Times OF OMAN
GOLDEN JUBILEE
50 YEARS OF LEGACY
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OMAN'S PUBLIC REVENUES INCREASE BY 16% IN 2024

Total tax and fee revenues reached OMR2,077 million by the end of 2024, reflecting a 5% increase from the approved budget estimate

MUSCAT: The final account for the 2024 State Budget indicate that total public revenue reached OMR12,781 million in 2024, reflecting a 16% increase over the budgeted figure of OMR11,010 million. This growth was driven by increased hydrocarbon revenue.

By the end of 2024, public spending reached OMR12,241 million, reflecting an increase of 5% over the budgeted amount of OMR11,650 million.

This growth is primarily driven by higher subsidies for oil products, as well as increased development expenditures by civil ministries.

The actual performance for the Fiscal Year 2024 achieved a surplus of OMR540 million.

Net oil revenue by the end of 2024, amounted to OMR7,452 million, representing a 16% increase over the budgeted amount of OMR5,915 million for the year. This significant growth was primarily driven by a rise in average oil prices, which increased from the budgeted USD 60 per barrel to reach USD 82 per barrel.

On the other hand, average oil and condensate production stood at 997,000 barrels per day, against a budgeted projection of 1,031,000 barrels per day, representing a decrease of 34,000 barrels per day.

This decrease was primarily driven by the government's compliance with the voluntary production cuts set by OPEC+.

By the end of 2024, net gas revenue amounted to OMR1,822 million, representing a 16% increase over the budgeted amount of OMR1,575 million for the year. This growth is attributed to higher average selling prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Non-hydrocarbon revenue by the end of 2024 stood at OMR3,507 million, down by OMR13 million, i.e., 0.4% compared to the approved budget estimates, representing 28% of total public revenue.

By the end of 2024, current revenue reached OMR3,472 million, up by OMR17 million compared to budgeted figures of OMR3,455 million.

Total tax and fee revenues reached OMR2,077 million by the end of 2024, reflecting a 5% increase from the approved budget estimate. This positive variance is largely due to increased corporate income tax revenue of OMR48 million and value-added tax revenue of OMR41 million, driven by the ongoing economic recovery.

By the end of 2024, non-tax revenue amounted to OMR1,395 million, representing a 3% decrease compared to the budgeted figure.

Public spending by the end of 2024 stood at OMR12,241 million, reflecting an increase of OMR591 million over the budgeted amount of OMR11,650 million. This growth is primarily driven by higher subsidies for oil products and the electricity sector, as well as increased development expenditures by civil ministries. >A5

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NCSI

Oman's electrical equipment manufacturing sector drives growth in industrial exports

MUSCAT: Oman's industrial exports witnessed a notable 8.6% increase during the first quarter of 2025, reaching OMR1.618 billion, compared to OMR1.490 billion during the same period in 2024, according to data released by the NCSI.

Industrial exports accounted for 28% of Oman's total exports, underscoring the growing contribution of the industrial sector to the national economy and the country's economic diversification efforts. This growth was driven by strong performance across several industrial sectors, most notably the electrical equipment and machinery manufacturing sector, which recorded exceptional growth of 141%, with its exports rising to OMR128 million compared to OMR53 million in Q1 2024.

The metal products sector followed with a 14.1% increase in exports, reaching OMR462 million, fuelled by rising international demand for high-quality Omani products.

Eng. Khaled Salim Al Qasabi, Director General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, said that these positive results reflect the strength and diversity of Oman's industrial sector. He emphasised the ministry's ongoing implementation of integrated industrial policies aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of Omani products in regional and global markets while boosting industrial exports. >A5

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Minister of Interior holds meeting

1 Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, on Sunday chaired the Interior Ministry's first meeting of the year (2025) with governors. During the meeting, the Interior Minister stressed the importance of keeping pace with HM's vision. >A3

OMAN
Eleventh 5-Year Plan panel holds meeting

2 The Supervisory Committee tasked with drafting the 11th Five-Year Plan on Sunday held its third meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri. >A5

SPORTS
Al Zubair wins MERC2 event in Jordan rally

3 Omani rally driver Abdullah Al Zubair claimed the top honours in MERC2 category, and was fifth overall, at the FIA Jordan International Rally that ended at the Dead Sea on Saturday. >A8

OPEN-AIR WORK LOCATIONS

Midday breaks for outdoor workers begin in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a move to protect outdoor workers from extreme summer heat, the Ministry of Labour (MoL) has officially implemented a midday work ban at construction sites and other open-air work locations across Oman.

