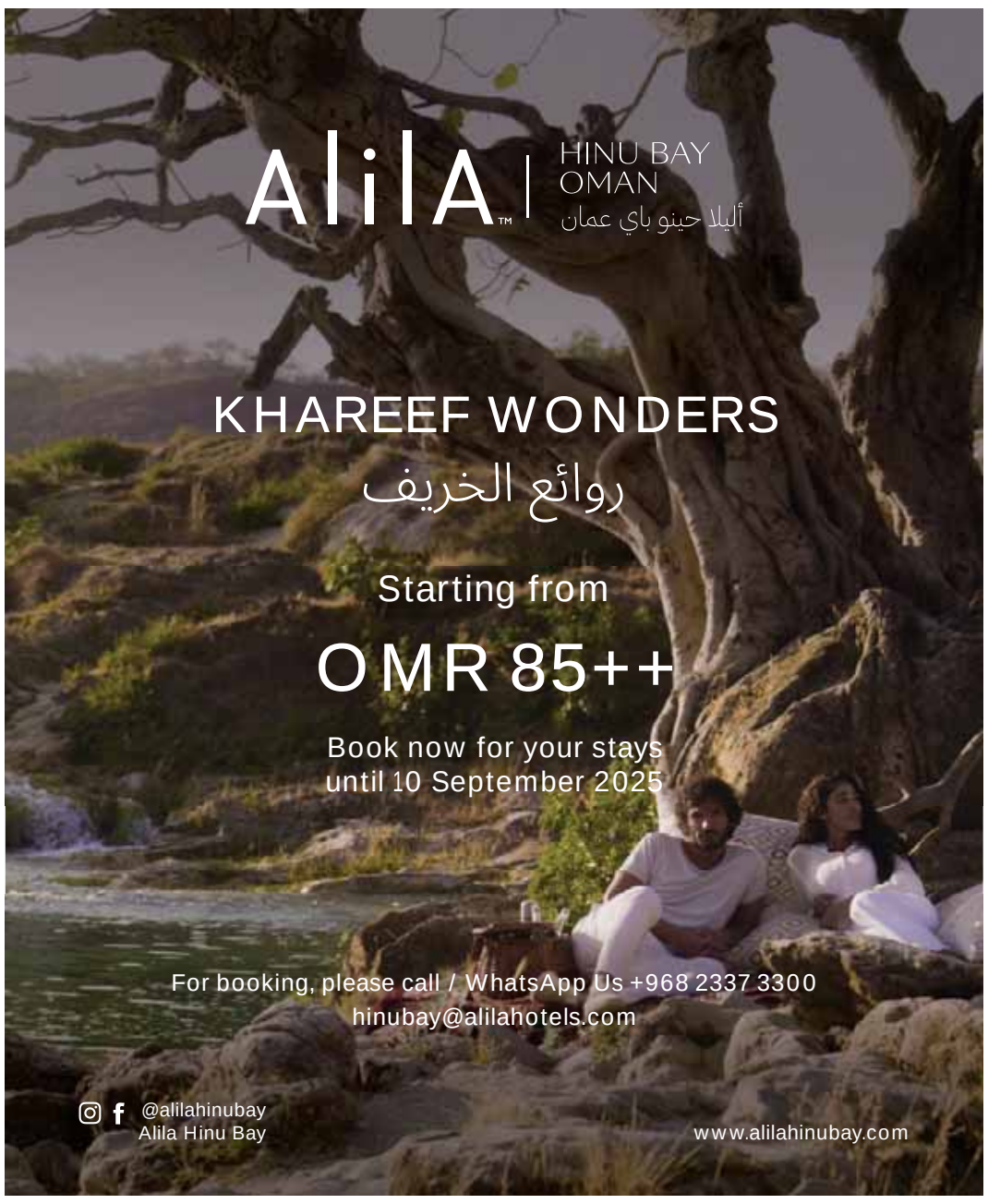
In the Al Khuwair area of the Wilayat of Bausher, Eng. Jaafer Muhanna Al Hadrami mentioned that two projects are being implemented: Al Khuwair Project 1/17, at a cost of OMR14.3 million.

It will include 882 household connections and is expected to be completed in 2029 over a five-year period.

The project involves 30 kilometres of sanitation networks, a 15-kilometre potable water network, and a one-kilometre treated water network.

The second project, he added, is Al Khuwair Project 2/17, costing OMR15 million.

It will include 858 household connections and is also expected to be completed in 2029 over a five-year period. This project features 30 kilometres of sanitation networks, a 19-kilometre potable water network, and a 2.2-kilometre treated water network. -ONA



OMAN

CABLE

HM greets President of Republic of Chad

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Mahamat Idriss Deby, President of the Transitional Military Council in the Republic of Chad, on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Progress and prosperity

His Majesty the Sultan wished President Mahamat Idriss Deby further success in achieving the Chadian people's aspirations for stability, progress and prosperity.

— ONA

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Quriyat sea dock project reaches 83% completion

The OMR2.979mn project includes the addition of a 185-metre fixed dock on the breakwater

MUSCAT: Construction and development work on the sea dock project at the fishing port in the Wilayat of Quriyat, Muscat Governorate, has reached a completion rate of approximately 83 percent. The project's construction cost stands at OMR2.979 million.

This project is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources' vision to develop seaports and enhance their role as an economic and developmental driver for coastal communities. This aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 to support the blue economy and provide an environment that stimulates investment.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Rashidi, a civil engineer at the Directorate General of Fishing Ports at the Ministry, stated that the sea dock development project is one of the most important developmental projects in Muscat Governorate. He noted that the Ministry aims to achieve economic diversification and create an attractive environment for investments by developing the fishing fleet and providing various public and private services within the port.

In a statement to Oman News Agency, Al Rashidi added that the project includes the addition of a 185-metre fixed dock on the breakwater.

This is part of a package of components aimed at supporting the maritime and fishing sector and enhancing investment opportunities. The new dock is specifically for mooring ships and boats, which will contribute to improving the efficiency of maritime handling operations and expanding the port's capacity.

He mentioned that the project also involves the creation of a new investment area of 33,000 square metres. This area will be dedicated to supporting commercial and service activities related to the marine and fishing sector, which will boost local economic growth and meet the demands of investors.

He explained that the project also includes a designated area for installing a marine crane for the maintenance of ships and boats. This represents a qualitative leap in the technical services offered by the port and enhances its infrastructure's readiness to serve fishermen and boat owners throughout the year.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Rashidi also pointed out that the port is expected to contribute to the national economy, stimulate economic activity in Muscat Governorate, facilitate shipping and landing, and provide new job opportunities for citizens. Furthermore, it will facilitate and enhance tourism in the Wilayat of Quriyat. — ONA

TEN-DAY EVENT

Exhibition offers SMEs opportunity to showcase their products in Salalah

SALALAH: The fifth edition of the Omani-Bahraini Products Exhibition opened on Sunday in the wilayat of Salalah.

The event is organised by the Omani-Bahraini Friendship Association in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Sultanate of Oman and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry's branch in Dhofar Governorate. The event will run for ten days.

The exhibition aims to provide entrepreneurs from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and productive families with an opportunity to showcase their products and enhance their quality. It features 53 participants from Oman and Bahrain at the Salalah Gardens Mall, as part of the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season activities.

The exhibition includes a wide range of products, such as handicrafts, pottery, and traditional attire that reflect the cultural and environmental heritage of the two brotherly nations.

The exhibition serves as an economic and cultural platform that reflects the deep fraternal ties between Oman and Bahrain, embodying the spirit of cooperation and partnership. This supports development efforts and fosters opportunities for integration across various fields.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the presence of several dignitaries and officials.

TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY

Agricultural innovations to boost productivity

MUSCAT: The agricultural sector in the Sultanate of Oman is undergoing a notable transformation toward the use of innovation and technology to enhance food security and environmental sustainability, in line with "Oman Vision 2040."

Innovations in agricultural technology, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology are among the most prominent tools that can contribute to improving agricultural productivity, reducing waste, and promoting environmental sustainability. The development of smart resource management systems and the application of modern farming models, such as vertical farming and precision agriculture, open new horizons for ensuring sustainable and safe food availability.

Investing in innovative solutions is not a luxury but a strategic necessity to secure a food-safe future for coming generations. Innovation transforms challenges into opportunities, bringing about a qualitative shift in how food is produced, distributed, and consumed.

Amid growing global challenges—from climate change and dwindling natural resources to rapid population growth—food security has become a central issue affecting the lives of millions. Traditional methods of food production and distribution are no longer sufficient to keep pace with these challenges, necessitating the adoption of innovative solutions capable of radically transforming the global food system.

In this context, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources plays a role in supporting agricultural innovations to enhance food security in Oman. This is achieved through several programmes, including agricultural extension on modern farming techniques and sustainability, smart and organic farming.

The ministry is implementing an integrated agriculture project that provides technical and financial support to small projects with innovative ideas. Additionally, funding and financial support initiatives are offered through the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund, along with awareness programmes on agricultural marketing via digital platforms and agricultural exhibitions.

The ministry stated that it is working on agricultural development and research projects in collaboration with universities and research centers, while also encouraging the use of the Internet of Things (IoT) in farms.

Represented by agricultural research centres, the ministry clarified that several plans and programs are being implemented to promote innovation in various fields, such as crop improvement, modern irrigation techniques, smart farming, and seedling enhancement through tissue culture. It also collaborates with international organizations, such as the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to adopt modern irrigation methods for water conservation, smart irrigation based on plant needs, and the reuse of treated water in agriculture.

The ministry emphasized the importance of smart farming and digitalisation in disease prediction and production improvement using artificial intelligence. It highlighted the role of biotechnology and nanotechnology research in enhancing crop resistance to diseases and climate conditions.

