

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN



50

YEARS OF LEGACY

Founded 1975 · Volume 50 No. 247 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group





**Your instant Digital Personal Loan,
right when you need it!**

Exclusively for Government Employees

The maximum loan amount is 15,000. Terms and conditions apply.



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.



DHUHR	12:25PM
ASR	03:44PM
MAGRIB	06:11PM
ISHA	07:22PM
FAJR (TOMORROW)	5:19AM



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Dar Al Atta'a Exhibition
inaugurated at OCEC

The 28th edition of the Dar Al Atta'a Exhibition was inaugurated at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat Governorate, drawing wide participation from entrepreneurs, artisans and businesses across the Sultanate and the Gulf. **>A2**

OMAN
Ministry of Labour
announces 1,681 jobs

The Ministry of Labour has announced 1,681 job vacancies in several govt units, with registration for the competitive selection process open until March 5, 2026. The ministry stated that the vacancies are distributed across various educational qualifications. **>A3**

MARKET
Oman's bourse rises
in weekly trading

The main index of the Muscat Stock Exchange rose 47 points and closed at 7,225 points, benefiting from the gains recorded by a number of energy and services companies. The MSX saw limited profit-taking sales that pushed shares of a number of leading companies lower. **> B1**

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

Oman's digital
transformation
drive reaches
94% completion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's National Government Digital Transformation Programme "Tahawul" (2021-2025) recorded an overall performance rate of 94 per cent by the end of December 2025, up from 73 per cent at the close of 2024, reflecting significant progress in the Sultanate's digital transformation journey. According to the 2025 annual performance report, the number of priority government services whose procedures were simplified reached 3,166, achieving 100 per cent of the set target. Meanwhile, 90 per cent of priority core services and automatic permits were digitised — 2,277 services out of 2,523 targeted for digitisation by the end of 2025.

The report noted that the average performance of government institutions in meeting digital transformation requirements stood at 85 per cent by the end of December 2025, while governorates achieved an average of 80 per cent. Thirteen institutions attained an advanced level in the 2025 Digital Excellence Index, and 36 institutions ranked above average, with none classified as average, below average or weak.



Among the entities that recorded the highest digital excellence performance in 2025 were the Royal Oman Police, National Centre for Statistics and Information, Oman Investment Authority, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, Muscat Governorate, Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Ministry of Finance, State Audit Institution, and the Implementation Support and Follow-up Unit for Oman Vision 2040.

Beneficiary satisfaction with digital services reached an average of 78 per cent across 48 government entities, up slightly from 77 per cent at the end of 2024. **>A6**

SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

ROP calls for caution on roads during Ramadan

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has intensified its road safety awareness campaign during the holy month of Ramadan, urging motorists to exercise patience, caution and strict adherence to traffic regulations, particularly during peak hours.

In a message posted on its official social media platforms, the ROP highlighted the heightened risks associated with driving before iftar, when many motorists rush to reach their destinations in time to break their fast.

"Speeding or irresponsible driving before iftar puts life at risk. There are those who are waiting for your smile again. A little patience keeps the moment alive,"



an official said in a video shared through the ROP's social media channels.

The police called on drivers to avoid speeding, refrain from using mobile phones while driving and

maintain safe distances between vehicles. Motorists were also advised to plan their journeys in advance, avoid last-minute rushing and leave early to reduce stress on the roads.

Re-export activities registered an increase of 20.3% from OMR1.708 billion in 2024 to OMR2.056 billion in 2025 in Oman

MUSCAT: Oman's non-oil exports increase by 7.5% to OMR6.7 billion in 2025 compared to OMR6.2 billion in 2024. Meanwhile, re-export activities registered an increase of 20.3% from OMR1.708 billion in 2024 to OMR2.056 billion in 2025, according to National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) data.

"Oman registered positive performance in foreign trade coupled with the increase of the value of non-oil exports and re-export in 2025, which coincided with the government's efforts for boosting the industrial exports and stimulating the various production sectors."



The monthly statistics bulletin issued NCSI also showed that chemical industries' products and associated industries, metals, minerals products, plastic products and electrical machinery and equipment are the key Omani non-oil products exported last year. Last year also witnessed a decrease in the value of oil products, which fell to OMR14.5 billion compared to OMR17.1 billion in 2024, a decrease of 15.2%. The oil-exports were affected by the decrease of the price of Oman

crude which stood at \$71 a barrel last year compared to \$80.8 a barrel in 2024.

The NCSI data further revealed that the value of goods exports stood at OMR23.2 billion last year compared to OMR25.2 billion in 2024. The statistics showed that the value of trade exchange of the Sultanate of Oman amounted to OMR40.4 billion last year, compared to OMR 41.7 billion in 2024. This has been attributed the decrease in the value of oil exports. **>A6**

 **CHANGAN**

UNI-V 2.0T









RAMADAN OFFERS *Terms and Conditions Apply

FREE SERVICE
5 Years / 105,000 Kms*

FREE INSURANCE*

FREE REGISTRATION*

FREE WINDOW TINTING AND
PAINT PROTECTION*

VAT (5%)
INCLUSIVE IN
VEHICLE PRICE

 **800 50800**

 **9662 8909**

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

 **EMI**

OMR142*

for 6 years



More than 500 exhibitors showcase products at Dar Al Atta’a Exhibition

The event was held under the patronage of Her Highness Sayyidah Afra bint Talal al Said, and attended by Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, Founder and Chairperson of Dar Al Atta’a Association

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 28th edition of the Dar Al Atta’a Exhibition was inaugurated at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) in Muscat Governorate, drawing wide participation from entrepreneurs, artisans and businesses across the Sultanate and the Gulf. Organised by the Dar Al Atta’a Association, the four-day exhibition features more than 500 exhibitors showcasing a diverse array of products, including fashion, accessories, gold and silver jewellery, perfumes, incense, luxury goods,



handicrafts, and offerings from small and medium enterprises. The event was held under the patronage of Her Highness Sayyidah Afra bint Talal al Said, and attended by Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, Founder and Chairperson of Dar Al Atta’a Association. Now in its 28th edition, the “Giving Exhibition” continues its humanitarian mission of providing Eid clothing to more than 5,000 children from underprivileged families registered with the association. At the same time, it serves as an important economic platform by supporting family income and creating marketing opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs. This year, the exhibition introduced an integrated electronic

system as part of its digital transformation efforts. The system facilitated exhibitor registration, space booking and fee payments, while electronic payment solutions streamlined visitor entry. Organisers said the new measures improved visitor flow, reduced waiting times and will help evaluate and enhance future editions. Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali noted that this year’s exhibition comes in a renewed and distinctive format compared to previous editions. She described it as one of the most prominent annual charitable exhibitions in Oman, highlighting the diversity of local and Gulf participation, which has enriched both the quality and variety of the showcased products.



IN WASHINGTON



SQCC organises panel discussion

Times News Service

WASHINGTON: The Sultan Qaboos Cultural Centre (SQCC) in Washington hosted a panel discussion for representatives of the Secretariat Center in Muscat, reaffirming its role as a bridge between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States. The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Majid Al-Khalili, Executive Director of the Centre, and was attended by Counsellor Sabra Al-Hooti, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Washington. Organised as part of the Centre’s ongoing mission to foster intercultural dialogue and deepen the historic ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America, the evening brought together diplomats, academics and community representatives for a thoughtful exchange of ideas. Heba Abdel Khaleq, Program

Officer at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Centre, opened the event with welcoming remarks, highlighting the importance of dialogue in strengthening mutual understanding across cultures. A key feature of the programme was a presentation titled “A Sacred Trust,” which explored the humanitarian legacy of the Al-Amana Centre in the Sultanate of Oman since 1891. The presentation traced the Centre’s journey from its early contributions in medical and educational services to its present-day role as a leading institution for interfaith dialogue and coexistence. The session was delivered by Justin Myers, Executive Director of the Al-Amana Centre, and Mohammed Ali Al Shuailli, Deputy Director. Speakers reflected on the Centre’s historical milestones and its collaboration with the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs in advancing programs that promote dialogue, trust-building, and peaceful coexistence.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

MoCIIP boosts trust in e-commerce through its Maroof Oman platform

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion continues to enhance and expand the Maroof Oman platform. The platform was launched to support all participants in the e-commerce sector, including sellers and buyers, as part of its ongoing efforts to regulate the digital marketplace and reinforce transparency and trust in online transactions across the Sultanate of Oman. The Maroof Oman platform serves as a national tool supporting the growth of the digital economy by helping licensed online stores improve their chances of success. It allows customers to verify whether sellers hold official permits issued by the ministry, facilitates communication between buyers and businesses, and strengthens confidence in digital commercial activities. For sellers, the platform enhances customer trust, confirms the legality of their operations, and helps them reach a wider target audience. For buyers, it provides access to a verified list of licensed online stores, along with store information and customer ratings, enabling more informed and secure purchasing decisions. As of February 2026, the platform has documented 340 online stores, while 670 verification requests have been submitted. This reflects growing awareness among business owners about the importance of formal registration, as



well as increased consumer preference for dealing with licensed stores—especially during peak shopping periods such as Ramadan and Eid. Azza bint Ibrahim Al-Kindi, Director of the Commercial Affairs

and E-Commerce Department at the ministry, said the platform represents a strategic step toward regulating Oman’s e-commerce sector. She noted that it promotes a culture of safe and responsible online shopping by enabling consumers to verify stores before completing purchases and by boosting the credibility of compliant merchants. She also urged consumers to check for a store’s verification certificate on the platform before buying, while encouraging online merchants to apply for documentation to benefit from the trust and competitive advantages the system provides. The ministry is also implement-

ing an integrated awareness campaign across its official channels, targeting both consumers and merchants. The campaign highlights the importance of verification, promotes safe online shopping during Ramadan and Eid, and emphasises that choosing verified stores leads to smarter and more secure purchasing decisions. The ministry reaffirmed that the Maroof Oman platform is one of its key national initiatives aimed at organising the e-commerce sector, protecting consumer rights, and enhancing the credibility of online businesses, in line with Oman’s broader digital transformation goals and efforts to support the national economy.

DURING RAMADAN EVENINGS

OCCI to bring together investors, policymakers and business leaders

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As Ramadan approaches, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) is preparing to host three special evenings designed not just for discussion, but for shaping the future of Oman’s economy. Framed as interconnected sessions, the Ramadan evenings aim to bring together policymakers, business leaders, and investors under one roof to explore the next phase of economic transformation in the Sultanate. The first gathering, set to take place in Muscat on Monday, will focus on “The Future of the Real Estate Sector and Sustainable Cities.”

The session comes at a time when new real estate development legislation is redefining market regulation, consumer protection, and investment attractiveness. Discussions will spotlight the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning’s drive toward integrated, smart cities and sustainable urban growth. Participants are expected to examine the sector’s current performance, identify opportunities to attract foreign direct investment, address challenges facing developers, and propose practical, implementable solutions. On March 2, attention will shift to “Priorities of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.” The evening will explore how the national plan aligns with the ambi-



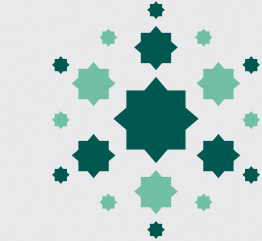
tions of Oman Vision 2040, particularly in accelerating economic diversification, strengthening the business environment, advancing value-added industries, promoting



sustainable tourism, and embracing digital transformation. The third evening, scheduled for mid-March, will examine “Economic Diplomacy and its

Role in Supporting the National Economy.” The session will highlight how diplomatic efforts extend beyond politics into trade, investment, and strategic partnerships. Discussions will cover the role of Omani missions abroad in promoting investment opportunities and national exports, the importance of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, and ways to enhance the competitiveness of Omani products in global markets. The Chamber’s role as a bridge between the domestic private sector and international counterparts will also be underscored. Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber, said the initi-

ative seeks to create shared visions between the public and private sectors. He stressed that this year’s themes were carefully selected to reflect the structural shifts underway in the Omani economy — whether in sectoral development, planning frameworks, or Oman’s expanding role within the global economic system. Through these Ramadan evenings, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry aims to deepen economic awareness, provide a balanced reading of opportunities and challenges, and channel national energies toward innovation and productive investment — reinforcing private sector competitiveness and supporting sustainable economic growth.



ظفار الإسلامي
DHOFAR ISLAMIC

DREAM IT, DRIVE IT
with profit rates starting from

3.49%

on auto financing.



www.dhofarislamic.com 24775777

*Terms and Conditions Apply.

COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS

Ministry of labour announces 1,681 job opportunities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has announced 1,681 job vacancies across a number of government units, with registration for the competitive selection process open until March 5, 2026.

The ministry stated that the vacancies are distributed across various educational qualifications. A total of 1,503 positions are allocated for candidates holding a bachelor's degree or a post-general education diploma, while 178 positions are designated for applicants with a general education diploma and below.

The announcement forms part of the ministry's 2026 recruitment plan for the administrative units of the State.

According to the ministry, the vacancies are based on a carefully prepared plan that reflects the actual staffing needs of government entities.

Recently, the Ministry of Labour said that it is preparing a comprehensive national plan for employment and skills development.

This plan is based on an effective strategic partnership between the government sector, government-owned companies, and private sector establish-



ments, to implement the Royal directives aimed at accelerating the pace of employment and providing 60,000 job opportunities for citizens during 2026.

The Ministry clarified that the preparation of this plan is based on a precise analysis of labour market needs, linking employment opportunities to high value-added sectors, and enhancing alignment between the outputs of education and training and the needs of the national economy. This contributes to raising the efficiency of the national workforce and enhancing its competitiveness. The targeted job opportunities are distributed as follows:

In the government sector, 10,000 jobs will be provided in the government sector (civil, mili-

tary, and security), according to studied actual needs. This aims to enhance the efficiency of the state's administrative apparatus, improve the quality of public services, and focus on vital sectors with developmental and service priority.

As for government support pathways, 17,000 opportunities will be provided within government support pathways. These include wage support programmes, training coupled with employment, and on-the-job training programs. These pathways aim to enable job seekers to acquire the required practical and professional skills, enhance their employability, and ensure their sustainable integration into the labour market.

COMMENTARY

Oman's legal framework for protecting juvenile workers

Oman's Labour Law, issued under Royal Decree 53/2023, establishes comprehensive protections for juvenile workers, ensuring their rights are safeguarded while allowing them to gain work experience in a safe environment. The law defines a juvenile worker as any person who has reached the age of 15 but has not reached the age of 18 years old and sets clear rules for their employment.

In an exclusive interview with Times of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Founding Partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, explained that "the law places strict conditions on employing juveniles. No one under 15 may work in any capacity. Working hours are limited to 06 hours per day, and they cannot work between 06 in the evening and 06 in the morning. They are also prohibited from working overtime, on weekly rest days, or during official holidays."

"Before employment begins, employers must obtain consent from the juvenile's guardian and ensure the worker passes a medical examination to confirm fitness for the job. These medical checks must be repeated periodically. Employers must also



maintain a register listing all juvenile workers with their ages and start dates, and inform the ministry about them," he said. Dr. Mohammed noted that

"the law also requires employers to display work schedules showing juvenile working hours and rest periods. Violations of these protections result in penalties, ensuring employers take their responsibilities seriously."