The ministry pointed to legislation supporting agricultural innovation and startups based on advanced agricultural technology, including the Intellectual Property Protection Law (Patents), which encourages researchers, farmers, and innovators to register their innovations in agricultural technologies, biofertilizers, and modern irrigation systems. — ONA

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

FIRST HALF OF 2025

Rapid growth seen in South Al Batinah

AL RUSTAQ: The construction sector in South Al Batinah Governorate witnessed remarkable growth during the first half of 2025, reflecting an accelerating pace of urban development and real estate investment across the governorate's wilayats.

The total number of major building permits issued during this period reached 3,289, compared to 2,188 in the first half of 2024—marking a 50% growth rate, one of the strongest indicators of the sector's rising activity.

South Al Batinah Municipality revealed positive trends in issued permits and completed projects, confirming the effectiveness of development plans and the advanced level of services provided. According to municipal data, Barka led the governorate's wilayats in the number of major building permits issued in H1 2025. — ONA

URBAN PLANNING

< FROM A1

Oman possesses a unique distinctiveness in building arts

Oman can translate this approach by blending tradition with innovation, prioritising community over technology, and promoting smart tourism linked to identity.

Dr. Haitham Najim Al Abri, an architect and researcher specializing in Omani architecture and urbanism, noted that Oman possesses a unique distinctiveness in building arts and urban planning, reflecting the ingenuity of Omanis in harmonising with nature and respecting resources. The wisdom and skills of ancestors have laid a solid foundation passed down through generations. He explained that Omanis have long understood how to build cities adaptable to diverse terrains—from mountains to coasts, deserts to oases—while preserving identity and sustainability. Al Abri stated that smart cities are not mere replicas of global models but an extension of ancestral ingenuity, where technology enriches rather than erases identity. The new generation of Omani engineers are called to be guardians of this legacy, innovating in ways that prove Oman knows how to build its future without forgetting its past.

The Omani smart city is not one that emerges from scratch but a renewed city where historical contexts thrive.

Amid the global race toward digital transformation, Al Abri pointed out local challenges in preserving architectural and cultural identity within smart cities.

However, these challenges can become opportunities through a balanced approach. Key challenges include the standardised import of global models, weak digital documentation of architectural heritage, conflicts between technology and social values, a shortage of local professionals skilled in both heritage and smart city technologies, and economic costs.

To address these, he proposed solutions such as localising innovation, comprehensive digital documentation of Omani architecture, enacting legislation mandating identity integration in design, hybrid education combining heritage and technology, and smart partnerships. Oman, he noted, possesses the potential to reconcile authenticity and innovation.

Meanwhile, Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Balushi, a property owner in Sultan Haitham City, highlights how heritage values are integrated into the technical infrastructure of smart cities, blending modern technology with authentic Omani principles. There is a clear respect for privacy in neighborhood and home designs, ensuring family spaces remain protected, while the social fabric is maintained through mosques, communal gathering spaces (majlis), and parks that encourage social interaction.

He adds that the visual and design character of Omani smart cities creates a living experience rooted in authenticity yet open to innovation. The visual language emphasizes Omani identity through architecture inspired by local history, such as traditional arches and engravings, while incorporating modern design elements like smart lighting, interconnected green spaces, and smart pedestrian and cycling paths. This fusion offers residents a living experience where they feel connected to Omani heritage while benefiting from modern conveniences. — ONA

Cities worldwide hold demonstrations condemning Israeli aggression on Gaza

The demonstrations expressed support for the Palestinian people and called for an immediate ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip

GAZA: Many cities and capitals worldwide witnessed mass demonstrations condemning the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

Thousands took part in demonstrations held in the French capital Paris; the British capital London; the Spanish capital Madrid; the Norwegian capital Oslo; the Dutch capital Amsterdam; the capital of Kosovo, Pristina; the Tunisian capital Tunis; the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur; the Korean capital Seoul; the German cities of Bremen and Berlin; the Italian city Milan; the Danish city Aarhus and the capital Copenhagen; the Swedish city Stockholm; and the Turkish city Istanbul.

The demonstrations expressed support for the Palestinian people and called for an immediate ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Participants raised Palestinian flags and carried banners denouncing the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.

They called for an end to double standards, urged accountability for the occupation's massacres against Palestinians, especially children, and condemned the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip.

— WAFA

IN JAPAN

British F-35 fighter jet makes emergency landing

KAGOSHIMA: A British F-35 stealth fighter jet made an emergency landing on Sunday at the Kagoshima airport located in south-western Japan due to a malfunction, airport officials said, as reported by Kyodo News.

According to Kyodo News, some departures and arrivals of commercial flights at the airport were affected when a runway was closed for approximately 20 minutes following the incident, which occurred at around 11:30 AM, as officials stated.

No injuries were reported.

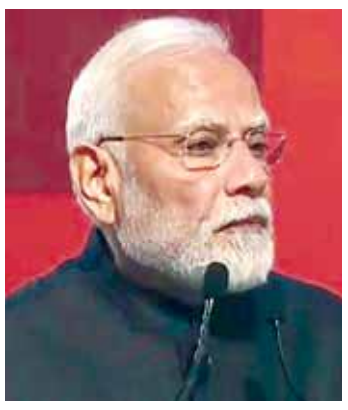
Kyodo News noted that British forces have been conducting a joint drill with Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force and American forces since August 4, which will continue through next Tuesday, having dispatched an aircraft carrier strike group to the western Pacific.

Earlier in July, a British F-35B fighter jet left India after making an emergency landing in Kerala's capital city of Thiruvananthapuram due to a hydraulic system fault. — ANI

WITH "ZERO DEFECT, ZERO EFFECT"

Indian PM pushes 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'

BENGALURU: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday emphasised that the country's economy is progressing rapidly and the country is firmly on its way to become the third largest global economy.



"We are rapidly moving towards becoming the top third economy. This speed came to us from the spirit of reform, perform, and transform. This speed came to us from clear intention and honest efforts. In 2014, Metro was limited to only five cities. And now there is a network of more than 1000 km in 24 cities... Before 2014, about 20,000 km of rail route was electrified... We have electrified more than 40,000 km of rail route in the last 11 years itself... Till 2014, there were only 74 airports in India. Now their number has increased to more than 160... The figures for waterways are also equally impressive. In 2014, only 3 national waterways were operational. Now this number has increased to 30," the Prime Minister said.

He further said that in the last 11 years, India's economy has risen from 10th place to the top five. "We are now moving rapidly towards becoming one of the top three economies," he said.

Addressing a public event in Bengaluru, PM Modi pushed for improving the standards of 'Make in India' products with "zero defect and zero effect".

He expressed his desire for the youth of Bengaluru and Karnataka to lead his vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat."

"We have to strengthen the presence of Bengaluru and Karnataka in 'Make in India'. I urge that our products should be of the standards of 'Zero Defect, Zero Effect'. That is, there should be defect-free products, and their manufacturing should also not have any negative impact on the environment. I expect that the talent of Karnataka will lead this vision of 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat'", the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi further drew attention towards the importance of being self-reliant in technology. He said that the next priority of the nation should be to "Tech Atmanirbhar Bharat".The Prime Minister stated that it is time for India to accelerate its pace in developing new products.

"Our next big priority among the current achievements should be 'Tech Aatmanirbhar Bharat'... Now is the time to give more priority to the needs of India and move ahead faster in developing new products," he said. — ANI

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

UNITED STATES

Trump endorses Lindsey Graham for 2026 Senate race during surprise call

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump gave his "full endorsement" to Senator Lindsey Graham for his 2026 re-election bid in South Carolina, surprising the Republican lawmaker with a personal phone call during a public gathering on Saturday.

Graham, who is seeking a fifth term in the United States Senate after first being elected in 2002, was addressing supporters when Trump called and praised his long-time ally.

Trump's full endorsement

"Lindsey, thank you so much, you've been my friend. I know you are in a big race, and I don't think it's going to be a contest, but I have a feeling you're going to do very well. You have for a long time. Lindsey Graham, just so you know, full endorsement. Trump's full endorsement. He's a great guy. Every time I needed him, he was there for me," Trump said over phone.

Reacting to the endorsement on social media platform X, Graham posted,"Thank you for your surprise call, Mr. President! With your support, I'll keep delivering the America First agenda to the great people of South Carolina. I'm glad to have been part of the most awesome six months in modern history led by President @realDonaldTrump."

The 2026 United States Senate election in South Carolina is scheduled for November 3, 2026. Graham, a four-term incumbent, last won re-election in 2020 and remains a prominent Republican voice in the Senate.

The endorsement also comes shortly after Graham engaged in foreign policy discussions involving India. On Saturday, India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, said he had spoken to Graham about New Delhi's perspective on energy security and the growing energy trade between India and the US.

"Spoke to Senator @LindseyGrahamSC and shared with him the Indian perspective on our energy security, including increasing energy trade with the United States," Kwatra said in a post on X.

Earlier this week, Graham had urged India to use its influence with Russia to help end the war in Ukraine, calling it one of the most significant steps to boost India-US ties.

"As I have been telling my friends in India, one of the most consequential things they could do to improve India-U.S. relations is to help President Trump end this bloodbath in Ukraine," Graham posted on X last week. — ANI

شركة إسمنت عمان ش.م.ع.ع
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G)
P.O. BOX 560, RUWI, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
[Factory Al Misfah West, Bausher, Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777]

TENDER

The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl.	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1	1650000294 -25	SUPPLY OF RED SHALE /LOW-GRADE KAOLIN	FREE	21st August 2025 2359 Hours	26th August 2025 2359 Hours
2	1650000297 -25	HIRING OF PAYLOADER FOR SHREDDER	FREE	21st August 2025 2359 Hours	26th August 2025 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by sending a request to **CFOSecretary@omancement.com & Treasury@omancement.com & nasser.said@omancement.com** with the Subject showing "Tender No." and "Tender Description," enabling the Company to provide the tender document through email to your company. **Contact details: Office number: +968 22705601, 22705566.**

The last date for submission of offers is on **Tuesday, 2359 hours,** detailed date on the above table, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value. The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers, and the ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception of our Administration Building, Al Mesfah West factory Site, Bausher, Muscat, Oman.

The Company's account is detailed below:

Bank Name: Bank Muscat SAOG
Account number: 0423 01086 3070 017
Account Type: OMR
SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by a tender bond will NOT be considered. This publication is part of the tender documents.

SPORTS

IN DHOFAR

School Beach Games Championship kicks off in Dhofar

SALALAH: The first round of the School Beach Games Championship commenced on Sunday with beach handball and beach volleyball competitions, organised by the Omani School Sports Association in Dhofar Governorate.

In the beach volleyball tournament, six matches were held in the first round. The South Al Sharqiyah educational team defeated Dhofar in two straight sets, while Al Dakhiliyah secured a similar victory over North Al Sharqiyah.

In the third match, North Al Batinah triumphed over Musandam in two sets, followed by Muscat's win against South Al Batinah with the same result in the fourth match.

The fifth match saw South Al Sharqiyah overpower North Al Sharqiyah in two sets, while Al Dakhiliyah concluded the round with a straight-set victory over Al Wusta.

In the beach handball competition, six matches also took place, with some decided by penalty shootouts. North Al Batinah edged out South Al Batinah 2-1 after a thrilling encounter, while South Al Sharqiyah defeated North Al Sharqiyah 2-0.

Muscat secured a 2-0 win against Musandam, and AlDakhiliyah triumphed over Dhofar with the same scoreline. South Al Sharqiyah repeated the result against North Al Batinah, and the round concluded with South Al Batinah prevailing over North Al Sharqiyah 2-1 via penalties.

The beach volleyball matches resume on Monday with the second round, featuring Muscat against Dhofar, Al Dakhiliyah facing Musandam, and North Al Batinah taking on North Al Sharqiyah.

The fourth match will pit South Al Sharqiyah against South Al Batinah, followed by Muscat versus Al Dakhiliyah, while the round concludes with Musandam meeting Dhofar.

In beach handball, ten matches are scheduled for Monday. The morning session will see South Al Sharqiyah against Al Wusta, North Al Sharqiyah versus Dhofar, and North Al Batinah clashing with South Al Batinah.

Muscat will then face Musandam, followed by South Al Sharqiyah against Al Dakhiliyah, and the morning session will wrap up with Al Wusta taking on Dhofar.

The evening session will feature four matches in the third round: North Al Batinah against Muscat, South Al Batinah versus Musandam, North Al Sharqiyah facing Al Wusta, and the day's competitions concluding with Dhofar against Al Dakhiliyah. -ONA

David, Dwarshuis shine as Australia beat SA

After South Africa opted to field, Australia scored a respectable 178 in their 20 overs

DARWIN: Tim David and Ben Dwarshuis shone as Australia sealed the victory by 17 runs in the opening T20I against South Africa at Marrara Oval, Darwin on Sunday. With one win under its belt, Australia now leads the series 1-0.

After South Africa opted to field, Australia scored a respectable 178 in their 20 overs, with Tim David's impactful fifty and Cameron Green contributing a lightning-fast cameo.

Australia's top order faltered early, Travis Head fell cheaply, for 2 in the second over, followed by a golden duck from Josh Inglis, but Cameron Green counterpunched with a 35 off 13 balls, injecting momentum into the innings.

Tim David then took over, launching an explosive 83 off 52 balls that included eight massive sixes, lifting Australia from a precarious collapse to a defendable platform.

Despite his onslaught, South African captain Aiden Markram brought his pace attack into the game. Young sensation Kwena Maphaka led the way with four wickets for 20 runs, the best T20I stats for a South African against Australia.

While chasing, South Africa lost Markram early for 12 in the first over. Proteas lost three wickets inside the powerplay as Australia kept bowling on tight lines. Rickelton and Stubbs had put on a partnership of 72 in 52 balls before Hazlewood bowled a cross-seam delivery to remove Stubbs, for 37 in the 15th over.

Ryan Rickelton's 71 off 43 balls offered resistance, but his scoring rate wasn't enough to overcome the mounting required run rate.

South Africa fell short at 158 for 7, handing Australia a memorable win. Hazlewood and Zampa's crucial contributions with the ball sealed the result.

David was named player of the match for his match-winning knock of 83 off 52 balls. **Brief score:** Australia 178/10 (Tim David 83, Cameron Green 35; Kwena Maphaka 4/20). Vs South Africa 161/9 (Ryan Rickelton 71, Tristan Stubbs 37; Ben Dwarshuis 3/26).-ANI

PREMIER LEAGUE

ManU sign Sesko from RB Leipzig for 2025-26 season

MANCHESTER: Premier League club Manchester United on Saturday announced the signing of Slovenia international Benjamin Sesko from German football club RB Leipzig. The striker has signed a contract until June 2030.Over the past two seasons, Sesko has scored the most goals of any player under the age of 23 in Europe's top five leagues. The 22-year-old scored 21 goals and registered six assists for RB Leipzig during the last campaign.

He has already been capped 41 times and scored 16 goals for Slovenia since becoming his country's youngest-ever debutant in 2021, as per the official website of Manchester United.

Benjamin Sesko said, "The history of Manchester United is obviously very special, but what really excites me is the future. When we discussed the project, it was clear that everything is in place for this team to continue to grow and compete for the biggest trophies again soon."

"From the moment that I arrived, I could feel the positive energy and family environment that the club has created. It is clearly the perfect place to reach my maximum level and fulfil all of my ambitions. I cannot wait to start learning from Ruben and connecting with my teammates to achieve the success that we all know we are capable of together," the player added.

On the signing of Sesko, Jason Wilcox, director of football, said, "Benjamin possesses a rare combination of electrifying pace and the ability to physically dominate defenders, making him one of the most exceptional young talents in world football." -Xinhua

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Financial Services Authority has issued the regulatory framework for the Promising Companies Index, in implementation of the Royal Decree establishing a sub-index within the Muscat Stock Exchange under the name "Promising Companies Index."

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) 30 Index closed at 4,855.52 points, marking a rise of 5.8 points (0.12%) from the previous session's close of 4,849.71 points. Trading value reached OMR20,921,057, reflecting a 17.2% decline compared to the last session's OMR25,273,599.

Salalah Free Zone attracts OMR187mn in new investments

The strong performance is reflected in the zone's high occupancy rates, with 51% of leasable land and 87% of warehouses currently occupied, reflecting the rising demand for the zone's infrastructure and services

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Salalah Free Zone (SFZ) – Part of Asyad Group – has reported an exceptional performance in the first half of 2025, attracting six new projects with a total investment value exceeding OMR 187 million. This brings the zone's cumulative investments to OMR 4.9 billion since the start of commercial operations, underscoring its growing importance as a global investment hub.

The strong performance is reflected in the zone's high occupancy rates, with 51% of leasable land and 87% of warehouses currently occupied, reflecting the rising demand for the zone's infrastructure and services.

In addition to attracting new projects, seven strategic investment projects with a combined investment of over OMR 80 million entered pilot operation and construction phases, these demonstrate a high level of investor confidence in Salalah Free Zone's driven by its, reputation as a reliable and high-potential destination for international investment. The zone's success is a testament to its strategic advantages, including its location at the crossroads of three continents, worldclass infrastructure, and a suite of investor-centric incentives. Furthermore, its seamless integration with Salalah Port and Salalah Airport provides direct global connectivity, solidifying its role as a leading industrial and logistics hub that advances the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Tabuk, CEO of Salalah Free Zone, emphasized the significance of these achievements, stated, "The indicators achieved in the first half of 2025 reaffirm growing investor confidence in our integrated environment. We are focused on attracting projects that not only leverage our advanced infrastructure, attractive incentives, and Asyad Group's end-to-end logistics solutions, but also contribute to economic diversification and sustainable development aligned with Oman Vision 2040."

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

FSA appeals against court's ruling in Sweets of Oman case

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA), regulator of Oman's capital market and insurance sector, has announced that it has appealed a Primary Court ruling in Muscat that effectively acquitted three board members of publicly listed Sweets of Oman, while imposing a substantial financial penalty on one board member and several executive management staff in an embezzlement case.

The appeal, filed on 29 July 2025, is in response to the ruling of the Primary Court issued on 30 June 2025 in the suit brought against members of the Board of Directors of Sweets of Oman for their term of office from 2017 to 2019, along with a number of the company's executive employees. The case concerned a criminal matter related to serious violations that caused financial harm to the company and its shareholders, committed by one board member in collaboration with several executive management employees.

The Primary Court, in its verdict, ordered certain members of the board and executive management to return an amount of OMR 5 million in favor of the company and its shareholders, in addition to bearing court fees and expenses. It however acquitted three board members from liability, citing the lack of a causal link between them and the proven damages, as determined in the court's reasoning. This acquittal now been contested by the Authority through its appeal filed recently.

The court's ruling followed reports confirming that the company's losses and damages resulted from gross negligence in fulfilling the Board's legal and oversight duties, with major shortcomings in five key areas: failure to oversee bank loans, including obtaining loans without assessing their feasibility or impact and recording them at non-genuine values in the financial statements; approval of financial statements without internal audit review and confirmation of fictitious inventory at a branch; addition of financial assets without legal approval, a board resolution, or clear funding sources; failure to apply policies for writing off doubtful debts in accordance with International Accounting Standards; and suspicions of collusion by certain executive employees in inflating revenues and understating liabilities, coupled with the Audit Committee's failure to fulfil its duties in line with corporate governance principles for public joint-stock financial companies.