"These protections aim to balance a young person's right to work with their need for education, rest, and healthy development. By setting clear rules on working hours, rest periods, and medical checks, Oman's Labour Law creates a safe path for juveniles to enter the workforce while shielding them from exploitation and harmful working conditions," he concluded.

**(Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established on 14th December 2006 and is serving clients through its offices in Muscat and Sohar, as well as operating on a request basis in other areas. It offers legal representation across a wide range of practice areas that include Labour Law, Corporate, Commercial, Contracts, Banking and Finance, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Insurance, Maritime Law, Construction and Engineering Contracts, International Arbitration, Intellectual Property and more).*



5-7 MARCH 2026
7:00 PM ONWARDS



DONGFENG

PRESENTS



OMAN AUTO FEST

MEET YOUR DREAM CAR

Oman Auto Fest 2026 brings together the world's most exciting premium sedans, powerful SUVs, smart EVs and advanced hybrids, all under one roof.





ACTIVE OMAN
(Oman Automobile Association, Muscat)



OMANAUTOFEST

FOLLOW US

For partnership opportunities, contact:

Sanjeev Rana
sanjeev@mmg.om
+968 97221630

Syed Amir Saleem
syed.amir@mmg.om
+968 78471944



FREE ENTRY



TEST DRIVE



GAMES



FOOD



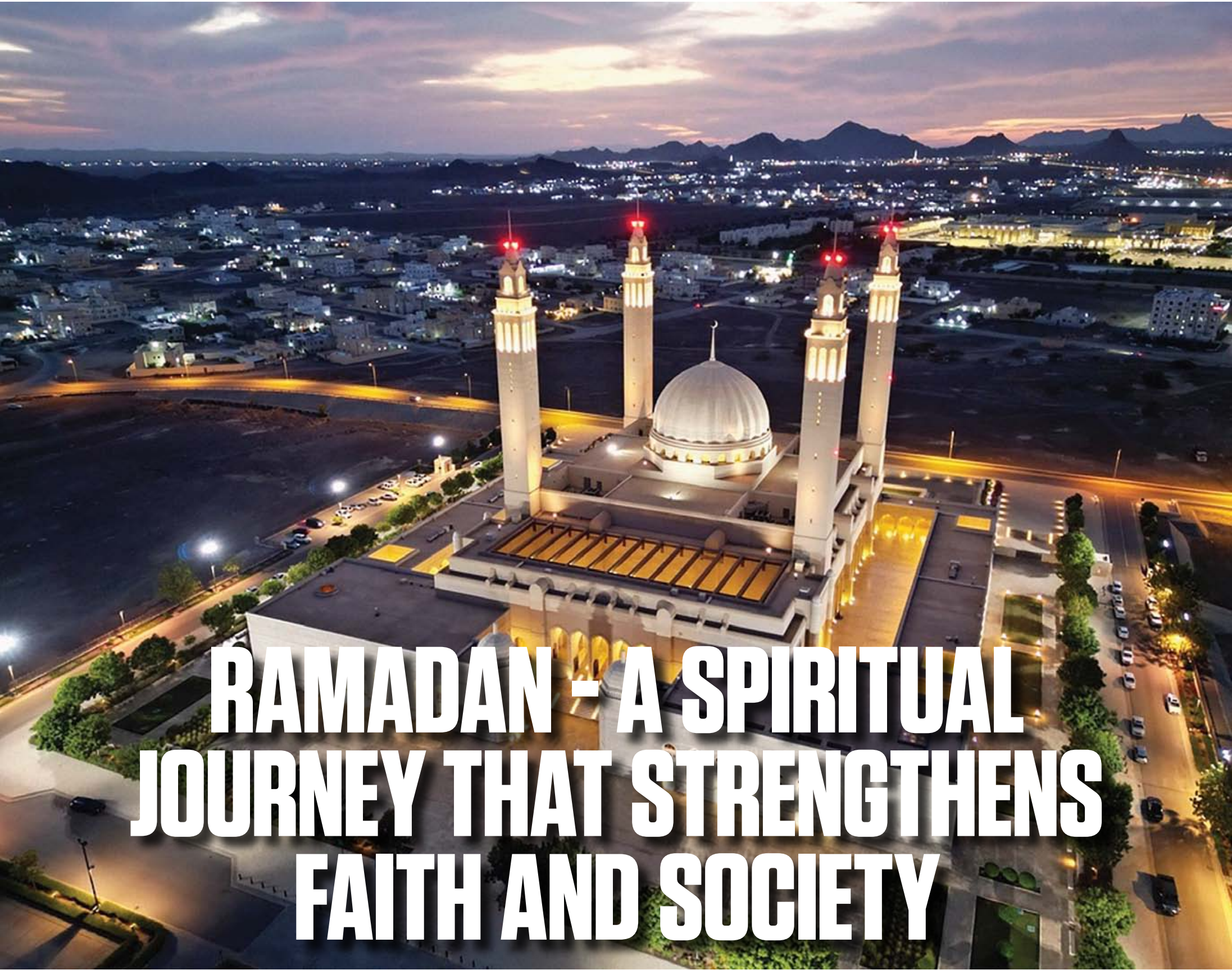
FUN ACTIVITIES

VENUE PARTNER

ORGANIZED BY

MEDIA PARTNERS

EVENT PARTNER



Ramadan represents a school for strengthening social solidarity, as fasting motivates people to engage in good deeds

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ramadan is the month in which fasting transforms from a formal exercise into a profound spiritual journey that reshapes the relationship between a person and the Almighty, the self and society. Ghanim bin Salim Al Mishai-khi, Chairman of the Zakat (alms-giving) Committee in the Wilayat of Taqah, said fasting evolves from a routine practice into a deep spiritual experience during the holy month. He explained that understand-

ing the rationale behind fasting and dedicating time to reflect on the Holy Quran help repair family ties and elevate the family Iftar from merely sharing a meal to a moment of forgiveness and reconciliation. Ramadan, he added, represents a school for strengthening social solidarity, as fasting motivates people to engage in good deeds and extend support to needy families and individuals. Musalam bin Ali Al Mas'hali, Imam and preacher of Sultan Qaboos Mosque in Salalah, said fast-

ing teaches people how to interact with one another in a spirit of mercy and compassion. He noted that Islam is a religion of mercy and that Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) was known for his generosity, especially during Ramadan. He cited the saying of the Prophet: "Whoever gives food for a fasting person to break his fast will have a reward like theirs, without that detracting from their reward in the slightest." Al Mas'hali stressed that the potential of youth should be harnessed during Ramadan, as

they represent the driving force of giving. Their skills and abilities, he said, should be directed toward serving religion, society and the nation. **Nation building** Yahya bin Masaud Al Rashidi, a preacher at the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, urged young people to make the most of Ramadan by engaging in nation-building activities that benefit both themselves and their communities. He said voluntary work during Ramadan is not merely a social

activity but a means of instilling values such as loyalty and responsibility among youth. Initiatives that can be strengthened during the month include providing Iftar meals to fasting people, organising charity campaigns and participating in religious awareness programmes. Dr Mohammed bin Ali Al Lawati, a researcher in Quranic affairs, said Ramadan is not only a month of fasting but also a month devoted to the Holy Quran, with fasting serving as one of its greatest pillars.

IFTAR RECIPE BY ONEZA TABISH



Gazpacho

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 medium tomatoes, peeled, cored, and seeded
- 2 medium cucumbers, peeled and chopped
- 1 large green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 5 cups tomato juice (readymade)
- 1/2 cup vinegar

METHOD:

- Combine all ingredients. Chill before serving (overnight is best, so that all of the flavours combine well).

NORTH AL BATINAH

Ramadan programmes



SOHAR: The Department of Endowments and Religious Affairs in North Al Batinah Governorate has announced the implementation of a package of diverse Ramadan programs across the governorate's wilayats, as part of its efforts to enhance Islamic values during the Holy Month. Mohammed Khamis Al Badi, Head of the Islamic Affairs Section at Department, stated that during the Holy Month of Rama-

dan, the department is working to provide a wide range of religious programs, initiatives, and activities. These include 11,880 lessons, five preaching convoys, and 4,500 lectures, in addition to 60 seminars and evenings distributed across all wilayats of the governorate. He explained that the plan includes organizing 16 workshops for government institutions in the governorate titled "Ramadan Thoughts." — ONA

COMMENTARY

Studied hard, scored low:
Understanding application
gap in CBSE Boards



DR.SAJI UTHUPPAN*

For many years, success in CBSE board examinations depended largely on how well students memorised their textbooks. Definitions, formulas, and standard answers from NCERT formed the core of exam preparation. However, in recent years, CBSE's increasing focus on competency-based assessment has significantly changed the nature of board exams. As a result, many students now leave examination halls feeling uncertain, despite months of sincere preparation. According to teachers, the main issue is no longer syllabus coverage but students' difficulty in applying what they have learned.

During my interactions with students outside institutional settings, many of them approached me in my capacity as an educationist and shared their concerns. These conversations, which took place beyond classrooms and schools, revealed a common pattern. Students repeatedly expressed that despite sincere preparation and conceptual clarity, the examination questions appeared unfamiliar and confusing. Their experiences clearly highlighted the widening gap between preparation and performance.

CBSE has gradually increased the weightage of case-based, assertion-reason, and situation-based questions to assess conceptual understanding rather than rote memory. While this shift aims to promote deeper learning, it has also made exams feel challenging for many students. Although they know the concepts, they often struggle when these concepts are presented in real-life or unfamiliar contexts. One of the first challenges students face is the length of competency-based questions. These often include detailed paragraphs, data, or case studies that require careful reading. Under exam pressure, students tend to assume that a long question demands a long answer. In reality, CBSE marking schemes award marks for specific points, not elaborate explanations. As a result, students waste valuable time writing lengthy responses that do not earn additional marks.

Teachers also observe that many students lose

marks due to misreading questions rather than lack of knowledge. Competency-based questions use action words such as analyse, justify, compare, or evaluate, each demanding a specific type of response. In the rush to begin writing, students often overlook these instructions and produce answers that miss the actual requirement. By the time they recognise the error, time and marks have already been lost.

Another major issue is students' reluctance to move away from textbook language. Many believe that reproducing NCERT sentences guarantees marks. Consequently, they write theoretical answers without connecting them to the given situation. Examiners, however, value relevance and clarity more than memorised content. Answers that fail to address the context inevitably lose marks. Time pressure further intensifies the problem. Competency-based questions require time to read, interpret, and plan. Students often realise midway that their answer is misaligned but lack sufficient time to correct it. This is especially noticeable in subjects such as Science, Social Science, and Business Studies. Senior CBSE examiners point out that clarity, structure, and presentation are the first aspects they notice. Legible handwriting, correct question numbering, underlined keywords, labelled diagrams, and step-wise solutions make evaluation easier. In contrast, vague paragraphs, poor organisation, or cluttered presentation reduce the chances of full marks, even when the content is correct. As one examiner observed, most students understand the topic but struggle to apply it. Their answers may be correct in theory but fail to respond to what the question actually asks. This gap between knowledge and application is where marks are lost. In a nutshell, this gap cannot be bridged by students alone. Students need consistent exposure to competency-based questions throughout the academic year, not just before examinations. At the same time, teachers require systematic training to shift from memory-based teaching to application-oriented practices. Unless teaching methods evolve, students will continue to feel unprepared. Therefore, regular practice with case-study questions, careful attention to keywords, brief answer planning, and a focus on real-life application are essential. Ultimately, while studying well remains important, knowing how to use what one has studied has become far more crucial in today's CBSE examinations.

During the meeting, participants reviewed the general vision for the Board's work and its action plan for the upcoming phase, particularly concerning the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Several participating parties announced voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to support humanitarian recovery efforts and facilitate the safe return of life for the population.

* The writer is a Lecturer of English



Oman participates as
observer in inaugural
meeting of Board of Peace

The Sultanate of
Oman's delegation
was headed by the
Sayyid Badr bin
Hamad Al Busaidi,
Foreign Minister

WASHINGTON: The Sultanate of Oman participated on Thursday as an observer in the inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace, at the invitation of the President Donald Trump of the United States of America. The meeting was held in the US capital, Washington.

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation was headed by the Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

The meeting witnessed the participation of a number of presidents of states, heads of government, and senior officials from



member states, alongside representatives from invited nations attending as observers.

During the meeting, participants reviewed the general vision for the Board's work and its action plan for the upcoming phase, particularly concerning the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Several participating parties announced voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to support humanitarian recovery efforts and facilitate the safe return of life for the population.

Oman's participation aligns with its steadfast approach of supporting endeavors to achieve peace through dialogue, upholding the right to self-determination, and adhering to international law and United Nations resolutions. This includes advocating for the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, thereby ensuring sustainable security and stability for all peoples of the region.

— ONA

IN WASHINGTON DC

Oman embassy
hosts reception

WASHINGTON DC: The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman hosted a diplomatic reception at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Centre in Washington DC, bringing together American partners and international exchange leaders to highlight the enduring relationship between Oman and the US.

Organised in collaboration with Global Ties US, the reception welcomed guests from across the US representing educational institutions, community organisations, and international engagement programs. The event provided an opportunity to showcase Oman's diplomatic priorities, cultural heritage, and commitment to international cooperation. — ONA

NORTH AL SHARQIYAH

Service-related
topics discussed

BIDIYAH: The Municipal Council of North Al Sharqiyah Governorate discussed the latest developments in addressing municipal challenges across several of the governorate's wilayats, as well as requests for the approval and amendment of certain residential plans and land uses, and the naming of various roads and residential neighbourhoods.

This took place during the council's second meeting of 2026, held today in the Wilayat of Bidiyah under the chairmanship of Mahmoud Yahya Al Duhli, Governor of North A'Sharqiyah and Chairman of the Council. The meeting addressed several service and development-related topics on the agenda and adopted appropriate recommendations regarding them. — ONA

DOHA QATAR

Leading Electro Mechanical Engineering Company required following

SEND CV'S SOON FOR SHORT-LISTING

GULF EXPERIENCE IS MUST • AGE LIMIT: NOT MORE THAN 35 YEARS

(Candidate should be degree holder with 5 to 7 yrs Experience in MEP Contracting Company Involved in Industrial / Commercial / Residential Project)

• Mechanical Engineer: Exp. in HVAC Installation, Tendering, Execution & Basic Knowledge of QA/QC and Designing.

• Electrical Engineer: Exp in Electrical Installation, Tendering, Execution, Fire Alarm & Low Voltage System.

• QA/QC Engineer: Should have Internationally Recognized Lead Auditor Certificate with 10 yrs Experience in Related Quality Control Activities.

• Lead Auditor/QMS: Holding Dip / Deg with Valid Certificates in Lead Auditor Certificate from any of these Certification Body BSI, BV, SGS, TUV on ISO 45001:2018, ISO 14001:2015 and IMS Implementation Course is Essential.