The Authority emphasized that these practices resulted in the presentation of inaccurate and misleading financial data, harming the company's financial position and the interests of its shareholders.

This ruling reflects the Omani judiciary's affirmation of the principle of personal liability for members of boards of directors of public joint-stock companies, which does not end with the expiry of their term of office but extends for five years from the date of the act or omission, in accordance with Article (18) of the Commercial Companies Law.

The Authority also stressed the necessity for board members to carry out their legal and oversight responsibilities with competence and awareness, ensuring proper guidance of executive management without excessive interference in daily operations or neglect in follow-up and monitoring, thereby safeguarding financial procedures and protecting shareholders' rights.

This approach is reinforced by Article (206) of the Commercial Companies Law, which states:"The members of the Board of Directors shall be jointly liable towards the company, shareholders, and third parties for damages resulting from their joint actions in violation of the law, actions exceeding their powers, or any fraud, forgery, or error they commit during the performance of their duties, as well as for failing to act with the care of a prudent person under given circumstances."

It is noteworthy that the ruling was issued after the court merged two lawsuits filed against the company's board members and certain executive employees. The Financial Services Authority filed the first lawsuit in December 2022, followed by a second lawsuit filed by several major shareholders in July 2023.

HIGH-PRECISION BREAKBULK OPERATION

Asyad completes transport of ultra-heavy cryogenic tank from India to Saudi Arabia

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, Oman's global integrated logistics provider, has successfully completed a high-precision breakbulk operation, transporting an ultra-heavy liquefied natural gas (LNG) cryogenic tank for Gas Lab Asia, moving the cargo from Northern India to Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The operation reflects the Group's strong presence in delivering integrated logistics solutions for high-value, specialized projects.

The operation involved transporting a 115 metric tonne pressurized tank, 28 meters in length and 5.5 meters in height. The cargo was hauled overland for 1,500 kilometres from Northern India to Mumbai port over a period of three weeks before being shipped across the Arabian Sea to its final destination in Dammam, KSA.

Commenting on the achievement, said Juma Al Maskari, Asyad Logistics Director said, "Transporting this type of specialized cargo requires a high level of technical expertise, along with advanced operational coordination across countries. Our strategy in such projects demonstrates our ability to mobilise international resources across borders and efficiently manage high-value shipments through customized logistics solutions tailored to precise operational requirements."

The challenges of this operation stemmed from the sensitive nature of cryogenic gas storage tanks, which demand precise temperature and pressure control. Specialized equipment and custom handling where essential throughout the entire process. The entire move meticulously executed through detailed engineering assessments, route planning, compliance checks and last-mile coordination to ensure safety, integrity and efficiency at every stage.

This achievement further solidifies Asyad Group's growing record in executing precise logistics project across the GCC and South Asia. It also reinforces its position as a trusted partner for high-value& sensitive cargo movement, while advancing Oman Vision 2040 by strengthening the Sultanate's logistics infrastructure and positioning it as a globally competitive hub.

OPEN-ENDED FUND

Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund announces first interim dividend distribution for unitholders

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, announces that the Fund Management Body of Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund has approved the first interim dividend distribution of 1% to the Fund's unitholders within less than one year of commencement of operations.

The record date for the dividend distribution is 19 August, and investors will have the choice to receive their dividend proceeds in cash or reinvest in Al Tharwa Fund at the ex-dividend date Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit of August 19.

Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund was launched in September 2024 as an open-ended fund regulated by the Financial Services Authority in the Sultanate. The Fund is the first of its kind in Oman providing a unique combination of growth and income to investors by actively investing in two key asset classes i.e. equity and fixed income. The allocation to these asset classes is dynamically managed by Bank Muscat's experienced asset management team, based on prevailing market conditions and objectives of the Fund. Accordingly, the Fund aims to provide regular dividend distributions along with capital appreciation to unitholders over the medium to long term. Al Tharwa Fund provides an opportunity to invest in both equity and fixed income securities across local, regional and international markets. The Fund offers daily liquidity with no minimum holding period. Investors can subscribe to the Fund with a minimum subscription amount of OMR 50 and there is no maximum limit for investment.

The subscription and redemption from the Fund are available through Bank Muscat's Internet Banking and Mobile Banking platforms for the Bank'sindividual customers. Corporates and government institutions may approach their relationship managers at Bank Muscat for mutual fund investments. Alternatively, interested customers may contact the relevant team at Bank Muscat through assetmanagement@bankmuscat.com and understand the process to subscribe into the Fund. Please refer to the Prospectus of Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund available on www.bankmuscat.com to understand the Fund's details including key terms and conditions as well as the mainrisk factors.

Bank Muscat's Asset Management business has a proven track record of successful operations for almost 30 years and is the largest asset manager in the country and one of the leading asset managers in the GCC region, with approximately $3.6 billion of AUM. It offers tailored investment solutions across asset classes including equity, fixed income and real estate investments.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

A'Saffa Foods, up 0.08%, was the top gainer while, Phoenix Power, down 0.02%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,855.52 points, up by 0% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.95% at 474.15 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 0.08%, was the top gainer while, Phoenix Power, down 0.02%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 2102 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 20.92 million, with more than 110.36 million shares changing hands. Out of 53 traded securities, 21 advanced, 13 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 715K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 619K, followed by foreign investors for RO 96K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,162.06 points, up 0.29%. Prices of United Finance, Bank Dhofar, Al Madina Takaful, Al Sharqia Investment, Bank Nizwa were up by 0.03%, 0.02%, 0.01%, 0.01%, 0.01% respectively. Prices of Sohar International Bank, Bank Muscat were down by 0.01%, 0.01% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,100.73 points, up 0.64%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Muscat Thread Mill, Gulf International Chemicals, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cement were up by 0.08%, 0.06%, 0.01%, 0.01%, 0.01% respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Al Maha Ceramics, Al Anwar Ceramics were down by 0.01%, 0.01%, 0.01% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.25% before closing at 1,841.26 points. Prices of National Gas, Barka Desalination, Barka Water & Power Company, Ooredoo, Oman Oil Marketing were up by 0.05%, 0.04%, 0.02%, 0.02%, 0.01% respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, Al Maha Markting, Al Jazeera Services were down by 0.02%, 0.01%, 0.01%, 0.01%, 0.01% respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX30	4,866.553	4,832.597	4,855.517	4,849.711	5.806	0.12%
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,182.023	8,111.357	8,162.057	8,138.682	23.375	0.29%
Industry Index	7,131.476	7,056.925	7,100.727	7,055.527	45.200	0.64%
Services Index	1,844.219	1,834.792	1,841.261	1,836.691	4.570	0.25%
MSX Shariah Index	474.658	469.742	474.150	469.675	4.475	0.95%
MSX TR INDEX	7,202.255	7,152.002	7,185.922	7,177.329	8.593	0.12%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,763.513	8,671.901	8,725.727	8,670.183	55.544	0.64%
SERVICES TR IDX	2,358.752	2,346.694	2,354.967	2,349.123	5.844	0.25%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,720.528	9,636.575	9,696.808	9,669.038	27.770	0.29%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.641	1,204.641	1,204.641	1,204.641	0.000	0.00%

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
29,416,780,977	110,368,395	20,921,057	2,102	21	13	19	53

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	1,500	810.000	3	0.540	0.540	0.540	0.540	0.500	0.040	8.00%	0.540	0.490	0.530	0.100	64,800,000.000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	358,991	324,024.683	24	0.899	0.910	0.899	0.910	0.898	0.012	1.34%	0.910	0.909	0.916	0.100	682,500,000.000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	133,040	33,649.930	13	0.251	0.255	0.251	0.255	0.251	0.004	1.59%	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.100	165,990,778.650
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,199,654	321,287.521	43	0.266	0.270	0.266	0.269	0.266	0.003	1.13%	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.100	207,183,800.000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	24,000	1,608.000	4	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.002	3.08%	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	23,860,528.966
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	5,000	425.000	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.19%	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	7,650,000.000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	224,000	23,257.135	10	0.103	0.104	0.102	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.97%	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	232,643,115.328
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	93,535	7,856.325	10	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.21%	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	14,700,000.000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	11,251,122	1,739,491.733	315	0.154	0.156	0.153	0.155	0.154	0.001	0.65%	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.100	671,246,707.600
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	5,867	1,396.346	2	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.000	0.00%	0.238	0.235	0.238	0.100	23,800,000.000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	6,900	3,262.200	4	0.475	0.475	0.460	0.475	0.475	0.000	0.00%	0.475	0.470	0.475	0.100	59,326,531.000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	200,000	62,000.000	4	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.00%	0.310	0.303	0.310	0.100	504,043,370.050
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	17,032	3,854.354	6	0.226	0.227	0.226	0.227	0.227	0.000	0.00%	0.227	0.225	0.227	0.100	212,406,532.292
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	200	26.400	1	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.00%	0.132	0.134	0.145	0.100	26,400,000.000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	138,818	25,761.468	26	0.188	0.188	0.185	0.185	0.186	-0.001	-0.54%	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.100	40,700,000.000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	130,000	36,950.000	11	0.285	0.285	0.283	0.283	0.284	-0.001	-0.35%	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.100	66,904,030.000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	80,495	15,040.063	14	0.188	0.188	0.186	0.187	0.188	-0.001	-0.53%	0.187	0.186	0.187	0.100	8,011,639.317
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	13,505	1,272.975	4	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.05%	0.094	0.094	0.096	0.100	63,439,418.420
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	34,147,405	4,734,645.472	231	0.140	0.141	0.138	0.139	0.141	-0.002	-1.42%	0.139	0.138	0.139	0.100	919,797,231.530
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	19,560,697	6,014,524.302	253	0.310	0.310	0.304	0.307	0.310	-0.003	-0.97%	0.307	0.307	0.307	0.100	2,304,463,898.034
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	4,145	3,418.675	9	0.829	0.829	0.820	0.821	0.829	-0.008	-0.97%	0.821	0.821	0.824	0.100	76,856,406.002
Total		21	67,595,906	13,354,562.582	988											