• AutoCAD Draftsman - Electrical / Mechanical (Construction): Able to Prepare Drawing using Latest Version of AutoCAD. Note: Civil, Architectural & Structural Draftsman are Not Acceptable.

CONTACT IMMEDIATELY WITH FULL PARTICULARS

EXCELLENT SALARY & PERKS

SHREENATH & ASSOCIATES

04, Daulat Sagar Society, Above Tiffany's & Surabhi Hotel,

55 Nehru Road, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400 055

E-mail: qatar@sajobs.in / info@sajobs.in

Call: • Anand: +91-9322165299 / Rupesh: +91-9321990939

LICENSES NO.: REG.NO.B-0147/BOM/PART/1000-5/248/84

SHREENATH & ASSOCIATES

Since 1976

MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No.(5/2026)

In reference to Advertisement No. (3 /2026), Muscat Municipality informs you of the modification of the dates related to the Bids as follows:

Sr.	Bidding No.	Bidding description	Document fee		Deadline for obtaining bidding docs.	Deadline for inquires submission	Deadline for submission
			LO/RE	SMEs			
1	1/2026	Management & Operation of Café (A) at the Oman Botanic Garden – Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	25/02/2026	03/03/2026	11/03/2026
2	2/2026	Management & Operation of Café (B) at the Oman Botanic Garden – Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	25/02/2026	03/03/2026	11/03/2026
3	3/2026	Management & Operation of Four (4) Pop-Up Carts at the Oman Botanic Garden, Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	25/02/2026	03/03/2026	11/03/2026
4	4/2026	Management & Operation of the Gift and Souvenir Shop at the Visitor Center of Oman Botanic Garden (Shop No. 1)	78/- OMR	10/- OMR	25/02/2026	03/03/2026	11/03/2026
5	5/2026	Management & Operation of Restaurant No. (3) at Oman Botanic Garden – Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	25/02/2026	03/03/2026	11/03/2026

Registered companies with Muscat Municipality which are Specialized in above bids are invited to participate as per the following procedures:

1. Company registration with Muscat Municipality must be valid to obtain the bid document.

2. Pay the specified document fee for the requested bid via bank deposit to Muscat Municipality's Bank account as follows:

Bank Muscat	0423010702710024
-------------	------------------

A copy of the transaction's receipt MUST be send to the following e-mail (SQ.QS@mm.gov.om), provided with the company data (name and bid number, delegate name,office phone number, mobile number, email address approved by the company and commercial registration number of the company).

3. The tender document will be provided to the company via email.

4. 2:00 PM on the above mentioned dates, is the last timing for obtaining Bidding Documents.

5. Submission details will be shares later.

NOTES:

1. Companies which are not registered in Muscat Municipality or their registration has been expired shall register through the municipality's website (www.mm.gov.om).

2. For technical support, please contact Muscat Municipality through this email (crm@mm.gov.om). If the bidders have any inquiries regarding the scope of the work, they have to sent their inquiries through the following e-mail (Nashwa.h.alsinani@mm.gov.om)

3. 10:00 AM on the above submission mentioned dates, is the last timing for receiving bids. Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason.

4. Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: www.mm.gov.om

Tortoises reintroduced to a Galapagos island

Ecuador released 158 juveniles in the first phase of an ambitious rewilding effort at the World Heritage Site

BERLIN: Nearly 150 years after giant tortoises vanished from Floreana Island in Ecuador's Galapagos archipelago, the species has made a long anticipated return. Ecuadorian authorities this week released 158 juvenile tortoises, each between 8 and 13 years old. The release is the first phase of a larger plan to reintroduce 700 animals to the island. "For the first time in over a century, Floreana is once again home to giant tortoises, a species that plays a strategic role as ecosystem engineers: seed dispersers, vegetation regulators, and promoters of natural habitat regeneration," the environment ministry said Friday.

Genetic link to the original species The young tortoises carry between 40% and 80% of the genetic makeup of "Chelonoidis niger," the species that disappeared in the 19th century due to invasive mammals, whaling, fire and human exploitation. According to the ministry, the juveniles were bred at a Galapagos National Park facility using animals with strong genetic ties to Floreana's lost lineage. Officials hope the long term resettlement effort will eventually restore the original species profile on the island. National Geographic identifies 13 living species of Galapagos tor-



toises on other islands in the archipelago. Adults can weigh more than 250 kilograms (550 pounds), and the oldest known individual lived to age 175. Returning to a

new environment. The tortoises will now share Floreana with a small human population and a diverse range of native wildlife. They will also face threats from invasive species, which conservationists say remain a major challenge.

Deeply meaningful Floreana resident Veronica Mora said seeing the tortoises return was deeply meaningful for the community. "We are seeing the reality of a project that began several years ago," she said, calling the release a source of collective pride. Researchers are also working to bring back 12 additional endemic species to Floreana as part of a wide scale rewilding initiative. The Galapagos Islands, a World Heritage Site, lie about 1,000 kilometers off Ecuador's coast and are known for their unique biodiversity.



Printed and published by: Muscat Media Group, Post Box: 770, Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali, Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali, Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali, Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 22009004, E-mail: amcoman@choueirgroup.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

UAE tops list of Oman non-oil exports

< FROM A1 The UAE topped the list of Oman non-oil exports increasing by 25.3% to more than OMR1.311 billion in 2025 compared to OMR1.046 billion registered in 2024. The value of Oman's non-oil exports to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) also rose from OMR848 million to OMR1.067 billion. The value of Oman's non-oil exports to India increase by 6% to OMR700 million compared to OMR659 million in 2024. The United Arab Emirates also led the re-export activities, accounting for 35.2 per cent of Oman's total re-export trade val-

ued at OMR2.056 billion. The value of goods re-exported to the UAE witnesses a growth of 27.2 per cent to reach OMR724 million in 2025 compared to OMR569 million in 2024. The imports of goods from UAE during last year increased by 5.4% to exceed OMR4.1 billion in 2025 compared to OMR3.9 billion in 2024. The imports of goods from China increased by 5.7% from OMR1.830 billion to OMR 1.935 billion while the goods imports from India decreased by 3.8% from OMR1.505 billion to OMR1.448 billion.

- ONA

2.26bn data records were exchanged

< FROM A1 Digital transactions processed through the OmanNet e-payment gateway totalled 45.85 million between January and September 2025, compared to 31.66 million transactions recorded in 2021. Since its launch in 2017 until the end of November 2025, more than 2.26 billion data records were exchanged via the National Integration Platform. Authentication requests through various e-authentication systems reached approximately 202.9 million by the end of 2025, while 74 per cent of government institutions adopted electronic authentication as a login verification method for digital portals

and platforms. Highlighting the economic impact of digital transformation projects between 2021 and 2025, the report stated that contracts awarded to small and medium enterprises exceeded OMR15.28 million. A total of 251 SMEs participated in implementing digital transformation initiatives during this period. The number of government digital systems, portals and applications developed between 2021 and 2025 reached 217. These included 147 new digital systems and portals, 33 new mobile applications and 37 redesigned government websites offering enhanced digital user experiences.

- ONA

AL JAZEIRA SERVICES CO. SAOG

P.O. Box 2865, Ruwi, P.C 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel.: 24706499, Fax: 24703653

Chairman's Report

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Services Co. SAOG, I am pleased to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of the Company. I take this opportunity to place before you the Annual Report for the year ended on 31 December 2025.

Profits and Assets

The revenue from catering and allied services business for the year 2025 at OMR 11,517,647 was up by 7% from OMR 10,723,180 for the year 2024. The operating profit for the year 2025 was OMR 352,010, which was down by 48% compared to OMR 675,116 for the year 2024. The decline in operating profit is mainly attributed to phased mobilization of a major catering contract and competitive pressure adversely affecting the price realizations. The Company is following prudent and proactive approach to increase its market share and improve the performance of its catering business.

The net gains from the investment segment for the year 2025 was OMR 425,409 against gain of OMR 434,775 for the year 2024.

The share of profit from associate company, Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles Co. SAOG amounting to OMR 205,966 was up by 223% from OMR 63,767 for the year 2024.

As a result of the above, the net profit after tax for the year 2025 was down by 12% to OMR 849,450 from OMR 966,814 reported for the year 2024.

The shareholders' equity as on 31 December 2025 was OMR 15,178,532 compared to OMR 15,440,741 on 31 December 2024. The net assets per share as on 31 December 2025 was 194 baisa against 197 baisa as on 31 December 2024.

Corporate Governance

I am pleased to report that your Company has adhered to all the applicable regulation covering corporate governance in Oman. A report on Corporate Governance and a Management Discussion and Analysis forms part of the Annual Report 2025.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Company acknowledges its corporate social responsibilities (CSR) and strives to serve the community by providing assistance to the approved organizations engaged in charitable and community development activities through CSR program. The amount spent on CSR during the year 2025 amounted to OMR 13,000 and we propose to allocate OMR 15,000 for CSR activities in the year 2026.

Dividend

The Board of Directors has recommended a cash dividend of 20 baisa per share amounting to RO 1,564,040 for the year 2025 to the Shareholders registered on the date of the Annual General Meeting scheduled on 26 March 2026.

Future outlook

We maintain a cautiously optimistic approach with core focus on our catering and allied services business. We also expect sustainable contribution to our profit from our associate, Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles Co. SAOG. Our outlook for the future remains stable.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank our valued Customers, Shareholders, Muscat Stock Exchange and Financial Services Authority for their unwavering support. I would also like to thank management and employees for their commitment and sincere hard work.

Above all, we extend our profound gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haiman Bin Tarik, under whose visionary leadership and wise guidance Oman continues its steadfast march towards sustainable socio-economic progress and prosperity.

Abdulredha Mustafa Sultan
Deputy Chairman

Separate and consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025
(Expressed in OMR)

	Group 31 December 2025	Parent Company 31 December 2025	Group 31 December 2024	Parent Company 31 December 2024
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Furniture and equipment	43,257	3,149	81,201	5,242
Goodwill	90,000	-	90,000	-
Investment in subsidiaries	-	320,444	-	320,444
Investment in an associate	10,965,627	10,965,627	11,023,808	11,023,808
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	9,897	9,897	9,897	9,897
Deferred tax asset	167,624	152,889	179,330	161,312
Total non-current assets	11,276,405	11,452,006	11,384,236	11,520,703
Current assets				
Inventories	525,460	-	326,768	-
Trade and other receivables	4,768,489	1,936	3,934,757	92,755
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	1,221,545	1,221,545	2,143,126	2,143,126
Due from related parties	3,722	1,897,035	3,284	1,582,393
Cash and bank balances	1,104,286	661,315	454,455	148,785
Total current assets	7,623,502	3,781,831	6,862,390	3,967,059
Total assets	18,899,907	15,233,837	18,246,626	15,487,762
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Shareholders' capital and reserves				
Share capital	7,820,202	7,820,202	7,820,202	7,820,202
Legal reserve	2,635,348	2,606,734	2,635,348	2,606,734
Retained earnings	4,817,353	4,658,008	5,140,933	4,985,887
Investment fair value reserve	(143,758)	(143,758)	(205,129)	(205,129)
Other reserves	49,387	49,387	49,387	49,387
Total shareholders' capital and reserves	15,178,532	14,990,573	15,440,741	15,257,081
Non-current liabilities				
Employee benefit liabilities	563,448	56,567	504,993	53,506
Total non-current liabilities	563,448	56,567	504,993	53,506
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	2,671,651	19,155	1,738,301	19,113
Due to related parties	374,259	146,655	383,070	137,175
Provision for taxation	112,017	20,887	179,521	20,887
Total current liabilities	3,157,927	186,697	2,300,892	177,175
Total liabilities	3,721,375	243,264	2,805,885	230,681
Total equity and liabilities	18,899,907	15,233,837	18,246,626	15,487,762
Net assets per share	0.194	0.192	0.197	0.195

Separate and consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025
(Expressed in OMR)

	Group Year ended 31 December 2025	Parent Company Year ended 31 December 2025	Group Year ended 31 December 2024	Parent Company Year ended 31 December 2024
Income				
Revenue from contracts with customers	11,517,647	-	10,723,180	-
Direct costs	(10,001,704)	-	(8,820,696)	-
Gross profit	1,515,943	-	1,902,484	-
Other income	5,574	-	30,626	-
	1,521,517	-	1,933,110	-
Expenses				
Employees' salaries and other related costs	(542,005)	(170,068)	(523,492)	(156,690)
General, administrative and selling expenses	(576,023)	(83,855)	(685,293)	(97,058)
Depreciation	(51,479)	(2,406)	(49,209)	(2,330)
	(1,169,507)	(256,329)	(1,257,994)	(256,078)
Profit / (loss) from operations	352,010	(256,329)	675,116	(256,078)
Net gain from investments	425,409	425,409	434,775	434,775
Share of profit from investment in an associate	205,966	205,966	63,767	63,767
Dividend from a subsidiary	(35,103)	507,482	-	783,363
Finance costs	948,282	853,573	1,165,888	1,019,479
Profit before tax for the year	(98,832)	(8,422)	(199,074)	(59,729)
Income tax expense	849,450	845,151	966,814	959,750
Net profit after tax for the year	849,450	845,151	966,814	959,750
Other comprehensive income items that will not be reclassified to profit and loss				
Share of fair value reserve from investment in an associate	61,371	61,371	68,494	68,494
Total other comprehensive income	61,371	61,371	68,494	68,494
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the owners of the Parent Company	910,821	906,522	1,035,308	1,028,244
Basic and diluted earnings per share	0.011	0.011	0.009	0.009

SLOW DOWN
ENJOY THE RIDE

A TIMES OF OMAN PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tender:

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
35/2026/ MTCIT	Artistic Direction for the Exhibition Opening, Logistics Day, and Media Coverage 2006	18-2-2026	24-2-2026	4-3-2026	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE PROJECT, TENDERS AND LOCAL CONTENT AUTHORITY (ALL CLASSES)	(25/- OMR) TEWNTY-FIVE OMANI RIALS (LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMPANIES) (10/- OMR) TEN OMANI RIALS (SMEs) NON- REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:
Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@pttc.gov.om

@mtcitoman www.mtcit.gov.om Internal Tenders Committee

SNAPCHAT'S SUMMIT

Digital Media Services (DMS), the official media representative of Snapchat in Oman, hosted the first-ever Snapchat Summit in Muscat, creating a dedicated platform for the local creative, marketing, and media community to engage directly with Snapchat.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



TENDER BOARD CONTRACTS

The Tender Board, in its first meeting of 2026, awarded several tenders and additional works for developmental projects across various sectors with a total value of RO 32,597,355.

MSX rises on energy and services stocks despite limited profit-taking

The main index benefited from the rise in shares of Renaissance Services, Omantel, Abraj Energy Services, Al Suwadi Power, OQ Exploration and Production, Asyad Shipping, and SMN Power Holding



MUSCAT: The main index of the Muscat Stock Exchange rose 47 points last week and closed at 7,225 points, benefiting from the gains recorded by a number of energy and services companies. The Muscat Stock Exchange witnessed limited profit-taking sales that pushed shares of a number of leading companies lower.