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	2,200	407.000	1	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.175	0.010	5.71%	0.185	0.176	0.000	0.100	3,260,377.655
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,100	525.800	4	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.472	0.006	1.27%	0.478	0.473	0.505	0.100	158,157,155.380
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	6,825	5,049.400	5	0.740	0.740	0.738	0.740	0.735	0.005	0.68%	0.740	0.740	0.750	0.100	45,343,500.000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	10,000	1,370.000	1	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.132	0.005	3.79%	0.137	0.132	0.137	0.100	10,346,514.000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	766,805	64,577.705	82	0.082	0.086	0.082	0.086	0.082	0.004	4.88%	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	7,310,000.000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	4,150	747.000	3	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.177	0.003	1.70%	0.180	0.176	0.194	0.100	28,800,000.000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	57,000	7,298.541	3	0.128	0.131	0.128	0.131	0.128	0.003	2.34%	0.131	0.127	0.130	0.100	398,213,607.692
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	13,343	3,102.599	7	0.232	0.233	0.231	0.233	0.230	0.003	1.30%	0.233	0.220	0.245	0.100	10,663,430.934
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	7,687,247	2,685,164.155	456	0.346	0.350	0.346	0.349	0.347	0.002	0.58%	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.010	2,792,000,000.000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	107,900	8,165.400	11	0.076	0.077	0.075	0.077	0.076	0.001	1.32%	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	1,617,000.000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	500,000	67,500.000	5	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.75%	0.135	0.131	0.135	0.100	82,097,082.630
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	196,500	29,338.500	9	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.149	0.148	0.001	0.68%	0.149	0.149	0.154	0.100	248,742,090.000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,000	255.000	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.00%	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.100	25,376,999.135
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	6,000	890.000	3	0.150	0.150	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.00%	0.148	0.148	0.150	0.100	400,606,447.804
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	75,200	4,060.900	10	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.00%	0.054	0.054	0.058	0.100	16,585,901.550
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	287,137	20,149.590	13	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.00%	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	8,531,250.000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVES.	32,000	3,840.000	3	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.00%	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.100	18,000,000.000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,000	956.000	1	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.478	0.000	0.00%	0.478	0.467	0.525	0.100	79,049,250.000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	300	15.600	1	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.00%	0.052	0.052	0.055	0.100	13,000,000.000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	5,777	443.829	2	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.00%	0.077	0.075	0.080	0.100	17,112,480.000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,500	450.000	2	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.00%	0.300	0.290	0.300	0.100	21,117,000.000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	37,900	3,317.700	8	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.00%	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	57,075,947.984
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	27,580,670	3,986,375.443	348	0.144	0.146	0.142	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.00%	0.144	0.144	0.150	0.040	498,166,682.400
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	5,343,209	663,880.327	117	0.124	0.125	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	0.00%	0.124	0.124	0.129	0.000	645,884,290.720
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	300	59.700	1	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.200	-0.001	-0.50%	0.199	0.193	0.199	0.100	39,727,484.400
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	5,000	770.000	3	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.155	-0.001	-0.65%	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	147,004,080.300
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	1,700	170.000	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.99%	0.100	0.100	0.104	0.100	17,400,000.000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	11,426	3,656.720	2	0.321	0.321	0.320	0.320	0.322	-0.002	-0.62%	0.320	0.315	0.322	0.100	17,600,000.000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	5,100	449.000	2	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.088	0.090	-0.002	-2.22%	0.088	0.088	0.090	0.100	128,708,928.480
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	3,000	2,700.000	4	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.905	-0.005	-0.55%	0.900	0.880	0.905	0.100	62,100,000.000
Total		30	42,754,289	7,565,685.909	1,109											

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Regulatory framework of Promising Companies Index issued

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority has issued the regulatory framework for the Promising Companies Index, in implementation of the Royal Decree establishing a sub-index within the Muscat Stock Exchange under the name "Promising Companies Index."

This move comes as part of efforts to develop the legislative and regulatory infrastructure of the capital market sector, enhancing the ability of national companies to access financing tools and preparing them for gradual integration into the main market through well-structured phases.

The framework aims to regulate the procedures and conditions for listing promising companies in the new index, enabling startups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and private and family-owned businesses to benefit from simplified listing and trading mechanisms within a regulatory environment tailored to their nature. It provides financial and operational incentives that support their sustainability and growth.

WTO

World merchandise trade projected to grow 0.9%

GENEVA: World merchandise trade is now projected to grow 0.9% in 2025, up from the -0.2% contraction forecasted in April but down from the 2.7% estimate pre-dating the tariff increases.

The upgrade is mostly due to frontloading of imports in the United States, WTO economists said in a forecast update. However, higher tariffs over time will weigh on trade, bringing next year's expected trade volume growth down to 1.8% from 2.5% previously.

A surge of imports in the United States in the first quarter ahead of widely anticipated tariff hikes contributed to the upward revision to the forecast for 2025 issued in the April Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report. Increased tariffs—including those that took effect this week—will dampen trade in the second half of 2025 and in 2026.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said: "Global trade has shown resilience in the face of persistent shocks, including recent tariff hikes. Frontloaded imports and improved macroeconomic conditions have provided a modest lift to the 2025 outlook. However, the full impact of recent tariff measures is still unfolding. The shadow of tariff uncertainty continues to weigh heavily on business confidence, investment and supply chains. Uncertainty remains one of the most disruptive forces in the global trading environment."

> The upgrade is mostly due to frontloading of imports in the United States, WTO economists said in a forecast update. However, higher tariffs over time will weigh on trade, bringing next year's expected trade volume growth down to 1.8% from 2.5% previously

Asian economies are projected to remain the largest positive driver of world merchandise trade volume growth in 2025, although their contribution in 2026 will be smaller than predicted in April. North America will weigh negatively on global trade growth in both 2025 and 2026, but its negative impact this year will be smaller than previously estimated due to stronger-than-expected frontloading of imports in the US in the first quarter. Meanwhile, Europe's contribution to trade in 2025 has gone from moderately positive to slightly negative. Other regions, including economies whose exports are largely energy products, will see their positive contribution to trade growth shrink between 2025 and 2026 as lower oil prices reduce export revenues and dampen import demand.

The higher tariffs that came into force on 7 August will weigh increasingly on trade, but this will be balanced against positive impacts from frontloading and inventory accumulation, which will have to be unwound at some point. Positive tailwinds have also come from an improved macroeconomic climate, although this is subject to a high degree of uncertainty.-**WAM**

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Indian male Sr Accountant 15 yrs exp in Oman with valid D/L. Contact 92194086

Indian female accountant. MBA Finance. 9+yrsr experience in and out Oman. Contact: 95756987.

Sudanese Accountant with 11 yrs experiences in Oman seeks job. Contact: 97849429

Accounts & finance,Indian, 10 yrs of Oman experience, valid D/L. Contact: 97524285. Email: bobykkj@gmail.com

Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Indian male 27 yrs B.Com graduate with 6 yrs experience (4 yrs in Oman & 2 yrs in india) as accountant,seeking suitable position in accounts. Currently in Oman with D/L. Contact +968 79898094. Email: thameemali432@gmail.com

Indian male accountant M.Com 12 yrs exp. in Oman with DL/NOC looking for suitable job Contact: 95061334 Email: eliyasbeig87@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Finance Manager, 15+yrs experience, budgeting & forecasting, MIS reporting, taxation and audit compliance, SAP implementation, oracle & peoplesoft & Tally. Contact: 71191611

Asst. Finance manager having 9 yrs experience in accounts upto finalisation,budget,Cashflow,P&L knows ERP SAP, focus, QuickBooks and Tally. Contact: 97553313

Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277

Indian female M.Com (Finance) & B.Ed. looking for an Accountant or teaching job. Contact +969 99899620. Email anjaliajayan1998@gmail.com

ACCA qualified candidate, 2-3 yrs of experience including Oman experience. Looking for accounting, finance, advisory roles with D/L. Contact 76636273/WA 78636562. Email: abdulmkay55@gmail.com

Indian male (B.com) Junior accountant 2 yrs experience in Oman Looking for suitable placement can join immediately. Contact: 78047716

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Chief Accountant, finance manager Indian male with 19 yrs experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalization. MIS, audit, tax, VAT. Contact 78543201 E-mail kramct2021@gmail.com

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Graduate Architect with valid Oman D/L. Proficient in various Design software. Looking for Architect, interior designer roles. Contact: 93249129, Email: psmenez2015@gmail.com

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DRIVER

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Looking for driving job with 2 yrs experience. Contact: 97995898

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Indian male with 16 yrs of experience in GCC(Intl Airport) Qatar, Dubai and India seeks job in air cargo,logistics operations as supervisor position. Contact: 76249768

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Indian project manager seeks job 23+yrs experience in oil & gas, buildings, and infrastructure. Available immediately. Contact: 93932763. Email: captainmahan@gmail.com

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Dar Al Atta'a Association has built **175 homes** and carried out maintenance for over 2,514 houses, supporting families across Oman.

Dar Al Atta'a Association, Oman's leading charitable organization, is committed to helping families achieve safe, stable and sustainable living. As part of its ongoing social responsibility and community service efforts, its work in housing not only offers shelter but also enhances health, safety and overall family well-being.

Taking this mission forward, the Associaton is set to launch the next phase of its housing initiative — Dar Al Atta'a Neighbourhood in Al Khabourah — a step toward realizing its vision of modern and dignified living for all.

Over the past 18 months, Dar Al Atta'a Association has disbursed Omani Riyals 6.1 million to support underprivileged families across Oman through diverse initiatives spanning education, relief, empowerment and housing.

Muscat Media Group salutes social champions like Dar Al Atta'a Association for their lasting impact on society in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. We are proud to honour their contributions through Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma.

جوائز بصمة
Jawā'iz Basma

SPORTS

Liverpool's Salah questions UEFA 'Palestinian Pele' tribute

Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah highlighted a UEFA post mourning Suleiman al-Obeid that omitted details about his death in Gaza

LONDON: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah criticised European football's governing body UEFA over its tribute to former Palestinian international Suleiman al-Obeid.

The Egyptian star, who is one of the best-known Arab soccer players in the world, on Saturday highlighted how UEFA's post on X did not say how al-Obeid died.

According to the Palestinian Football Association (PFA), al-Obeid was shot by Israeli forces while civilians were waiting for aid in the southern Gaza Strip.

What did UEFA say about Suleiman Al-Obeid?

In a message on X, UEFA called Obeid "a talent who gave hope to countless children, even in the darkest of times."

"He gave his talent and dedication to the children of Gaza and gave their dreams a hope to blossom despite the suffering," the statement read. "His death is a great loss to the world of football and to everyone who recognises the power of sport to unite people."

What did Mo Salah say?

In a reply to that post, Salah asked: "Can you tell us how he died, where, and why?"

The Egyptian striker, one of the English Premier League's biggest stars, has repeatedly called for increased humanitarian access into Gaza. In October 2023, shortly after the war began, Salah urged "world leaders to come together" to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza to "prevent further slaughter of innocent souls."

How did Suleiman die?

The PFA said the 41-year-old Obeid was killed on Wednesday when Israeli forces attacked a group of civilians gathered for humanitarian aid distribution in southern Gaza.

Born in Gaza City, Obeid was married with five children and played 24 international matches for Palestine. He was known as the Palestinian Pele, after the Brazilian footballer considered by many to be the best of all time.

Obeid earned 24 caps for the Palestinian national team and scored twice — including a dazzling scissors kick goal against Yemen in the 2010 West Asian Football Federation Championship

UEFA lists team Palestine, recognized as a national team in 1998, at 129th in its world rankings.

What have football figures said about Gaza before?

Salah is not the only Premier League personality to talk publicly about Gaza. In June, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola gave an emotional speech while being honored by the University of Manchester.

The 54-year-old said in excerpts shared on social media: "It's so painful what we see in Gaza, it hurts my whole body."

He added: "Let me be clear, it's not about ideology. It's not about whether I'm right, or you're wrong. It's just about the love of life, about the care of your neighbor."

In late 2023, Bundesliga club Mainz dismissed Dutch winger Anwar El Ghazi, now playing for Welsh side Cardiff City, over social media posts related to the conflict. A court later ruled that comments did not warrant the immediate halting of his working relationship with the club.

The PFA says 325 people in the Palestinian football community have died in the conflict since October 2023. -DW

UNWANTED MILESTONE

Zimbabwe endure rare batting low in series against NZ

BULAWAYO : Zimbabwe's batting woes in the recently concluded series against New Zealand reached an unwanted milestone.

It was only the sixth instance in Test history where a team went through a series of at least two matches without a single fifty-plus score. Sean Williams' 49 in the first Test stood as their highest individual score across the series, as per Wisden.

The last time this happened was way back in the 1895-96 season, when South Africa's Barberton Halliwell top-scored with 41 in a three-match home series against England.

Centuries from Devon Conway, Henry Nicholls and Rachin Ravindra and a historic spell by pacer Zakary Foulkes helped New Zealand secure win over Zimbabwe by an innings and 359 runs at Bulawayo on Saturday.

With this victory, Kiwis have won the series 2-0, and they have secured their biggest win in Test cricket history. This is also the third-best victory margin in Tests by runs, next to England's innings and 579 runs win over Australia in 1938 and Australia's win over South Africa by an innings and 360 runs.

When Zimbabwe won the toss, only a returning Brendan Taylor (44 in 107 balls, with six fours) and Tafadzwa Tsiga (33* in 54 balls, with four boundaries) could cross the 20-run mark, as Matt Henry (5/40) and Foulkes (4/38) bundled out Zimbabwe for barely 125 runs in 48.5 overs.

In their first innings, Kiwis slammed some big runs. Opener Devon Conway (153 in 245 balls, with 18 fours) ended his two-year century drought, putting on a 162-run opening stand with Will Young (74 in 101 balls, with 11 fours). Nicholls (150* in 245 balls, with 15 fours) and Rachin (165* in 139 balls, with 21 fours and two sixes) put on a massive 256-run partnership for the fourth wicket as the Kiwis declared at 601/3, leading by 476 runs. -ANI

SERIES AGAINST ZIMBABWE

It still hasn't really kicked in to be honest: Zakary after his 9-wicket haul

BULAWAYO: After registering a win in the second and final Test of the series against Zimbabwe, New Zealand pacer Zakary Foulkes expressed his feelings on his debut performance, where he finished with figures of 9/75.

On Saturday, Foulkes, who had taken a four-fer for 38 runs in the first innings, outshone his senior, Matt Henry, who had taken a five-wicket haul in the first innings, with a fifer on his own. With Zimbabwe battling a heavy deficit, he took 5/37, ending with match figures of 9/75.

Speaking at the post-match press conference about his performance, Foulkes said as quoted by ESPNcricinfo, "It still hasn't really kicked in to be honest. It was all a little bit rushed. I've been on a white ball diet so the prospect of bowling a few more overs and stuff, I definitely felt a bit sore on day two. Thankfully, we didn't have to bowl on day two, which was nice. It was cool to get back into red-ball cricket."

With his historic nine-wicket haul on his debut, he outdid his teammate Will O'Rourke, who took 9/93 on his Test debut for the Kiwis against South Africa at Hamilton last year, which also included a five-wicket haul.

Former Indian spinner Narendra Hirwani holds the record for best match figures on a Test debut, taking 16 wickets for 136 runs against the West Indies in Chennai back in January 1988.

Recapping the second Bulawayo Test between New Zealand and Zimbabwe, centuries from Devon Conway, Henry Nicholls and Rachin Ravindra, and a historic spell by pacer Zakary Foulkes helped New Zealand secure a massive win over Zimbabwe by an innings and 359 runs at Bulawayo on Saturday.

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T20 WORLD CUP

New Zealand start training in Chennai for Women's World Cup

CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU) [INDIA]: New Zealand's women's cricket team, the reigning T20 World Cup champions, have begun training in Chennai as they prepare for the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in India and Sri Lanka. The team is aiming to win both the T20 and 50-over titles in the same cycle, a rare achievement in the sport, as per the official website of ICC.

Ramping up their preparations for the global megaevent, which is to start on September 30, White Ferns head coach Ben Sawyer and assistant coach Craig McMillan are overseeing 10 New Zealand players in the two-week camp being held at the Chennai Super Kings academy in Chennai.

"It's currently winter in New Zealand, there's no cricket, and we're nearly two months out of the World Cup," Sawyer discussed the camp's purpose with ESPNcricinfo, as quoted from the official website of ICC.

"To have that prep time in India, we've been able to bring seven contracted players and then three of our players of interest along. So, the girls that we think will play lots of cricket in India in the future as well," he added.

Among the seven contracted players are seam all-rounder Jess Kerr, young opener Georgia Plimmer and all-rounder Brooke Halliday, whereas Izzy Sharp, Flora Devonshire and Emma McLeod are the emerging players in the mix. -ANI

2025-26 SEASON

Different situations for La Liga's top-four clubs in new season

MADRID: With La Liga due to kick off the 2025-26 season in less than a week, last year's top four teams are all at slightly different points in their respective preparations.

Domestic and European competitions hardly gave any respite ahead of next summer's FIFA World Cup finals.

Reigning La Liga and Copa del Rey champion FC Barcelona has made two signings in striker Marcus Rashford and goalkeeper Joan Garcia, but has so far not been able to register either that pair or Gerard Martin and Wojciech Szczesny in its first-team squad due to Spain's strict financial fair play regulations.

That leaves Inaki Pena as the only first team goalkeeper currently available, and has forced the team to take the shock decision to allow central defender Inigo Martinez to join Saudi Arabian side Al Nassr on a free transfer to free up salary under the wage ceiling.

The club has also pressured Marc-Andre ter Stegen to sign a medical report to say he will be out of action for five months, which will allow the club to use 80 percent of his salary to register Rashford and company.

Barca had a successful preseason tour of Japan and South Korea that showed once again how important young winger Lamine Yamal, Raphinha and midfielder Pedri are, and if none of them get injured in what promises to be another grueling campaign, Barca will start as favorite to retain the title.

Real Madrid has a new coach in Xabi Alonso and new signings in defenders Dean Huijsen, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Alvaro Carreras, with Huijsen looking very impressive in the summer's Club World Cup.

The big problem for Alonso is a lack of preparation time after playing in the United States until mid-July, with his players only reporting back for training on August 4, just two weeks before starting the season at home to Osasuna.

Alonso will also be without Jude Bellingham for the opening weeks after he had an operation on a long-standing shoulder injury, and the doubt is whether Alonso will play with a flat back four or three central defenders and wingbacks, with the latter likely to suit Alexander-Arnold.

The coach will also probably want to see more pressing high up the field from Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius in attack, but if the pair gel, then Real Madrid will be title candidates.

Atletico Madrid has also spent heavily this summer, bringing in midfielders Johnny Cardoso and Thiago Almada, winger Alex Baena and defenders Matteo Ruggeri and David Hancko as Diego Simeone's side looks to improve on last season's third place.

The club has retained strikers Alexander Sorloth and Julian Alvarez, who scored 37 La Liga goals between them last season, and if Simeone shows ambition, rather than allowing his defensive instincts to rule, Atletico certainly has the talent to challenge, although Simeone's men also go into the new season slightly short of preparation after the Club World Cup.