The main index benefited from the rise in shares of Renaissance Services, Omantel, Abraj Energy Services, Al Suwadi Power, OQ Exploration and Production, Asyad Shipping, and SMN Power Holding.

The gains recorded by energy, telecommunications and services

companies also supported the services sector index, which rose 45 points to close the week's trading at 2807 points.

Other sector indices were affected by the declines recorded by leading stocks, with the financial sector index falling by 47 points, the Sharia index losing about 3 points, and the industrial sector index closing the week's trading with a slight decline of one point.

Local investment funds and institutions reduced their purchases on Wednesday and Thursday trad-

ing after the sharp rise in stocks in the previous days and the main index rising above the 7,300 point level by the middle of the week's trading. Then funds reducing its gains as investors sold to take profits on a number of stocks, which led to a decline in trading value on Wednesday and Thursday after record trading of OMR158 million on Tuesday.

During the week's the total trading volume reached OMR360.8 million, compared to OMR377.2 million in the week before, regis-

tering a decline of 4.3 percent. The number of transactions executed also declined by 22 percent, dropping to 30,650 transactions, compared to more than 39,000 transactions in the week before.

The market capitalisation of securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange recorded gains of OMR179.5 million in the week, concluding the trading at OMR35.93 billion.

Liva Group's stock accounted for 18.4 percent of the total trading value, with trades worth OMR66.4

million. OQ Exploration and Production's stock came nest with trades worth OMR62.1 million, Bank Sohar International had trades worth OMR57 million, OQ Basic Industries' stock registered trades worth OMR38.8 million, and Bank Muscat registered trades worth of OMR38 million, representing 10.5 percent of the total trading value.

During the week, the prices of 35 securities rose, compared to 41 securities whose prices declined and 22 securities remained unchanged

at their previous levels. The National Aluminium Products Company share recorded the highest rise, increasing by 69.7 percent and closing at 326 baisa. Raysut Cement stock also rose by 24.4 percent and closed at 117 baisa. Al Jazeera Services stock rose by 20.5 percent and closed at 246 baisa. Al Sharqiyah Desalination stock rose by 20 percent and closed at 180 baisa. Financial Services Company stock rose by 19.1 percent and closed at 118 baisa.

The shares of Galfar Engineering and Contracting led the list of losing stocks, declining by 12.5 percent and closing at 98 baisa. Salalah Mills shares fell by 9.3 percent and closed at 468 baisa. Al Madina Investment Holding shares declined by 6.8 percent and closed at 41 baisa. Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles shares fell to 188 baisa, recording a decline of 6 percent. Muscat Gases shares declined by 4.6 percent and closed at 124 baisa.

Company news: Ominvest announced that its board of directors has approved the sale of 80 percent of Ominvest's stake in Jabreen Investment Projects, along with some international investments, to a strategic investor. The company expects the transaction to generate net cash flows of OMR134 million and an estimated profit of OMR17 million. The company noted that the transaction is subject to obtaining regulatory and other approvals, in addition to the completion and signing of the final transaction documents, including the share purchase and sale agreement with the strategic investor. -**ONA**

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA GOVERNOR

Global growth to be marginally higher in 2026 supported by tech-related investments: RBI

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said global growth is expected to be marginally higher in 2026 despite escalating geopolitical tensions and rising trade frictions, while asserting that India's economy remains resilient with improving growth prospects and benign inflation, according to minutes of the February 4-6 meeting of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee.

Malhotra had noted that global expansion would be supported by a surge in technology-related investments, conducive fiscal and monetary policies, and accommodative financial conditions.

However, he cautioned that inflation outcomes remain uneven across countries, prompting central banks to follow divergent policy trajectories as they near the end of their easing cycles.

"Global investor sentiments are nervous and financial markets remain volatile amid large fiscal stimulus and geopolitical uncertainty," the RBI Governor said.

"The domestic economic activity has remained robust, driven primarily by internal factors. The real GDP growth for 2025-26 is projected to rise by 90 basis points from 6.5 per cent in 2024-25, with the outlook for the following year also expected to stay strong," he said.

He added that growth-supportive measures announced in the Union Budget, along with recent trade agreements with major partners, particularly the European Union and the United States, have brightened the external sector outlook.

"Accordingly, we have increased our projection of real GDP growth by 20 basis points each in Q1 and Q2 of 2026-27. These trade deals will not only strengthen exports and the current account but also bring in higher investments," Malhotra said.



On inflation, the Governor observed that price pressures in November and December 2025 remained low and below the lower tolerance threshold.

Headline inflation for 2025-26 is projected at 2.1 per cent, while CPI inflation for Q1 and Q2 of 2026-27 is expected at 4.0 per cent and 4.2 per cent, respectively, close to the target.

Malhotra underscored the importance of inflation composition, noting that excluding precious metals, the inflation outlook is even lower. "Precious metals contribute about 60-70 basis points to inflation. The underlying inflation continues to be low," he said.

Assessing the broader macroeconomic environment, Malhotra said India's medium-term fundamentals, including the external sector, remain "healthy and robust."

"Growth prospects are looking up while the inflation outlook remains broadly unchanged. Given the present state of the economy and its outlook buoyant growth and benign inflation I feel the current policy rate is appropriate," the Governor added. -**ANI**

REPORT

GCC-Stat report highlights growth in competitiveness, trade, energy

MUSCAT: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies recorded steady growth in 2024, driven by non-oil sectors, improved quality of life, advances in digital infrastructure, and a stronger regional and international economic presence, according to the "GCC in Numbers" report issued by the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat).

The report presented comprehensive data on macroeconomic indicators confirming the continued real GDP growth across GCC countries, supported by economic diversification programmes and fiscal reforms.

The report said the GCC's combined gross domestic product (GDP) reached \$2.3 trillion in 2024, ranking ninth globally, with a growth rate of 2.2 percent.

The report also reflected improvements in global economic indicators, including competitiveness, resilience, and economic dynamism. The GCC ranks first globally in proven oil reserves at 511.9 billion barrels, second in natural gas reserves at 44.3 trillion cubic



metres, and third in natural gas production at 442 billion cubic metres.

In trade, GCC countries ranked 10th globally in exports at \$849.6

billion, 11th globally in imports at \$739.0 billion, and 10th globally in total trade volume at \$1.5895 trillion. The bloc ranked sixth worldwide in trade surplus at \$109.7 billion.

Furthermore, GCC countries ranked between 15th and 52nd globally in the Human Development Index, within the "Very High Human Development" category. -**WAM**

DATA

UAE became Oman's leading trading partner in non-oil exports, re-exports in 2025



MUSCAT: The United Arab Emirates topped the list of the Sultanate of Oman's trading partners last year in non-oil exports, re-export activities, and merchandise imports, according to the monthly statistical bulletin issued by Oman's National Centre for Statistics and Information.

Data published by the Oman News Agency (ONA) showed that the UAE ranked first as a destination for Omani non-oil exports, receiving goods valued at more than OMR 1.311 billion, marking a growth rate of 25.3%.

The UAE also accounted for 35.2 per cent of Oman's total re-export trade, valued at OMR724 million,

reflecting a growth of 27.2%. Meanwhile, Omani merchandise imports from the UAE increased by 5.4%, exceeding OMR 4.1 billion.

Overall, Oman recorded positive performance in its non-oil foreign trade, supported by government efforts to enhance port activity and stimulate productive sectors. Non-oil exports, including chemicals, metals, and machinery, rose by 7.5% to reach OMR 6.7 billion. Re-export activities surged by 20.3%, totaling OMR 2.056 billion.

Other prominent trading partners included Saudi Arabia, India, China, Iran, and the United Kingdom, with varying shares in export and import activities. -**WAM**

MARKET

OMR32mn development tenders awarded across various sectors

The works approved for award and adoption during the meeting include a project to construct two flood protection dams on Wadi Al Ansab in Muscat Governorate, valued at OMR 9,750,000, and the supply of peritoneal dialysis requirements for OMR 8,390,285

MUSCAT: The Tender Board, in its first meeting of 2026, awarded several tenders and additional works for developmental projects



across various sectors with a total value of OMR 32,597,355.

The meeting was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Board.

The works approved for award and adoption during the meeting include a project to construct two flood protection dams on Wadi Al Ansab in Muscat Governorate, valued at OMR 9,750,000, and the supply of peritoneal dialysis re-

quirements for OMR 8,390,285.

The Board also approved the provision of consultancy services for the design of Phase 3 of the stadium within the Integrated Sports City for OMR 4,650,000, as well as the replacement of air condition-

ing units at the Ministry of Finance—part of the rehabilitation and maintenance works for the Ministry of Finance building—for OMR 3,268,530.

Furthermore, additional works were approved for the construc-

tion of a tunnel at the intersection of Ittin Road and 18th of November Street in Salalah for OMR 3,203,151, along with a project to cut the Rakhyut-Dhalkut coastal dirt road in Dhofar Governorate for OMR 700,000.

Other approvals included the upgrade of IT infrastructure at the headquarters of the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority for OMR 418,950, and the purchase of broadcasting rights for the FIFA Arab Cup 2025, to be held in the State of Qatar, for OMR 192,249.

The Board also approved a practice for providing incentives and promotional offers to employees of government units for OMR 176,400, in addition to supplementary works for asphalt road maintenance in Tawi Atair, Wadi Rakhi, and Jibjat in Dhofar Governorate for OMR 538,621.

Moreover, the Board approved additional works for the tender related to the collection and transport of general waste for the Office of the Governor of North Al Batinah for OMR 520,000. It also greenlit additional consultancy services for the Oman Botanic Garden project for OMR 494,729, and consultancy services for supervising the design of several road projects valued at OMR 294,440. -ONA

DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES

Summit creates dedicated platform for local creative, marketing and media community to engage directly with Snapchat

MUSCAT: Digital Media Services (DMS), the official media representative of Snapchat in Oman, hosted the first-ever Snapchat Summit in Muscat, creating a dedicated platform for the local creative, marketing, and media community to engage directly with Snapchat.

Held to a full house, the Summit brought together senior decision-makers from leading brands and media agencies across the Sultanate. The event marked a strategic milestone in positioning Snapchat as a leading platform in Oman, particularly for brands seeking to connect with younger, mobile-first audiences in meaningful and measurable ways.

More than a product showcase, the Summit underscored Snapchat's long-term commitment to the Omani market. Through strategic insights, market conversations, and direct engagement with advertisers, the event reinforced Snapchat's role as a go-to platform for inspiration, creativity, and performance-driven advertising solutions.

Firas Breish, Global Head of



Business Expansion at Snapchat, said: "Oman is a strategically important growth market for Snapchat, shaped by a young, highly engaged, mobile-first audience. The strong turnout at our first Summit in Muscat signals a clear appetite for advertising solutions that move beyond reach to real impact. Snapchat enables brands to show up in moments that matter, driving authentic connection and measurable results, and this Sum-

mit marks the beginning of deeper, long-term engagement with the Omani market."

Ziad Khammar, Chief Operating Officer at DMS, added: "Bringing the Snapchat Summit to Muscat for the first time reflects our commitment to building sustainable platform growth in Oman. At DMS, we do not simply represent global platforms, we localise them, scale them, and embed them within the market's media ecosys-

tem. The full house we witnessed is a clear indicator that Snapchat is increasingly seen as a strategic growth partner for brands in the Sultanate."

As part of its continued investment in Oman, DMS also announced the appointment of Peter Sarkis as Country Director for Oman. In this role, Peter will lead commercial expansion and deepen partnerships with agencies and advertisers across the market.

AI IMPACT SUMMIT

88 nations sign New Delhi AI declaration

NEW DELHI: The AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi on February 16-20, concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence.

As per the release, the declaration has been endorsed by 88 countries and international organisations, reflecting a broad-based global consensus on leveraging AI for economic growth and social good.

Guided by the principle of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (Welfare for all, Happiness for all), the declaration underlines that the benefits of AI must be shared equitably across humanity.

The summit called for enhanced international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement while respecting national sovereignty. It emphasised advancing AI through accessible and trustworthy frameworks and building shared understanding on how AI can serve humanity.

The declaration is structured around seven key pillars, referred to as "Chakras", including democratizing AI resources, promoting economic growth and social good, ensuring secure and trusted AI systems, expanding AI use in science, increasing access for social empowerment, developing human capital, and fostering resilient, innovative and energy-efficient AI systems.

The Summit announced a series of voluntary and collaborative global initiatives, including the Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI, the Global AI Impact Commons, and the Trusted AI Commons, aimed at expanding affordable access to AI resources, scaling innovative use cases, and promoting secure and trustworthy AI systems.

The summit also unveiled platforms for scientific collaboration and social empowerment, along with workforce development playbooks and guiding principles to build resilient, energy-efficient AI infrastructure and prepare nations for an AI-driven economy.

The Declaration adopted underscores the role of artificial intelligence in driving economic transformation, promoting open-source and accessible AI ecosystems, and building energy-efficient infrastructure.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to advancing shared global priorities in AI governance through voluntary and non-binding frameworks, with a focus on strengthening international cooperation and translating collective vision into concrete action.

The declaration, endorsed by 88 countries and international organisations, is expected to fos-



ter long-term partnerships and position AI as a key engine of global economic growth.

Microsoft launches AI skilling programme for 2 million Indian teachers, 200,000 institutions

Meanwhile, Microsoft has announced the launch of Microsoft Elevate for Educators in India, an initiative designed to skill two million teachers and reach 200,000 schools and educational institutions by 2030, as part of Microsoft's broader commitment to equip 20 million people in India with AI skills.

India is the first country in Asia to launch the program.

As global conversations around AI increasingly focus on productivity and growth, the next chapter of AI adoption will be written in classrooms—where skills are built, judgment is shaped, and technology is learned responsibly.

This shift is especially consequential in India, home to over 200 million students and nearly 10 million educators, making it the world's largest classroom.

Speaking on this announcement, Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President, Microsoft, said, "As AI becomes part of everyday learning, we want to ensure it strengthens education, preserves human judgment, and earns the trust of educators and learners. By taking AI at this scale across India, we want it to open new opportunities and deliver meaningful outcomes for teachers and students."

The announcement took place at CM Shri School, Pandara Road, New Delhi, with the program set to be scaled across all 75 CM Shri schools in the Capital.

Microsoft Elevate for Educators is designed to embed AI literacy, computational thinking, and responsible technology use into everyday teaching and learning—supporting India's ambition to become an AI first nation while ensuring that AI adoption remains trusted, inclusive, and human centered. -ANI

CHINA

Hainan F'TP sees tourism, consumption boom during first Spring Festival after special customs operations

HAIKOU: During the first Spring Festival holiday since the launch of island-wide special customs operations in China's Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), the southern tropical island has become a popular destination for tourists, injecting fresh momentum into the tourism and consumption markets.

At the iconic Qilou Old Street in the capital city of Haikou, rows of red lanterns add a festive ambience. Tourists from home and abroad stroll through the street, immersed in the historical charm and festive joy.

On the first day of the holiday, a Dutch tourist, Strobos, toured the Southeast Asian style buildings there with his Chinese wife, stopping frequently to take photos.