Athletic Bilbao ended last season in fourth place under coach Ernesto Valverde. Athletic's big win of the summer was keeping star player Nico Williams amid interest from Barcelona, while attacking midfielder Robert Navarro and full-back Jesus Areso look to be good additions to the squad.

Athletic's pre-season was complicated by a suspension for defender Yeray Alvarez after the two-time cancer survivor tested positive for a product to prevent hair loss, robbing Valverde of a key player, while another defender Unai Egiluz suffered a season-ending knee injury in a friendly.

Athletic's season could depend to an extent on whether it is successful in its efforts to tempt Spain international defender Aymeric Laporte back to the club, and if they do, they will be tough to beat, especially in the passionate San Mames Stadium. -Xinhua

What to expect at the upcoming Trump-Putin summit in Alaska?

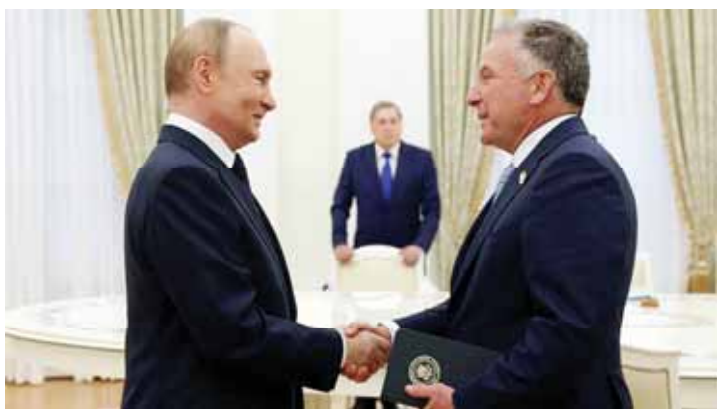
Trump said that he intended to secure a ceasefire, even suggesting that "swapping of territories" could be part of the deal

BEIJING: US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin are set to meet on August 15th in Alaska to discuss a potential ceasefire in Ukraine, marking the first talks between the leaders of the two countries since 2021.

On the campaign trail in 2023 and 2024, Trump made repeated claims that he would end the Ukraine crisis within 24 hours of winning presidency. The summit, Trump's latest push for peace in the region, has been billed by the White House as a high-stakes push to end the Ukraine crisis.

But the prospects for a breakthrough appear uncertain, with the two leaders approaching the talks from sharply different positions and many of America's allies warning that any deal struck without Kiev's participation will lack legitimacy.

The plans for the face-to-face meeting between the two leaders surfaced after Putin's three-hour working meeting with Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff during the latter's visit to Moscow on Wednesday.



Putin offered the Trump administration a broad ceasefire proposal that requires significant territorial concessions from Kiev and seeks international acceptance of Russia's claims in return for stopping the fighting, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing European and Ukrainian officials.

Trump said that he intended to secure a ceasefire, even suggesting that "swapping of territories" could be part of the deal. While he has not specified what that would entail, the phrase has drawn immediate pushback from Ukraine and its allies.

Ukraine has repeatedly said it will not accept any arrangement that cedes its territory. President Volodymyr Zelensky criticized Saturday the Alaska talks for excluding his government and warned that lasting peace cannot be achieved without Ukraine at the table.

"Any decisions made against us, any decisions made without Ukraine, are at the same time decisions against peace," Zelensky said in a video address. "They will bring nothing. These are dead decisions; they will never work."

European capitals reacted swiftly to Trump's suggestion of a land swap. Leaders from the European Commission, France, Italy, Britain, Germany, Poland and Finland issued a joint statement on Saturday affirming that Ukraine's borders, as recognized internationally, cannot be changed by force. The statement underscored that Ukraine must be directly involved in any negotiations regarding its sovereignty.

The last round of Russia-Ukraine talks held in Istanbul on July 23 concluded with no breakthrough towards a ceasefire but an agreement on another prisoner swap with civilian detainees included.

Russia and Ukraine remain quite apart from each other while exchanges of drone and missile attacks continue to inflict heavy casualties and infrastructure damage.

Analysts say that even if Trump and Putin agree on broad principles, achieving a workable ceasefire will be far from simple, as Russia controls significant territory, including areas it has fortified heavily over the past year, while Ukraine remains committed to regaining its land. — Xinhua

ARRIVING IN DROVES

Turkish tourism on the rise on Greek island of Lesbos

LESBOS: This summer, well-heeled tourists from the Turkish coast on the opposite side of the Aegean Sea are arriving in droves to Skala Sikamineas on the northeast coast of Lesbos.

The two excellent fish restaurants on the coast are full, and Turkish is the main language to be heard at lunchtime.

Families with children from the Turkish city of Izmir, a group from the port city of Ayvalik who arrived on the brand-new catamaran connection, and a young couple from Istanbul are among those eating and drinking in this picturesque setting.

Isin and her boyfriend are visiting the island for the first time. "Friends told us a lot of good things about Lesbos, and we decided to come here for a few days," Isin told DW.

The couple, from Istanbul, arrived by ferry from Dikili, loved the island's beaches and taverns, and are determined to come back next summer.

The crossing takes just under an hour, the ticket costs €35 ($40), and in summer there are eight trips a day from Dikili to Mytilene, the island's capital.

On the Greek side of the Aegean, the atmosphere is more relaxed for Turks who like to have a drink, or for Turkish women who want to sunbathe in their bikinis.

"I feel very comfortable here," Isin said as her boyfriend poured an ouzo.

An affordable return ticket to Lesbos

In July alone, almost 29,000 tourists from Turkiye visited Lesbos, and even more are expected in August.

Local restaurateurs are very happy with their guests from the neighbouring country.

"They appreciate the good food, they like to drink our famous aniseed schnapps ouzo, they are not stingy, and most of them are very friendly and relaxed," said Takis, who runs a tavern in Gera Bay.

"We are visited by the Turkish middle class, who are looking for a quiet place."

Many Greek islands have become unaffordable for average earners on both sides of the Aegean, but Lesbos is not one of them: the island is now cheaper than the Turkish holiday destinations of Bozcaada, Bodrum, or Assos on the Aegean.

Can tourism heal the wounds of the past?

Since the rebellion of Greeks within the Ottoman Empire in the early 19th century, which resulted in an independent Greece, and the Greco-Turkish War which ended in 1922, relations between the two countries have become more friendly, in part due to tourism.

The people of Lesbos are no more or less nationalistic than the rest of Greece, but they increasingly have the opportunity to meet the "enemy" from across the sea in peace.

Turkish tourists on the streets of Mytilene are not perceived as invaders, but as welcome guests.

It was no coincidence that Nikos Giannakas, the deputy mayor of Mytilene responsible for tourism, enthusiastically awaited the arrival of the mayor of Balikesir in Turkiye.

Ahmet Akin traveled to Lesbos on August 1 along with 150 tourists via the new catamaran route.

The new line is the eighth connecting Mytilene with Ayvalik and the eleventh overall between Lesbos and Turkiye, including routes to and from Izmir and Petra.

According to Giannakas, the new Mytilene-Ayvalik line will help boost tourism and trade between Lesbos and Turkiye, give travelers more options, and strengthen cross-border relations.

Last year, around 120,000 people came to Lesbos by boat from Turkiye, and they would like to welcome even more visitors in 2025.

Can goodwill from tourism help ease tensions?

Tourism and cooperation on refugee and migration issues are the only enduring success stories in Greek-Turkish relations since Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a friendship and cooperation agreement between Greece and Turkiye in December 2023.

In theory, both governments have the political will to discuss the thornier issues in bilateral relations. — DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

ROUND-UP

Add power, purpose to your journeys in Prado

Built on Toyota's cutting-edge GA-F platform, the latest generation Prado blends rugged off-road capability with refined urban comfort, making it the perfect fit for Oman's diverse driving conditions and modern lifestyles

MUSCAT: The stylish and capable Toyota Prado is reimagined for the next generation of drivers who expect more from every journey, whether navigating the city streets, escaping to the mountains, or embarking on a weekend family adventure.

For decades, the Prado has been a trusted name in durability and performance. Now, it returns stronger, smarter and more stylish than ever. Built on Toyota's cutting-edge GA-F platform, the latest generation Prado blends rugged off-road capability with refined urban comfort, making it the perfect fit for Oman's diverse driving conditions and modern lifestyles.

The new Prado is more than just an SUV, it is a reliable partner for families on the move and individuals chasing adventure. Its robust body-on-frame design, paired with Electric Power Steering (EPS), ensures smooth and responsive handling across all terrains. From rocky trails and desert dunes to crowded city streets, the Prado's advanced engineering offers unmatched confidence and control behind the wheel.

Drivers can choose between two powerful engine options, a 2.4L Turbo Petrol or a 2.8L Turbo Diesel, both paired to an efficient 8-speed automatic transmission. These powertrains deliver a refined balance of strength, responsiveness and fuel economy, ideal for both everyday drives and long-distance travel.

Inside, the Prado's seven-seat cabin is built for comfort and versatility. Whether it is a regular drive to school, a grocery stop, or a country-side road trip, passengers enjoy generous space, intuitive features and premium finishes throughout. Toyota Safety Sense, Toyota's latest suite of intelligent driver assistance technologies, provides added peace of mind, making every trip safer and less stressful.

The Prado's bold, retro-inspired exterior turns heads wherever it goes, while its intelligent technology and safety systems ensure it remains a leader in practicality and innovation.

With Oman's landscapes offering everything from mountain escapes and desert drives to serene coastal highways, the Prado stands ready to adapt and excel. It is a vehicle for those who want strength, style, safety and the freedom to explore without compromise.

Whether navigating the routine or chasing the extraordinary, the Toyota Prado is your ultimate companion on the road ahead.