"It's warm," said Strobos, who was visiting Hainan for the first time. "The Qilou Old Street is very famous, so we came here. It's very beautiful. The buildings and the atmosphere are very impressive."

A street festival market features a wide range of products, from traditional festival snacks to creative cultural handicrafts, drawing large crowds.

"The Qilou Old Street is full of cultural charm and a strong sense of life,"



said a tourist surnamed Cao from central China's Hunan Province.

Cruise tourism also added to the holiday boost. On the first day of the lunar year, the Star Voyager, a cruise ship under Star Cruises, docked at the Sanya Phoenix Island international cruise port with more than 1,800 passengers on board, bringing new vitality to Sanya's tourism market.

A tourist from Sweden, Fredrik, said he was very happy to enjoy the cruise and the atmosphere of the Chinese Spring Festival.

According to the Haikou General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection, Hainan is expected to see a peak in cross-border travel

during the nine-day holiday, with the total inbound and outbound tourists projected to reach 79,300, an increase of 24.1 percent year on year.

Duty-free shopping, a key feature of the Hainan FTP, also surged during the holiday, thanks to optimized duty-free policies, an expanded product range, and a combination of government consumption vouchers and store discounts.

At a duty-free store in downtown Haikou, decorations themed on the Year of the Horse added to the festive vibe.

"Duty-free shopping is a must for traveling in Hainan," said a tourist surnamed Jian from Changsha, capital of Hunan Province. "Skin-

care and cosmetic products here are much cheaper than malls back home, which really encourages spending." It was her first duty-free shopping experience in Hainan, and she said the store offered a wider selection of goods in a comfortable shopping environment.

For many tourists, duty-free shopping has become not only a must-do for their trip in Hainan, but also a bonus for their vacation.

"I reserved a whole day just for shopping," said He Jun, a tourist from east China's Anhui Province, who stayed an extra day in Haikou to visit duty-free stores before returning home.

"I researched online in advance and secured government consumption vouchers. The prices are really competitive," she said, adding that the duty-free shopping made her trip more enjoyable.

Data from Haikou Customs showed that in the first four days of the Spring Festival holiday, duty-free sales in Hainan reached 1.03 billion yuan (about \$149 million), with duty-free shoppers reaching 137,000. The figures represent year-on-year increases of 20.9 percent and 25.7 percent, respectively. -Xinhua



ADVERTISE WITH US,
FIND THE RIGHT **CANDIDATES**
FOR YOUR COMPANY

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email to : amcoman@choueirigroup.com





RENT



CARGO



VACANCY



RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

DNV 2.7-1 OFFSHORE CONTAINERS, REEFER CONTAINER SALES & RENTALS

ISO CONTAINER SALES, CONVERSIONS & RENTALS



CONTAINER SOLUTIONS LLC
Po Box 522, Pc 322, Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar Free Zone, Oman
Tel: +968 9358 5556, +968 99508921, +968 26942610
FAX: 26942611, Email: sales@containersolutions.com.
www.containersolutions.com



PLACE
YOUR
ADVT HERE

Send your ad to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com



JOB WANTED

DOCTOR

Indian female BDS Doctor, with 2 years experience in Insurance pre-authorization and medical approvals seeking suitable placement.

Contact : 97607069
Email : carolinellizabethjohn@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Pharmacist with 16 yrs exp. in retail & hospital pharmacy in Muscat & India. Previously registered with MOH, Oman with work License, NOC with D/L, currently in Muscat

Contact: 77336141
Email: confession.mercy@gmail.com

FINANCE

Expat, M.com Icw (Inter) 25 yrs experience in finance, accounts, budget, tax, payroll, banking and MIS reports looking for senior position in finance and accounts. Available to join on short notice.

What's app: 0096895392251
Gmail: regi.lukose@gmail.com

MANAGER

Project Manager-MEP / Coordinator, seeking suitable placement. Electrical Engineering background having 25 yrs experience (Oman 18 yrs) in the construction field and tender estimation.

Mobile : 97007489

FINANCE

Dedicated Indian woman having 15+ years of experience in Finance and accounting, Tally ERP, SAP, MS Excel & Office proficiency seeking employment in Muscat. Hardworking and reliable. Ready to join immediately.

Contact: +968 95494566

DOCUMENT CONTROLLER

Experienced document controller seeking immediate placement in Oman. QA/QC, project coordination, skilled in EDMS, sharepoint, Aconex, and administrative support.

Contact: +971 685841339
Email: bajifazil@gmail.com

BUSINESS HEAD

Accomplished Indian management professional (Engg+MBA). Extensive Marketing & Sales experience in consumer durables industry. Well networked with all channels / corporates of Oman seeking senior management opportunities.

Contact No.: 7708 8859

FINANCE

Senior Management Accountant/ Finance Manager
Indian male, MBA Finance, 20+ yrs Gulf experience in Accounting, Auditing, Oman VAT, Tax Assessment. Valid Oman Driving License. Available immediately.

Contact: 96887261 (Oman), +917418469385 (India)
Email: nrajan19742003@gmail.com

SALES & MARKETING

Seeking a suitable position in Sales & Marketing having 16 yrs of rich experience in Oman and 2 yrs in Africa in the field of Infrastructure, Construction, Building material and Industrial products having good contacts with clients / consultants. BE Mechanical Engineering, PGDM in Management. Holding Valid Oman D/L.

Contact: 94976056

OFFICER

Banking - Credit & Risk
Indian lady-BTech Holder, Currently working at Nationalized Bank in India as Credit & Risk Officer Since 2011 looking suitable role in Oman

Mobile : 92652137 - Mail:sibyiboi@gmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER

Dynamic professional with 16+ yrs of progressive experience in financial strategy, business consulting/management, operational excellence, and growth leadership across Trading, Construction, RMC production, and MNCs company. Open to strategic senior management opportunities.

Contact: 92022786 or 97403883
Email: gm.seekers.2025@gmail.com

SALE



BIDDING EVENT FOR USED EQUIPMENT
Offering a wide selection of Used Equipment, including metals, cars and industrial parts. Serious buyers are invited to submit their best offers.

Contact :
Haitham Al Maawali
Workshop Administrator
Mobil+968 98243807
haitham.maawali@strabag.com
DEADLINE: 26.02.2026

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

BE, Civil Engineer having overall 8-10 years experience with minimum 5 years in Middle East with D/L.

Able to lead multiple projects, including coordination with Client/Consultant.

Send detailed resume to
sskpvr@gmail.com

SERVICE

MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION

Professional and Affordable

❖ Plumbing

❖ Electrical

❖ Civil Work

❖ Parking Sheds

❖ Tile Work

❖ CCTV Camera

❖ Waterproofing

Contact: 99454425

Cleaning services & pest control specialized cleaning of buildings carpet, sofa shampooing pest control, termite treatment Painting, plumbing, electrical works manpower supply. Glow Services Trading LLC. Contact: 99844284, 99450130

SHOWROOM SALESMAN

Location: Muscat, Oman
Industry: Traditional Men's Clothing (Dishdasha) Brand
Nationality: Asian (Male)

Key Responsibilities:

1. **Customer Service Excellence**

- Provide exceptional service by assisting customers in selecting products that suit their needs.
- Attend to customer inquiries and offer detailed product knowledge, ensuring a seamless shopping experience.

2. **Sales, Upselling & Target Achievement**

- Demonstrate upselling and cross-selling techniques to maximize sales opportunities.
- Build strong customer relationships to encourage repeat business.
- Be highly target-oriented and actively contribute to achieving monthly sales targets.
- Develop and implement effective sales strategies on the retail floor to meet and exceed assigned targets.
- Monitor personal performance and take initiative to improve sales results.

3. **Garment Expertise**

- Take accurate customer measurements for tailored clothing; experience in

the suiting business is a significant advantage.

- Offer professional advice on fabric, design, and fit to enhance customer satisfaction.

4. **Store Operations**

- Maintain store standards, ensuring cleanliness and a visually appealing layout.
- Handle store merchandising, including product displays and inventory management.
- Coordinate with the factory team to manage orders, alterations, and customizations.

5. **Adaptability and Flexibility**

- Be hardworking and flexible, adapting to various tasks and responsibilities as required on the retail floor.
- Maintain a proactive attitude toward achieving sales objectives and supporting team goals.

6. **Technical Skills**

- Use basic computer skills for billing, inventory updates, and customer records management.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Fluent in English; proficiency in Arabic is an advantage.
- Prior experience in the garment industry is essential.
- Proven ability to provide outstanding customer service.
- Strong sales mindset with a track record of meeting or exceeding targets.

- Knowledge of measurement techniques and tailoring is highly desirable.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Hardworking, adaptable, and willing to take on various roles as needed.
- Basic computer literacy for operational tasks.

CVs to be send : **proffice@sotioman.com**



LOOKING FOR ARCHITECT JOB?

Send your advt. to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant (CMA), own visa having 13 yrs Oman experience, can join immediately. Contact:77336141

Indian (M) - 30 Accountant with overall exp 4yrs Valid DL. Contact: 78624277

Cost Accountant, B.Com with 15 yrs exp in Oman. Can join urgently, Contact: 7733 6141

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

Indian male Accountant. 10 yrs in muscat. D/L and NOC available. Contact: 79774800

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

Accounting professional with 19 yrs of extensive experience in finance and accounts in Oman urgently seeking a senior level accounting position... Contact: +968 78581435

Indian male MBA finance, with 8 yrs of accounting experience seeks for as sr. acct's treasurer. NOC available & DL. contact : 72420067.

Indian male professional with MBA in Finance and over 6 yrs of experience in interior fit, proven expertise in event management, business development, operational coordination & planning with execution of projects. Ready to Join Immediately. Email vighneshkumar88@gmail.com, Contact+968 9176 5121

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

CA Inter qualified professional with 3 years of hands-on experience currently residing in Oman on family joining, open to full-time or part-time accounting opportunities.

Female software engineer full stack developer also expert in digital marketing with 7 yrs experience. Contact 74102443

Pakistani B.Com, CA Articleship completed 28 yrs in Oman, work up-to finalisation/expert in book keeping, vendor & bank reconciliation. Seeking full/ part time job. Contact: 99072361

Indian male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Mob:97436925.

Accountant with 5+ yrs of experience in bookkeeping and VAT, seeking a suitable position in Muscat. Open to accountant, Inventory management, or office administration roles. Holds valid Oman D/L and is immediately available. Mob:+968 95459156, Email:ajiththomas454@gmail.com

Indian male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Mob: 97436925.

Finance Manager, Indian, 26Yrs of experience, looking Job Change, Contact: 98006226

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Looking for an accounts job with hands-on knowledge of tally and excel. dedicated and detail-oriented. Contact: +96896246456

Indian male Sr. Accountant (M.com with Finance) 17+ yrs exp. in Oman with valid D/L. Contact: 91314540

Seeking a job opportunity with solid background of finance and accounts for more than 20 yrs of experience in Oman. Contact 92824146 / 94953826

Management, accounting operations & MIS reporting. Seeking a suitable managerial or senior accounting position. Contact: 78581435

B.Com, CA Articleship completed 28yrs experience in Muscat Oman. Expert in book keeping, vendor & bank reconciliation, seeking job. Contact : 99072361

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

Highly skilled chief accountant looking for suitable position. Contact: 79888153

Indian male, MBA, 17 years experienced in key accounts, project sales, business development looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: 92790532

MBA Finance Senior accountant, 13-yrs GCC experience looking for a job upto finalization. Contact: 98869499

Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91417133

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

Indian female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79166904/ 97498882

ARCHITECT

Architect, Interior Designer having more than 8+ yrs of experience with design and engineering consultants. Contact: 95759832, Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com

IT

MCA graduate seeking a suitable job opportunity in Oman. Available in Muscat. Contact: 91488059

ENGINEER

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

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

ENGINEER

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

Project Manager Civil seasoned professional with strong consultancy and construction expertise. Open for suitable opportunities. Contact: 93455363 | WA +966 56 373 2589 (WhatsApp)

ENGINEER

Civil Engineer experience 20 yrs in telecom, motorola, ROP, mega buildings, roads and ministry project. Contact: 98921022

DRIVER

Looking for driver job. Contact: 72852929.

Looking for driver job experience 4 yrs. Contact: 94981482 / 76303505

LOGISTICS

Indian male Graduate with 25 yrs of proven experience in Car rental, fleet Management & logistics. Currently seeking for Senior/middle management position. Contact: 92152334.

Logistics Operations executive with 8 yrs experience, seeking a suitable position in Oman, Contact: 97869393

MANAGER

MEP construction manager, Gulf experience 28 years, Own visa, Oman DL. Mob No: 79809590

Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43 yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203

MANAGER

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

MANAGER

Operations leader with 22 yrs experience in logistics, procurement, commercial administration, branch, warehouse, service and financial domains. Contact: 93451519 Email: anirudhadat@gmail.com

Indian male procurement executive with 11 yrs of experience in Oman, holding Oman D/L available in Muscat for immediate joining. Contact: 92345877

Procurement engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading. whatsapp: +96895839964

MANAGER

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

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

MANAGER

Indian male procurement executive with 11 yrs of experience in Oman, holding Oman D/L available in Muscat for immediate joining. Contact: 92345877

MANAGER

Indian male procurement executive with 11 yrs of experience in Oman, holding Oman D/L available in Muscat for immediate joining. Contact: 92345877

MANAGER

Procurement engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading. whatsapp: +96895839964

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male, 15+ yrs Sales exp. (IT/Software). Open to Sales/BD roles in any industry. Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 94110178

MANAGER

Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales (FMCG/ retail) with D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact: 95548480

MANAGER

Indian male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 94566786

MANAGER

MBA finance & marketing professional with expertise in Excel, Power BI, SAP, MIS reporting, banking operations, digital marketing, and operations. Seeking roles in Oman. Contact: 71857404 sreekkuttannr84@gmail.com

Trump signs order for global 10 per cent tariff on all countries

Terming SC's ruling as a "terrible decision", Trump announced he would sign an executive order for a 10% global tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974



WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump on Friday signed an order making 10 per cent global tariff on all countries, effective "almost immediately".

Sharing the announcement in a post on Truth Social, the US President said, "It is my Great Honor to have just signed, from the Oval Office, a Global 10% Tariff on all Countries, which will be effective almost immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter! PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP"

A White House official stated that this new tariff will remain in place until another authority is invoked, emphasising the expectation that trade partners abide by US trade deals.

The official also advised all the trade partners to abide by the trade deals. The new 10% global tariff is part of Trump's protectionist trade agenda, aimed at addressing balance-of-payments issues and unfair trade practices.

US President Donald Trump announced 10 per cent global tariffs "effective immediately," following

a major legal defeat at the US Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the Trump administration exceeded its legal authority by using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to impose broad-based import tariffs.

Terming SC's ruling as a "terrible decision", Trump announced he would sign an executive order for a 10% global tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. This authority allows for a temporary import surcharge (up to 15%) for 150 days to address balance-of-payments deficits.

"Effective immediately, all the national security tariffs under Section 232 and existing Section 301 tariffs remain in place... Today, I will sign an order to impose a 10% global tariff under Section 122 over and above our normal tariffs already being charged," he said.

Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by Justices Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett, and the three liberal justices, held that the

IEEPA does not explicitly authorise the president to levy duties--a power the Constitution assigns to Congress.

Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, and Brett Kavanaugh dissented, supporting the administration's broader interpretation of emergency powers.

The ruling invalidated billions of dollars in "reciprocal" and emergency tariffs, potentially requiring the government to refund approximately \$130-\$175 billion in collected revenue.

US Supreme Court has held that the US President did not possess the authority under IEEPA to impose extensive import duties on goods from nearly all US trading partners.

Trump has already stated that "alternatives will be used" to replace the tariffs that the court has "incorrectly rejected."

"Other alternatives will now be used to replace the ones that the court incorrectly rejected. We have alternatives. Could be more money, we will take in more mon-

Trump says India 'pulled way back' its oil trade with Russia 'on his request'

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump claimed India pulled its oil trade with Russia "way back" on his request.

Trump, citing his "fantastic relationship" with India, told reporters at a White House briefing that "India pulled out of Russia. India was getting its oil from Russia, and they pulled way back on my request because we want to settle a horrible war, where 25,000 people are dying every month. My relationship with PM Modi is great."

Washington had imposed 25 per cent additional tariffs on New Delhi's purchase of discounted oil from Russia, taking the total tariffs to 50 per cent. A few days ago, India struck an interim trade agreement with the US, taking the tariffs down to 18 per cent.

However US, while removing the additional 25 per cent tariffs, stated, "India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil, has represented that it will purchase United States energy products from the United States, and has recently committed to a framework with the United States to expand defence cooperation over the next 10 years."

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has asserted that India remains firmly committed to strategic autonomy, even as the global energy markets evolve and partnerships shift.

"We are very much wedded to strategic autonomy because it's very much a part of our history and our evolution. It's something which is very deep, and it's something which cuts

across the political spectrum as well," he said.

Addressing concerns over energy sourcing, the minister described the global oil market as complex and dynamic, stressing that commercial considerations guide procurement decisions.

"As for energy issues, this is a complex market today. Oil companies in India, as in Europe, as probably in other parts of the world, look at availability, look at costs, look at risks and take the decisions that they feel are in their best interest," he noted. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that "national interest" would continue to guide energy-related decisions, underlining that the key drivers of the country's energy policy are "adequate availability, fair pricing and reliability of supply." -ANI

ey... We have taken in hundreds of billions of dollars. We will continue to do so," he said.

Trump, referring to the decision as "ludicrous", added that this decision benefits other countries but not the US. He further alleged that the courts are "swayed by foreign interests."

"Foreign countries that have been ripping us off for years are ecstatic. They are dancing in the streets, but they won't be dancing for long... Those justices are a disgrace to our nation... The court has been swayed by foreign interests and a political movement that is far smaller than people would ever think," he said.

Trump specifically noted that "The India deal is on," suggesting that recent bilateral trade agreements--including the reduction of reciprocal tariffs to 18%-would be maintained through these new legal pathways.

The ruling is expected to have wide-ranging consequences for global trade, businesses, consumers, inflation trends and household finances across the country.

The financial implications of the ruling are substantial. The tariffs in question cover trillions of dollars in trade, and the US government collected nearly USD 134 billion in levies through December 14 under the contested authority, The

Washington Post reported.

US stock indexes rose following the ruling, as investors anticipated a reduction in inflationary pressure, though gains were tempered by Trump's immediate vow to reimpose new levies.

The administration also launched new investigations into "unfair trade practices" under Section 301, which could lead to more permanent, targeted duties.

Trump emphasised that tariffs previously imposed under Section 232 (National Security) and existing Section 301 (Unfair Trade) remain "in full force and effect," as they were not affected by the IEEPA ruling. -ANI

BOARD OF PEACE MEETING

Shehbaz Sharif holds meeting with US President Trump, world leaders

WASHINGTON: An informal meeting was held between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the end of the Board of Peace meeting.

During the interaction, the two leaders expressed mutual goodwill and shook hands.

The US President also hugged Prime Minister Sharif, and the meeting was exceptionally warm.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif engaged in warm and informal interactions with several world leaders on the sidelines of the inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace on Thursday.

The prime minister, who is on a three-day official visit to the United States at the invitation of US President Donald Trump, interacted with the participating leaders including King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat



Mirziyoyev, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto.

PM Shehbaz holds cordial interactions with world leaders at BoP meeting

During the conversations, the leaders discussed important global and regional issues, displaying genuine warmth and a spirit of close friendship.

Pakistan's inclusion in the Board of Peace reflects the coun-

try's growing success in diplomatic efforts and foreign policy, particularly its contributions toward establishing peace in Gaza, reconstruction efforts, and broader global peace initiatives.

-APP

MEETING OF BOARD OF PEACE

Pakistan, US agree to enhance trade

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the inaugural meeting of Board of Peace Washington, where both sides agreed to enhance bilateral trade and economic activities as well as mutual cooperation in countering terrorism.

During the meeting, the two sides underscored the importance of Pakistan-US. strategic relations and expressed satisfaction over the momentum and positive trajectory of the partnership, under the leadership of President Trump.

The prime minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, a press release issued by the PM House Media Wing said.

Pakistan, US agree to enhance bilateral trade, economic ties, counterterrorism cooperation

The prime minister congratu-

lated President Donald Trump and Secretary Rubio on the successful inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace and reaffirmed that Pakistan was ready to work with the Board of Peace for the implementation of Gaza Peace Plan.

He emphasised the importance of continued high-level engagement between Pakistan and the U.S. to advance common goals in a rapidly evolving global environment.

Meanwhile, in a press statement issued by the US State Department, Secretary Rubio thanked Pakistan for its ongoing support of President Trump's Peace Plan for Gaza and for participating in the inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace as a founding member.

He also offered his condolences for the horrific January 31 attacks in Balochistan and the devastating February 6 bombing in Islamabad. -ANI

COMMAND CENTRES

10 people killed and 24 wounded in Israeli strikes in Lebanon

GAZA: At least 10 people were killed and 24 wounded in Israeli strikes in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley on Friday, Lebanon's Health Ministry reported.

Israel's military said in a statement that it had hit Hezbollah command centres.

The strikes are among the deadliest reported in the region in recent weeks.

A senior Hezbollah official was among the dead, sources told Reuters news agency.

Hezbollah is an Iran-backed political party and militant group in Lebanon.

It is designated as a terrorist organisation by the US, Germany and several Sunni Arab countries, while the EU lists its armed wing as a terrorist group.

Separately, the Israeli military on Friday said it had also struck



what it said was a Hamas command center from which militants operated in the Ain al-Hilweh area in southern Lebanon.

Ain al-Hilweh is a crowded Palestinian refugee camp.

Hamas condemned the Israeli strike on Ain al-Hilweh.

The Islamist group acknowledged that two of its members had been killed in the strike.

However, it rejected Israel's

claim of targeting a command center, slamming it as a "flimsy pretext."

The building targeted belonged to a joint security force tasked with maintaining security in the camp, Hamas said.

The Israeli military said it "is operating against the entrenchment" of the Palestinian group in Lebanon and will "continue to act decisively against Hamas terrorists wherever they operate."

Hamas is classified as a terror organization by the US, Germany and several other countries.

A fragile ceasefire

Almost immediately after the attack on Israel led by the Gaza-based militant group Hamas on October 7, 2023, Hezbollah began firing rockets from Lebanon into Israel in support of Hamas and

Palestinians.

Israel responded with airstrikes and shelling.

The low-level conflict escalated into full-scale war in September 2024.

The US then brokered a ceasefire in November 2024, but it remains tenuous.

Israel has launched regular strikes on Lebanon despite the truce, saying it is targeting Hezbollah and sometimes Hamas.

Lebanon's government last year committed to disarming Hezbollah.

The Lebanese army recently said it had completed the first phase of the plan, covering the area near the Israeli border.

But Israel has criticized the Lebanese army's progress as insufficient.

It has also accused Hezbollah of trying to rebuild and rearmed. -ANI



LIFESTYLE

THE RISE OF
SOCIAL MEDIA
INFLUENCERS
IN OMAN



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The digital wave has transformed industries across the world, and Oman is no exception.

In recent years, a new breed of professionals has steadily emerged—social media influencers who are shaping opinions, trends, and even consumer behaviour through engaging content and authentic storytelling.

In an age driven by hustle culture and digital connectivity, many individuals are turning to content creation not just as a hobby but as a full-fledged profession.

With smartphones, creativity, and consistency, influencers in Oman are building loyal audiences, bridging communities, and turning everyday experiences into compelling narratives.

From food trails and travel diaries to lifestyle insights and cultural appreciation, these influencers are redefining how stories about Oman are told and shared with the world.

A Growing Digital Community

The rise of influencers like Laibu, Fathima, Shwetha, Arzoo and many others reflects a larger trend in Oman's evolving digital ecosystem. Influencers today are not just content creators—they are storytellers, cultural ambassadors, and connectors of communities.

As social media continues to evolve, these individuals are proving that with passion, authenticity, and consistency, it is possible to turn everyday life into meaningful digital narratives that resonate far beyond borders.



MOHAMED LAIBU:
Celebrating
Telling Oman's
Stories Through a
Lens

Since 2019, Mohamed Laibu has carved a niche for himself in Oman's digital media space, particularly among the expatriate community. With over two decades of experience in sales and marketing, Laibu smoothly transitioned into vlogging, bringing professionalism and storytelling expertise into his content.

His vlogs span food, lifestyle, travel, and events, often showcasing Oman's hidden culinary gems and scenic landscapes. Through relatable narratives and visually engaging videos, Laibu has built a reputation as a trusted voice for expatriates seeking to understand and explore the Sultanate.

What sets him apart is his versatility. Whether exploring traditional Omani cuisine in Muscat's neighbourhood eateries or venturing into remote parts of the country to highlight its natural beauty, his content strikes a balance between information and entertainment.

"Laibu's work acts as a bridge," followers often note, helping expatriates understand Omani culture while introducing locals to global lifestyle trends.



FATHIMA:
Celebrating
Community
Through Food

For Fathima, influencing was never a planned career move. "I didn't start with the intention of becoming a vlogger. It was about sharing real experiences—food, people, and stories that reflect everyday life in Oman," she says.

Her food vlogs focus on local eateries and small businesses that thrive on word-of-mouth rather than large advertising budgets. She believes genuine exposure can significantly impact small ventures.

"If someone benefits or grows because of something we've shared, there's nothing more rewarding than that," she explains.

Having spent most of her life in Oman, Fathima speaks warmly about the country's inclusive culture. "Oman has always embraced expatriates with warmth and respect. When you leave your home country and build a life elsewhere, that acceptance means everything."

Her background as an anchor and legal professional shapes her content, which is known for its clarity, responsibility, and cultural sensitivity. Through food stories, she continues to celebrate the spirit of Oman and the communities that make it unique.



SHWETHA KOTIAN:
Blending
Performance,
Presence, and
Influence

Shwetha Kotian brings a multifaceted personality into the influencer space—as an actress, model, emcee, and content creator. For her, storytelling lies at the heart of everything she does.

"I've always believed that acting is not just about portraying characters but about connecting with people, evoking emotions, and making an impact through storytelling," she says.

Her experience as a professional emcee for corporate events, weddings, concerts, and festivals has helped her develop a strong on-stage presence and the ability to connect with diverse audiences. This energy translates seamlessly into her digital content.

In addition to modelling in the fashion, beauty, and commercial sectors, Shwetha collaborates with brands through sponsored posts, reviews, and social media campaigns that align with her values.

As a content creator, she focuses on authenticity and relatability across niches including fashion, beauty, fitness, travel, and lifestyle. "I create content that's engaging and packed with value for my audience," she notes.



AARZOO MEDIA:
Redefining Cinematic
Storytelling in Oman

In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, Aarzoo Media is emerging as a powerful force reshaping visual storytelling in Oman. Founded by creative entrepreneur and content creator Aarzoo Bhokal, the company was born from a simple yet bold vision — to elevate cinematography standards and transform the way brands communicate.

What started as a passion for storytelling and content creation soon evolved into a full-fledged media powerhouse. Recognising the growing demand for high-quality digital content, Aarzoo identified a gap in cinematic brand presentation within the local market.

With a team driven by creativity and precision, Aarzoo Media began crafting visually compelling narratives that blend emotion, strategy, and modern production techniques.

Today, the company is not just producing videos; it is creating experiences. From commercial campaigns and luxury brand shoots to event coverage and social media storytelling, Aarzoo Media is setting new benchmarks in lighting, framing, and post-production aesthetics — bringing an international cinematic feel to Oman's media space.

Founder Aarzoo Bhokal shares, "As a content creator myself, I witness firsthand how rapidly Oman's digital scene is transforming. Businesses are understanding the power of strong visuals and authentic storytelling. The market is ready, and it's about to boom. We are here to ensure brands don't just keep up — they lead."

SPORTS

Pakistan coach clears air on Salman exchange, Babar’s batting position

During the pre-match press conference ahead of the Super Eight clash against New Zealand, Hesson explained that the team’s strategy and current needs have dictated Babar’s role in the middle order

COLOMBO: Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson has addressed questions about Babar Azam batting at number four in T20 matches, despite the star batter’s history of opening the innings in various leagues and formats.

During the pre-match press conference ahead of the Super Eight clash against New Zealand, Hesson explained that the team’s strategy and current needs have dictated Babar’s role in the middle order.

Babar Azam is having a poor campaign in the ongoing T20 World Cup. The right-handed batter has made 66 runs in four matches at a dismal average of 22 and a strike rate of 115.78. “Babar is well aware of that. I think he’s well aware strike rate in the power play in World Cups is less than 100 in T20s. So clearly, that’s not a role that we think here we need,” Hesson said.

He emphasised that Babar’s strengths lie in stabilising the innings and accelerating once set, rather than opening aggressively in the power play. “We think he’s a fine player through the middle,

if required, in terms of if we’re in a little bit of trouble, or as we saw against the USA, once he gets himself set, he can increase his strike rate at that point,” Hesson added.

Hesson said, “So, we brought Babar back in for a specific role post the Asia Cup. We wanted some batsmanship through the middle, and he certainly brings that for us. And he did in many games throughout the last 10.”

The coach also highlighted that Babar’s position allows other players better suited for late-innings hitting to come in during the final overs. “At the 12th over mark, Babar Azam is not the best person to come in. We’ve got plenty of other options who can perform that role towards the end. And Babar is actually the first to acknowledge that,” said Hesson.

The Pakistan head coach added, “He knows that he’s got a certain set of skills that the team require, and there are certain times where other players can perform that role more efficiently.”

Following Pakistan’s recent



match against Namibia, footage of a tense moment between captain Salman Agha and the coach sparked speculation, but Hesson has now cleared the air.

“I’ve actually got sent that video, and you guys have really got that wrong,” he said, explaining the context behind the exchange.