MEANINGFULLY REWARDING

ahlibank eases 'Back to School' expenses with 5% tuition cashback for credit cardholders

MUSCAT: Demonstrating its ongoing commitment to delivering value-driven propositions and meaningfully rewarding its credit cardholders, ahlibank has launched its 'Back to School' campaign. As part of this initiative, credit cardholders can enjoy 5% cashback on tuition fee payments made for the upcoming academic year.

The offer is valid until 10 September, providing customers with a timely benefit while managing education expenses. This campaign underscores the bank's dedication to supporting families during the back-to-school season, while reinforcing its broader mission to ease financial commitments and enrich the overall banking experience.

As part of this limited-time offer, ahlibank credit cardholders will receive 5% cashback in the form of Pearl Reward Points when using their cards to pay for tuition fees. To qualify, a minimum spend of OMR 500 is required, with the cashback capped at OMR 50 in Pearl Points per customer. Eligible Pearl Points will be credited within 60 days after the campaign concludes, offering customers the flexibility to redeem them as cashback to their accounts or credit cards, or use them for flight bookings with select partner airlines, hotel stays, and purchases at a wide network of partner merchants – transforming everyday spending into lasting value.

Commenting on the exclusive offer, Qais Al-Hasani, AGM - Head of Retail Business Support at ahlibank, remarked, "At ahlibank, we remain closely aligned with the evolving needs of our customers, and this understanding continues to shape the design of our seasonal, value-driven offerings. As families prepare for the return to school, our Back to School campaign is a reflection of our commitment to easing financial pressures during this time. Through this initiative, we aim to support parents and guardians while rewarding our credit cardholders with tangible and timely benefits."

As Partner in Excellence, ahlibank continues to set benchmarks in the sector by creating opportunities for its customers to derive greater value from their everyday banking.The campaign is a testament to the bank's customer-centric philosophy and its vision of empowering those who entrust it with their financial journey. With this exclusive, limited-period offer, ahlibank invites cardholders to make the most of their tuition payments and turn seasonal expenses into long-term rewards – ensuring that the 'Back to School' season is not only financially manageable, but genuinely rewarding.

FOR EMPLOYEES

Bank Nizwa reinforces human capital development with NANMU programme

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its resolute dedication to nurturing high-caliber talent and cultivating deep-rooted capabilities within the Islamic banking sector, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, has officially launched the second cohort of the NANMU Programme – its exclusive Islamic finance programme.

This programme is part of Bank Nizwa's firm and forward-looking strategic approach to developing human capital.

The program was developed in collaboration with leading international institutions, including the Islamic International Rating Agency, the International Islamic Financial Market, and the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions. It was officially launched in the presence of Khaled Al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer of Bank Nizwa, and Haifa Al Lawati, Chief Human Resources Officer, along with representatives from the partner institutions awarding the professional certifications.

Commenting on the program, Haifa Al Lawati stated, "True institutional progress is measured not just by profitability, but by how deeply an organization invests in the aspirations of its people. Empowering individuals through knowledge, purpose-driven training is essential to future-proofing organizations and cultivating resilient, values-driven leadership. At Bank Nizwa, our sustained investment in educational initiatives such as NANMU is not merely about organizational growth; it is about unlocking the potential of every individual, advancing their personal and professional ambitions, and contributing to broader socio-economic development. This ethos resonates with Oman's national priorities of capacity-building and inclusive talent development, while also strengthening the intellectual capital base that drives innovation across the Islamic finance sector."

Building on the success and momentum of its inaugural edition, this year's NANMU program welcomes 25 participants embarking on an immersive learning journey designed to equip them with both foundational and advanced expertise in Islamic finance.

The comprehensive curriculum spans key thematic areas, including the fundamentals of Islamic banking, Sharia governance and compliance, in-depth product and service frameworks, and critical analyses of industry trends, shifting market dynamics, and evolving regulatory landscapes. Uniquely structured to blend global perspectives with local insights, the program is facilitated by a distinguished panel of international trainers with proven expertise in Islamic finance.

Through such educational programmes, Bank Nizwa continues to reinforce its position as a pioneer in knowledge-led transformation, thereby empowering its people, enriching the industry, and contributing meaningfully to the nation's growing prominence in Sharia-compliant finance.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

Annual NBO Kids Carnival celebrates community, creativity and learning

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) hosted its Annual Kids Carnival at the bank's head office in Muscat, celebrating its employees and their families in a vibrant day of connection and community. The event reflects NBO's commitment to fostering a workplace culture that values well-being, belonging, and togetherness.

Launched in 2017, the carnival has become a cherished tradition, bringing families together and offering employees an opportunity to connect beyond the workplace. More than a day of fun, it serves as an investment in NBO's community and the next generation. Held ahead of the new school year, the event blends play, learning, and entrepreneurial spirit to spark curiosity, nurture creativity, and develop essential life skills.

The 2025 edition featured a diverse line-up of activities for all ages, from financial literacy stations and interactive shows to arts and crafts corners and live entertainment.

Designed to inspire imagination, these experiences encouraged teamwork, financial awareness, and critical thinking in a fun, engaging environment.

AT ROYAL ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT

BankDhofar strengthens customer engagement with new branch

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to strengthening relationships with customers and delivering best-in-class banking services, BankDhofar has opened a new branch at the Royal Academy of Management. The new branch is designed to serve all segments of society, particularly employees of government institutions and nearby private sector establishments.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Brigadier Jamal bin Said Al Taie, Director General of Financial Affairs at the Royal Oman Police (ROP), and attended by several BankDhofar officials.

Ghada Mohammed Al Raiisi, Acting AGM & Head of Capital Branchesand call Center at BankDhofar, remarked: "Our presence at the Royal Academy is not limited to delivering banking services. It also reflects our commitment to supporting students, academic and administrative staff, and fostering a financial environment that enables them to achieve their goals."

Al Raisi added that BankDhofar is focused on bringing the bank closer to its customers, placing their needs at the heart of its operations. The bank continuously enhances service levels by reducing waiting times to no more than 10 minutes, listening attentively to customers, and addressing their diverse requirements efficiently.

Through its extensive network of branches, BankDhofar offers a wide range of banking solutions tailored to different customer segments, including women, youth, children, and high-income clients—particularly Al Riadah and Al Rifaa cardholders. The bank also provides specialized wealth management services for high-net-worth individuals and their families, delivered in a secure, discreet, and professional manner.

Its product offering includes clear investment and savings plans, such as fixed and recurring deposit accounts. Among these is a long-term deposit account designed to support parents in saving for their children's higher education. Additionally, another product supports employees in developing retirement savings plans, helping them secure long-term financial stability and peace of mind.

ACADEMICS

Indian School Darsait celebrates academic brilliance at Excellence Awards Ceremony

MUSCAT: Indian School Darsait organised Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony on 7 August at the senior school auditorium to honour the remarkable achievements of its students.

The function commenced with a soulful invocation dance followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Ajmal Ayoob, IT Secretary of the Student Council, welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr. Moosa Abdullah Al Kindi, Dean, Modern College of Business and Science, along with the Guest of Honour, Dr. Samiya Al Raisi, Director, National Rehabilitation House, National University of Science and Technology, all members of the School Management Committee and invitees, awardees and their parents.

The highlights of the day were the distribution of prizes and certificates honouring the exceptional accomplishments of students who achieved outstanding results in Class X and XII Board Examinations as well as students who attained commendable success.

Ajmal Ayoob did the honours for the toppers of Class XII - Malavika Manoj (Science Stream) and Raano John Roby (Commerce Stream); Subject National Toppers: Davis Puthenpurackal Thomas, Akshay Pramod Thadathil, and Raano John Roby; Class X Topper, Heshitha Ramesh Jayanthi; Subject National Toppers Nakshatra Rajeshkumar Panganchariyadath, Rufaiq Hassan Ibrahim, Heshitha Ramesh Jayanthi, Heranya Ramesh Jayanthi, and the students who secured A1 in all subjects in classes XII and X

The teachers, Fathima P. Aliyar, Roilet Sherlin Noronha, Kala Madhu, Madhavi Rajreddygari and Noorjahan Nasar, whose guidance and mentorship were instrumental in producing national toppers in their respective subjects were also felicitated by the chief guest.

The Guest of Honour gave away the prizes and certificates to the Second and Third Toppers of Class XII Science and Commerce and the subject toppers of Class XII, while the President of School Management Committee conferred the prizes and certificates of the Second and Third Toppers, and the Subject Toppers of Class X. The Head of the institution, Amar Srivastava, distributed the Principal's Honour awards to students of Classes X and XII.

The Senior School Choir mesmerised the audience with a soulful performance elevating the evening's joyous atmosphere.

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This offer is valid from August 4, 2025 to October 3, 2025. *Service package 30,000 Kms or 18 months (whichever is earlier) to 50,000 Kms or 30 months (whichever is earlier) for JS3 and T8. Service package 30,000 Kms or 18 months (whichever is earlier) for JS4. Service package 50,000 Kms or 30 months (whichever is earlier) for JS7. Service package 50,000 Kms or 30 months (whichever is earlier) to 100,000 Kms or 60 months (whichever is earlier) for JS6. **Free registration applicable on private vhicles only. #Manufacturer Warranty 6 years or 200,000 kms (whichever is earlier). ##AAA roadside assistance is valid for the first six years from the date of retail purchase. This offer is exclusive to private purchases and does not apply to fleet, Ministry, Taxi, Rental, or commercial car acquisitions. Offer valid as per stock availability. The EMI shown is based on an 8-year loan from Bank Muscat, with a 20% down payment to be made by the customer. Loan approval is at the sole discretion of the bank. To know more about the 3-night/4-day Georgia trip Raffle Prize, visit jacoman.com for the T&Cs. Terms & conditions apply.

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