The Pakistan coach revealed, “So I was going over to talk to Salman about getting Nawaz to put the pads on as a left-hander, and Agha was upset that he just got out, so he threw the bottle into the ground. Nothing to do with the conversation we were having. And then, obviously, as I said, once the left arm spinner finished, we talked about shut up, go and getting his pads on to come in after - So it was a really

simple conversation that often he wasn’t even part of. He was just standing there, being pretty disappointed that he was out, and it just happened to be in the crossfire. So, amazing what people can interpret sometimes.”

In the T20 World Cups, Pakistan have secured five victories as compared to two, which were won by New Zealand. Overall, in the shortest format, the Men in Green have won 24 games, whereas the Black Caps have clinched 23 wins.

Addressing questions about Pakistan’s edge, having won five of seven T20 World Cup encounters against New Zealand, with the last defeat dating back to 2016, Hesson emphasised that matches are won through skill, not history or mindset.

“I don’t think games are won or lost psychologically. I think they lost; they won through skill. New Zealand have played a huge amount on the subcontinent in recent times. Sri Lanka tends to spin a little bit sharper than it does in India as a general rule. And, we saw that a little bit at SSC. We saw that also during the first innings in particular, here the other night. So I don’t believe anyone’s got a psychological edge. Obviously, I remember the 2016 game. I was there at the time. I remember that, and I remember us preparing pretty well against Pakistan. We had a lot of different threats. So, yeah, what’s happened in the past is in the past. We’re looking forward to starting the Super 8s well tomorrow,” Hesson explained.

New Zealand’s Mark Chapman has a great record against Pakistan in T20Is. The Kiwi batter has amassed 663 runs in 25 matches and 22 innings at an average of 41.43. Chapman has slammed one century and four half-centuries.

Addressing questions related to Chapman, Pakistan head coach acknowledged the challenge posed by New Zealand batter, while also praising the versatility of off-spinner Usman Tariq.

“I mean, Mark Chapman has an incredible record against Pakistan, both in Pakistan and at home for him. So he’s faced a lot of our bowlers, and he’s had some success. But this pitch will bring some different challenges, and we’ll have some different thoughts around how we might find a way of trying to subdue him a little bit,” he said.

Hesson added, “But he’s certainly not the only threat; there are plenty of them. So we won’t be focused just on one, but your question was about Usman Tariq. I think he’s one of those bowlers around the world who does both. He’s able to attack and defend at the same time. And that’s an incredible skill to have, so we’re very fortunate that he’s on our side.”

The Salman Agha-led Pakistan, who are playing their matches in Sri Lanka, finished second in the Group A standings. The Men in Green secured victories against the USA, Netherlands and Namibia in Group A matches. But they suffered a thrashing 61-run loss against the defending champions, India. **-ANI**

TICK THE SCOREBOARD

Buttler admits to being ‘frustrated’ with his form in T20 World Cup

LONDON: England wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler, who is having an underwhelming T20 World Cup so far, admitted to being “a bit frustrated” with his form but he is in no mood to “rein in a bit” and wants to tick the scoreboard with his hard-hitting batting for his team.

Buttler became the fourth batter and the first English batter to register 4,000 T20I runs and also overtook Sri Lanka legend Mahela Jayawardene to become the third-highest run-getter in the tournament history. But despite these two big records, he is yet to record a memorable outing this tournament. He has scored just 53 runs in four innings at a poor average of 13.25 and a strike rate of 135.89, with two single-digit scores and two starts, scores of 26 and 21 that he could not convert into something big.

His last 10 T20I innings have seen him score just 167 runs, and his best score is 39.

Speaking on ‘For the Love of Cricket Podcast’, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo, a show which he co-hosts along with England pace legend Stuart Broad, Buttler said, “I am a bit frustrated, to be honest. I felt like I was playing really well in South Africa, in the SA20, without getting scores. One thing I would always pride myself on in T20s is, if you get in, to be able to go on and make a good contribution. I found myself getting out in the teens and twenties quite a bit, getting starts and then finding



ways to get out.”

In SA20 before the tournament, he scored 170 runs in seven matches at an average of 28.33 and a strike rate of 149.12, with a fifty for Durban Super Giants (DSG).

Buttler says that he has been “trying too hard” instead of being relaxed and letting things happen.

“The first two games, I got in, 20-odds, and not managing to go on and make those telling contributions is frustrating. And then a couple of low scores against Scotland and Italy... T20, you want to be positive and get on with it, but I made a couple of mistakes and got out.”

“I love batting and, I love playing cricket, and I love scoring runs. As much as you are frustrated with your form and you want to obviously contribute to the team, part of cricket is I love batting, and so not doing as much batting as you would like is frustrating. It’s just

trying to remember the things that you do well at your best and trying to take each game as it comes,” he continued.

Buttler pointed out that T20 is a format where one has to “keep making plays” and there is no point controlling your natural game unless really needed, like “bat for an hour”. Recently, former England skipper Nasser Hussain had urged the batter to “give himself a chance”.

“T20 is one of those games that asks you to keep making plays,” he said. “At times, when you have been out of form in a Test match, a batting coach might say, ‘Just rein it in for a bit, and try and bat for an hour, and it will come back to you - just by hook or by crook, bat for an hour.’”

“But in T20 you have got to keep playing the scoreboard. If you are chasing 10 an over, you have got to play accordingly. I saw Nasser saying, ‘Just bat for 15 overs’ and I would love to just bat for 15 overs, but I do not want to bat for 15 overs just for myself and ignore the game. You have got to still play the game,” he added.

He also pointed out that the game “just keeps challenging you” and he takes pride in his performances.

“I have been through lots of patches of poor form over 15 years in all different formats. It is always the same things that you come back to at the end, which is to stand still and watch the ball and trust yourself,” he added. **-ANI**

EXPRESSED EXCITEMENT

‘Pressure is a big thing, it’s both for them and us’: South Africa’s Conrad Shukri

AHMEDABAD: South Africa head coach Conrad Shukri Conrad has expressed excitement ahead of his team’s Super Eight opener against the defending champions India in the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup on Sunday, saying the team is entering the next stage with confidence after successfully navigating the group stages.

Speaking ahead of the match, the South Africa coach highlighted the shift in mindset after South Africa remained unbeaten in their Group in the ongoing T20 World Cup to qualify for the Super Eight stage.

“The first half of the group stages was the anxious bit for me. This is now the excitement,” Conrad said, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

South Africa’s head coach outlined the structure of tournament cricket, explaining that getting past the group stage is just the first step. “Tournament cricket almost has three parts to it. You’ve got to find a way of just getting out of that group stage. So we did that. Now you look, and you say, right, we’ve got India first up, and then the West Indies with some of the most entertaining players in the world, and that excites me.”

Conrad also addressed the role of pressure in big matches, noting that it affects both sides. “Pressure is a big thing, but it’s pressure both for them and us. I think we all talk about the pressure of playing against the top side, but we’re not quite aware of what the pressures they are under,” he said.



“I’m not, for one, suggesting that a guy who has three ducks in his last three matches comes under pressure for his place in his side. No,” he remarked.

The player Conrad is referring to is Abhishek Sharma, who has not scored a run and also missed India’s second match of the tournament through illness, according to ESPNcricinfo.

The world’s number one T20I batter has not been able to get a run in the three innings he has played so far against USA, Pakistan and Netherlands, playing the latter two matches after a battle with a stomach infection that put him in the hospital and reportedly led to him losing a considerable amount of weight too. In his last eight innings, he has five ducks.

In eight innings this year, Ab-

hishek has made 182 runs at an average of 26.00 and a strike rate of over 224, with two fifties and a best score of 84.

Head coach Conrad dismissed the overemphasis on individual player “match-ups” ahead of the team’s Super Eight T20 World Cup clash against the defending champions

“The match-ups can be overstated. I’m not a big fan of it,” Conrad said. “Sometimes the wickets are so good that it takes the match-ups out of the equation. If there’s something in the wicket and there’s a little bit of spin, then the match-up could be there for the off-spinner against the left-hander. Maybe the angle you create sometimes. By and large, I think it’s slightly overstated on really good batting wickets.” **-ANI**

ALVARO ARBELLOA’S SIDE

Changes likely as Real Madrid visit in-form Osasuna

MADRID: Real Madrid travel to one of La Liga’s most hostile grounds on Saturday to play Osasuna in the El Sadar Stadium in Pamplona.

Alvaro Arbeloa’s side travels to the north of Spain as the new La Liga leader, after last weekend’s 4-1 win at home to Real Sociedad and FC Barcelona’s 2-1 defeat in Girona saw the two teams swap places in the standings.

Madrid also took a big step towards the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday with its 1-0 first-leg playoff round win away to Benfica in a game marred by alleged insults towards goalscorer Vinicius Jr.

Vinicius is almost certain to start in Pamplona, although Arbeloa could be tempted to rest Kylian Mbappe for next week’s return leg at home to Benfica, while Jude Bellingham is still out with a ham-



string injury. Brahim Diaz, Gonzalo Garcia and Dani Carvajal all have a chance of starting if Arbeloa decides to rotate his squad.

Osasuna has improved after a slow start to the season under coach Alessio Lisci and is currently 10th in La Liga after a five-game unbeaten run. Veteran striker Ante Budimir will be a constant threat to Real Madrid and the Croatian has 11 goals in La Liga this season.

Winger Victor Munoz has also been a big success for Osasuna this season after joining last summer from Real Madrid, which retains 50 percent of the 22-year-old’s rights.

The pace of Munoz and recent arrival Raul Moro gives Osasuna options on the wings, and Munoz is likely to try and cause problems behind Trent Alexander-Arnold or Carvajal down Real Madrid’s right-hand side. **-Xinhua**

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

Neymar hints at possible retirement in 2026

SANTOS [BRAZIL: Brazil star Neymar has admitted that he could retire from professional football at the end of 2026, as he battles persistent injury challenges while keeping his sights on representing his country at the FIFA World Cup later this year.

The 34-year-old, who returned to his roots with Santos after spells at Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain, is enjoying football again following surgery on a long-standing knee issue in December 2025. He previously missed an entire season due to anterior cruciate ligament damage. Neymar’s contract with the Brazilian club has been extended through the end of the calendar year.

Neymar told CazeTV, as quoted by goal.com, “I don’t know what

the future holds for me. It’s possible that in December I’ll want to retire. I’m living day by day. This year is crucial, not only for Santos, but also for the Brazilian national team and for me.”

He added on his efforts to regain full fitness and said, “I wanted to come back at 100% this season, which is why I was rested for some matches. I know a lot of people are saying all sorts of things and don’t understand the day-to-day reality, but I have to face it.

“Santos has put an excellent plan in place regarding this. Of course, I wanted to come back to help my team, but in the end, I preferred to rest myself so I could come back at 100%, pain-free, fear-free, and in top form.

-ANI

India-Brazil to take trade beyond \$20bn in next 5 years: PM Modi

He thanked the Brazilian President for his participation in the Global AI Impact Summit, and also praised his visionary leadership in giving a fillip to India-Brazil ties



NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held a joint news conference with Brazilian President Lula here in the national capital and noted that the discussions between the two leaders aimed at moving forward across all sectors in the spirit of shared purpose and that the nations are committed for bilateral

trade to surpass 20 billion USD in the next five years. He thanked the Brazilian President for his participation in the Global AI Impact Summit, and also praised his visionary leadership in giving a fillip to India-Brazil ties. "I am delighted to welcome President Lula and his delegation to India.

India-Brazil relations have long benefited from President Lula's vision and inspiring leadership. Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of meeting him several times, and in each meeting, I have felt his deep friendship and trust in India. President Lula's visit has graced the historic AI Impact

Summit and given new energy to our strategic partnership. I express my gratitude to the President for his friendship and commitment to the relationship between our two countries," PM Modi said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that Brazil is India's largest trade partner in Latin America. He further highlighted that the visit of the large business delegation from Brazil is a commitment to this fact and noted that with expansion of India-MERCOSUR trade agreement the economic cooperation will further increase between the two countries. "Brazil is India's largest trading partner in Latin America. We are committed to taking bilateral trade beyond \$20 billion in the next five years. Our trade is not just a figure; it's a reflection of trust. The large business delegation accompanying the President reflects this confidence. The expansion of the India-Mercosur trade agreement will further strengthen our economic cooperation. Our cooperation in technology and innovation is important for both countries as well as the entire Global South," the PM said.

"I am pleased that we are working on establishing a Centre of Excellence for Digital Public Infrastructure in Brazil. We are also prioritising our cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, supercomputers, semiconductors, and blockchain. Both countries believe that technology must be inclusive and must become a bridge for shared progress. Energy cooperation has been a strong pillar of our relationship. In addition to hydrocarbons, we are also accelerating cooperation in several areas, including renewable energy, ethanol blending, and sustainable aviation fuel. Brazil's active participation in the Global Biofuel Alliance reflects our shared commitment to a green future. Brazil has also proposed co-chairing the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. I congratulate President Lula for this initiative. Brazil's extensive experience in this area will significantly contribute to further strengthening the CDRI," he added. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva also held

delegation-level talks. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, MoS MEA Pabitra Margherita, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal were among those present during the talks. Prior to that, a ceremonial welcome was held on Saturday at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan for Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is on a state visit to India. President Lula was accorded the Guard of Honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Brazilian President was received at the Rashtrapati Bhavan by PM Modi and President Droupadi Murmu. He also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. Lula's visit to India follows a July 2025 visit to Brasilia by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first by an Indian prime minister in more than 50 years. The Brazilian President has arrived in India with large delegation of top CEOs of Brazilian companies. The CEOs are expected to participate in a Business Forum. -ANI

DRUZHBA PIPELINE

Hungary threatens veto of €90bn loan to Ukraine

BRUSSELS: After agreeing to provide Ukraine a €90 billion (\$106 billion) EU loan package, officials in Budapest said on Friday they plan to veto the deal unless Russian oil starts flowing in a pipeline to Hungary. "As long as Ukraine blocks the Druzhba pipeline, Hungary will block the €90 billion Ukrainian war loan. We will not be pushed around!" Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban wrote on Facebook. Ukrainian officials say the oil flows through the Druzhba pipeline, which carries Russian oil across Ukraine to Hungary and Slovakia, have been disrupted since Russian attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure damaged it in January. Hungarian and Slovakian politicians, however, accuse the Ukrainian leadership of blocking the resumption of supplies. Both countries rely heavily on the pipeline for their oil imports and are the most Russia-friendly governments in the European Union.



On Wednesday, Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico declared a state of emergency over supplies and threatened retaliatory measures against Ukraine if the pipeline was not reopened. **Hungary decries pipeline 'blackmail' ahead of election** Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto called the stop to oil flows in the pipeline "blackmail." "Ukraine is blackmailing Hungary by halting oil transit in coordination with Brussels and the Hungarian opposition to create supply disruptions in Hungary and push fuel prices higher before the elections," he wrote on X. For the first time in 16 years, Orban faces the possibility of losing a parliamentary election. Kyiv has long called on its EU allies to stop buying Russian energy supplies as they help finance Moscow's full-scale invasion, which is about to enter

its fifth year. EU leaders, including Orban, agreed in December to provide Ukraine with up to €90 billion over two years, a decision endorsed by the European Parliament last week. The EU also exempted Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic which have all opposed further aid for Kyiv from repaying the loan's borrowing costs. **First funds** Final approval by the Council of the European Union, made up of national ministers, is still required before the first funds can be disbursed, a step previously regarded as a formality. That vote has now been postponed. The funds are intended to cover Ukraine's most urgent financial needs through the end of 2027 and enable the country to continue defending itself against Russia. Of the total amount, €60 billion is earmarked for defence. -DW

TECTONIC PLATES

3.9 magnitude earthquake hits Pakistan

NEW DELHI: An earthquake of magnitude 3.9 struck Pakistan on Saturday, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The earthquake occurred at a depth of 10km. In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 3.9, On: 21/02/2026 09:57:59 IST, Lat: 33.76 N, Long: 72.68 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Pakistan." **Earthquake-prone** Pakistan is considered one of the most earthquake-prone countries in the world due to its geographical location along the boundary where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates collide. Regions such as Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan lie near major fault lines, making them particularly vulnerable to seismic activity. Punjab and Sindh, located along the north-western edge of the Indian Plate, remain vulnerable. -ANI

RIISING TENSIONS

Ethiopia faces renewed strain with Tigray and Eritrea

ADDIS ABABA: A sense of anxiety is hard to miss in Tigray. Though the 2022 Pretoria peace agreement brought an end to fighting between the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), many in Tigray say life today is like walking on eggshells. The TPLF, once the dominant party in Ethiopia's ruling coalition (EPRDF) and the region's political anchor, has split into rival factions competing for influence, leaving residents unsure who truly speaks for them. The political division has created a vacuum. Meanwhile, Ethiopia's federal government accuses Eritrea of supporting the TPLF, an accusation the TPLF and Asmara deny. But among Tigrayans, it feels like the ghosts of war have not gone away. Multiple news outlets indicate that Ethiopian government soldiers and Tigrayan fighters have deployed along the Tigrayan region's northern border. "The situation is very frightening," Mustafa Abdu, a legal expert and political analyst based in Tigray's capital, Mekelle, said. "The federal defense forces are stationed at all borders. Therefore, there are indications that this [war] is inevitable," Abdu told DW, adding that according to the Pretoria agreement, the federal government is responsible for protecting the borders. The looming threat of war has sent prices in Tigray skyrocketing. "Just last week, a liter of petrol was 220 [Ethiopian] Birr (\$1.42, €1.20). But as the tension of war increases, the price increases by 50, 60, 70 more birr every day since then," Gebre Tsadiq Abraha, a taxi



driver in Mekelle, told DW. The situation is forcing residents to take drastic measures. "People are forced to hoard not only fuel but also food and other essential goods," Nathaniel Tekleberhan, a resident of Mekelle said. "Those who are suffering from chronic diseases, such as diabetes, are forced to buy and store them in large quantities. This is also because of the last experience, many people lost their lives during the last war due to lack of medicine," he adds. **Real risk of war** Amdom Gebreselassie, chairperson of Arena Tigray for Democracy and Sovereignty, told DW: "The TPLF is also militarily active in the region." He warned that Shabia, another name for the Eritrean People's Lib-

eration Front (EPLF), was infiltrating several areas, particularly intelligence personnel. "Many are fully deployed. There is a risk of war, therefore, an outbreak of war is feared." "The people of Tigray are in dire straits," Abdu said. "The war has hit them hard. They have not yet overcome their pain." He added that there is no market in Tigray, and the banks are empty. Early this week, Volker Turk, the UN's human rights chief, called on all parties to the conflict to urgently "de-escalate." "Political dialogue and confidence-building measures are urgently needed, not renewed resort to armed violence," the UN rights envoy added. **Journalists denied access** On Thursday, an AFP journalist was denied boarding a flight des-

tined for Tigray. Airport authorities said the accredited reporter did not have the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' authorisation. "This is a new rule that came into force today or yesterday," said security staff at Addis Ababa airport, without providing proof. In December 2025, the Ethiopian Media Authority permanently suspended two DW correspondents, accusing them of "continued non-compliance with Ethiopian laws and professional ethics." Despite repeated inquiries from DW, the Ethiopian media regulator did not identify any particular complaints about the journalists' reporting. Ethiopia also refused to renew the accreditation of three Reuters journalists following a recent report by the news agency that revealed an alleged training base in

Ethiopia for Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF). BBC correspondents' accreditation renewals were also turned down, according to AFP. According to Reporters Without Borders, Ethiopia ranks 145th out of 180 countries in its 2025 Press Freedom Index, with five journalists currently behind bars. During the war in Tigray, access to the frontline was heavily restricted for local and international reporters. **Ethiopia's maritime ambitions** All this happens as tensions with neighboring Eritrea are rising. Abiy's repeated demands for Ethiopia's need for sea access have caused anxiety in Eritrea, with many fearing it could ignite new tensions. "This year, we expect 10.2% growth," Abiy told reporters this week alongside Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "But the continuity of this growth cannot be assured when a country of more than 130 million people is denied access to the sea. Regardless of experience and global trends, and due to the long-standing conspiracy of our enemies, Ethiopia has become a geographical prisoner, and this is not right," Abiy stated. For a brief period after 2018, relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea thawed. But since 2023, that optimism is gone. Eritrea has carried out a nationwide military mobilization, while Ethiopia has moved troops toward the border. Civilians on both sides now live in fear that troop movements could develop into something way worse

in the Horn of Africa. Addis Ababa also accuses Asmara of supporting Fano insurgents in Ethiopia's Amhara region. Eritrea, in turn, insists the accusations are baseless "false flags." Eritreans remain deeply protective of Port Assab — just 75 kilometers (46 miles) from Ethiopia's border — seeing any discussion of Ethiopian access as a threat to their hard won sovereignty. Martin Plaut, a journalist and analyst specializing in the Horn of Africa, said Ethiopian leader Abiy Ahmed could be using the demand for sea access to distract from other pressing internal issues. "He has conflict with the Oromo, he has conflict with the Amhara, he has conflict with the Tigrayans," Plaut told DW, adding: "So it's always useful to have a foreign issue to point to, just as President Trump did with Greenland. But it doesn't mean that you have the right to go and take it." Eritrea fought Ethiopia in a 1961-1991 war for independence. Another war between the two took place between 1998 and 2000 over a border conflict. In 2018, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki signed a peace agreement, which led to the reopening of the border and earned Abiy the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed maintains that Ethiopia will seek sea access peacefully. But Eritrea's government remains skeptical of Addis Ababa's true intentions. Meanwhile, communities along the border wait and watch, hoping that diplomacy prevails this time — and that the fragile quiet around them does not break. -DW

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat launches cutting edge virtual reality simulation and gamification platform

This strategic initiative reinforces the bank’s commitment to developing next-generation banking leaders through an immersive, technology-driven learning experience enhanced by Artificial Intelligence

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the launch of an innovative Virtual Simulation and Gamification platform as part of its prestigious EAGLEs Programme for branch managers and employees. This strategic initiative reinforces the Bank’s commitment to developing next-generation banking leaders through an immersive, technology-driven learning experience enhanced by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The platform represents a significant leap forward in banking education, combining advanced virtual simulation technology AI-driven insights, and engaging gamification elements. It enables branch managers and employees to navigate realistic banking scenarios, make critical decisions in real time, and develop essential leadership competencies within a dynamic, risk-free learning environment. Through AI-powered analytics and adaptive learn-

ing models, the platform provides personalized feedback, identifies capability gaps, and tailors development pathways to strengthen overall staff performance. Bank Muscat is keen to invest in developing the skills of its employees, reflecting its vision to remain at the forefront of banking innovation in Oman. This new platform, which integrates Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence, will further cultivate a culture of excellence, innovation, and sustainable professional growth, enabling employees to better serve customers and contribute to developing services. Ultimately, this approach creates a success-driven work culture that values innovation and fosters a supportive environment for employees. The EAGLEs Programme is part of the Bank’s ongoing efforts to align with customer expectations and meet their banking needs, in line with its vision, “To serve you better, everyday.” The programme is a leading initiative in the field of leadership engagement and development. The incorporation of AI-enabled learning and advanced simulation technologies elevates the programme to new heights marking a pivotal moment in the Bank’s Talent Development Strategy and aligning with Bank Muscat’s broader digital and AI transformation agenda. Bank Muscat places great importance on developing the skills of its employees through a wide range of training programmes and educational opportunities from the outset of their employment. The Bank has set a strategic plan aimed at extending its support to developing human resources and opening new pathways for young Omanis to showcase their professional potential. This includes cross-department coordination to assess staff needs using AI-supported insights, responding proactively to evolving workforce and sector demands, and investing in new technologies to elevate employee training requirements.



PHARMACY RAMADAN INITIATIVE



Avicen conducts pharmacist campus interviews to empower Omani talent

MUSCAT: In alignment with the goals of Oman Vision 2040, and under the directives of Hilal bin Ali bin Hilal Al Sabti, Minister of Health, along with the guidance of Ibrahim Nasser Al Rashdi, Director General of the Drug Safety Centre at the Ministry of Health, Oman’s leading healthcare group Avicen conducted a large-scale Omani Pharmacist Campus Interview on 18 February 2026 at the National University of Science and Technology. The initiative reflects Avicen’s ongoing commitment to strengthening the national workforce and supporting Omanization within the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. The campus recruitment drive attracted a strong turnout of pharmacy graduates and final-year students, eager to begin

their professional journey with one of the Sultanate’s most trusted healthcare providers. The interview panel was led by Sumaya Hamoud Al Balushi, Group HR Manager, alongside senior leadership members including Nissar Edathum Chalil, Managing Director of Avicen Group, Vinu Kondarampaatu, Head of Operations, and Khansaa Ayyoub Haroon Al Zadjali, HR Executive. Their active participation underscored the organization’s strategic focus on talent acquisition and professional development for Omani pharmacists. The event was organized with the valuable support of Dr. Khalid Al Balushi, Dean of the University, Marwa Al Hashmi, Head of Placement and Alumni Office, and P. Mohamed Ali, Chancellor of the

National University of Science and Technology. Their collaboration highlights the strong partnership between academia and industry in preparing graduates for impactful roles in the healthcare sector. During the recruitment campaign, candidates underwent structured interviews and engaged directly with the leadership team, gaining insights into Avicen’s vision, operational standards, training programs, and long-term career growth opportunities. This initiative stands as a significant step toward achieving the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 by empowering Omani youth, enhancing employment opportunities in the healthcare sector, and contributing to the continued advancement of the Sultanate’s healthcare ecosystem.

Vodafone Oman ‘Steps for Goodness’ open doors of hope



MUSCAT: Building on three consecutive years of meaningful community impact, Vodafone Oman has announced the return of its Ramadan initiative, “Steps for Goodness,” for its fourth edition. The campaign continues to reflect the company’s commitment to transforming everyday actions into lasting social impact by encouraging people across Oman to convert their daily steps into real support for those in need during the Holy Month. Since its launch in 2023, “Steps for Goodness” has evolved into one of the Sultanate’s most impactful digital community initiatives. The campaign first debuted as a market-first concept that enabled customers to turn their steps into donations, to support homes renovations for those in need. In 2024, the initiative expanded with new interactive features including group challenges, podcasts, and community walking routes across multiple cities, strengthening engagement and participation. By 2025, the initiative had grown into a nationwide movement, bringing together more than 40,000 participants

who collectively generated over one billion points, supporting various causes across the country. This year, the initiative enters a new chapter under the theme “Steps for Goodness – every step opens a door” in collaboration with the “Fak Kurba” a humanitarian initiative by the Omani Lawyers Association, which works to support the release of financially distressed prisoners and help reunite them with their families. Through the My Vodafone App, participants’ daily steps will be converted into points that translate into financial contributions toward this humanitarian cause, helping restore hope, dignity, and second chances during Ramadan. Commenting on the campaign, Usama Al Saifi, Head of Branding and Communication at Vodafone Oman said: “Steps for Goodness has grown into much more than a Ramadan initiative, it has become a shared national experience that shows how small everyday actions can create meaningful change. This year, our collaboration with Fak Kurba allows us to deepen the human impact of the campaign by helping reunite fam-

ilies and open new doors of hope. We are proud to continue using technology as a force for good, bringing communities together across the Sultanate.” The 2026 edition also marks a significant milestone by opening participation to everyone in Oman, who can join the initiative simply by downloading the My Vodafone App and contributing their daily steps toward a shared cause. The campaign will further strengthen nationwide engagement through partnerships with municipalities, institutions, and community groups, alongside interactive walking routes, on-ground activations, and friendly competition between governorates designed to showcase the spirit of giving across the Sultanate. Over the past four years, “Steps for Goodness” has demonstrated how innovation, collective action, and compassion can come together to create lasting social value. By continuing to champion purpose-driven initiatives, Vodafone Oman reinforces its commitment to connecting communities, empowering positive change, and making every step count during Ramadan.



This Ramadan is all about peace of mind

Easy to own with low monthly installments.



RAMADAN MUBARAK



CS95 4WD
Royal

2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp,
8-speed AT, 4WD, 7 Seater

EMI
OMR 173*
for 6 years



EMI starting from
OMR 132*
for 6 years

CS75 PLUS 4WD
Platinum

2.0L Turbo Engine,
232 hp, 8-speed AT, 4WD



CS35 PLUS
Trend

1.4L Turbo Engine,
156 hp, 7-speed DCT

EMI starting from
OMR 96*
for 6 years



EMI starting from
OMR 91*
for 6 years

EADO PLUS
Trend

1.5L Turbo Engine,
170 hp, 7-speed DCT



ALL NEW
EADO

1.5L Engine, 103 hp,
7-speed DCT

EMI
OMR 69*
for 6 years



EMI
OMR 66*
for 6 years

ALSVIN
Technology

1.5L Engine, 105 hp,
5-speed DCT



RAMADAN OFFERS

FREE SERVICE
FROM 3 YEARS / 55,000 KMS
AND 4 YEARS / 75,000 KMS*

**FREE
INSURANCE***

**FREE
REGISTRATION***

**VAT (5%)
INCLUSIVE IN
VEHICLE PRICE**

**FREE
WINDOW
TINTING****



Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 9th February to 8th April 2026 on all models purchased through the CHANGAN Showroom Retail Offer. # Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes only 10,000 kms service intervals. 3 years / 55,000 kms is applicable only to the Alsvin and EADO. All other models will get 4 years / 75,000 kms. @For 1st year, Oman & UAE only. *For 1st year only. **Window tinting is offered as a complimentary gift for customers purchasing the EADOPlus, CS35Plus, CS75Plus & CS95 Royal model variant only. **Super Warranty - 6 Years / 250,000 Kms - Applicable Alsvin, EADO, EADOPlus, CS35Plus, CS75Plus & CS95 only, whichever is earlier. *Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable to vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purposes only. Specifications may vary as per the model variant. To generate an inquiry, customers are required to visit the CHANGAN showroom to test drive their preferred model and to obtain full details regarding vehicle pricing and applicable offers.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles
and Equipment LLC

Showrooms:
Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930,
Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800
9662 8909
changanoman
www.changanoman.com