The work ban began on Sunday, June 1, with workers prohibited from working between 12:30 pm and 3:30 pm in areas exposed to high temperatures.

The annual regulation, which runs through the end of August, aims to safeguard the health and safety of labourers as temperatures soar beyond 45°C in many parts of the country.

Companies violating the rule face penalties ranging from OMR 500 to OMR 1,000, according to the Ministry of Labour.

"This ministerial decision is in place to protect workers from the scorching heat during the summer, where temperatures can reach dangerously high levels," said an official at the ministry. "We urge all private sector establishments to strictly adhere to the regulation."

Companies adapt schedules

As the midday break regulation comes into effect, many companies are proactively adjusting their work schedules to remain compliant while minimising productivity loss.

"We've decided to shift our operations to the evening to make up for the midday pause," said Sirajul Hoque, manager of Al Isterbkar Trading, a Muscat-based contracting firm.

"Our staff will rest during the hottest hours and resume work after sunset when conditions are safer."

Others are opting for early straight shifts. "We're starting our workday at 5:00 am and wrapping up by 12:00 pm, just before the break begins," said a site supervisor with a major construction company.

"This allows our workers to return to their accommodation and avoid the peak heat."

International best practices in labour welfare — especially in GCC countries — indicate that similar midday bans are enforced during peak summer months.

In the UAE and Qatar, for example, companies often rotate shifts, extend project timelines, or adopt evening work strategies to ensure compliance without compromising project goals.

Workers welcome the relief

For workers enduring harsh summer conditions, the midday break provides much-needed relief.

"This week has been especially brutal, with temperatures touching 48°C in some areas," said Jasvwinder Singh, a 45-year-old construction labourer.

"We were really looking forward to this break so we can rest, hydrate, and recover during the hottest part of the day."

Worker welfare

The Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Manpower have reiterated their call for companies to prioritise worker welfare and implement suitable time management solutions.

Inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance

The midday break not only promotes occupational safety but also reflects Oman's broader commitment to improving labour standards and aligning with international norms.

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OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr 12:10pm
Asr 3:29pm
Maghrib 6:55pm
Isha 8:16pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 3:53am

CABLE

His Majesty greets President of Italy

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Sergio Mattarella of the Italian Republic on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of success to President Sergio Mattarella of Italy in achieving aspirations of the people of his country.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik also wished the bilateral relations further progress and growth in all sectors. -ONA

MEETING

US official hails Oman for enhancing cooperation

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received George M. Wikoff, Commander of the United States Naval Forces Central Command, in his office on Sunday.

The US official expressed his appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman's role in enhancing means of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides also exchanged views on several matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Ambassador of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

MEETING

US official received

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Al Za'abi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence received yesterday Vice Admiral George M. Wikoff, Commander of the United States Naval Forces Central Command and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed military matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Ahmed Ibarim Ambusaidi, Director General of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Defence. It was also attended by the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

Oman to participate in London Design Biennale

The "Memory Network" will be presented under the artistic auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is set to participate, for the first time, in London Design Biennale 2025 on 5 June with an artwork titled "Memory Network" designed by Omani architect and designer Haitham Al Busaidi.

The "Memory Network" will be presented under the artistic auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth. It bridges the past and present by reimagining traditional Omani pottery through a contemporary lens.

Designer Haitham Al Busaidi will present transparent formations inspired by Omani pottery within a network that mimics data centres—now integral to our memories and knowledge. The work offers a visual meditation on how societies choose what to preserve across generations.

Pottery-making was more than a craft; these were not merely functional tools but embodiments of core societal values: survival, community bonds, and the relationship with the environment.

This artistic work features an interactive experience, inviting visitors to contribute their own memories to this digital network, creating interconnected repositories of human experiences.

These contributions become part of a living archive, prompting essential questions: What do we consider precious today? -ONA

بنك عُمان العربي
OMAN ARAB BANK

Oman Arab Bank Leads the Economic Empowerment Landscape in the Sultanate of Oman and is Crowned with the "Outstanding Commitment to SME Growth and Empowerment" Award

In a remarkable achievement that set the standard for banking expertise in the Sultanate of Oman, Oman Arab Bank's added to its growing record of success, proudly announcing it being the receipt of the "Outstanding Commitment to SME Growth and Empowerment" award — a well-deserved recognition of a deeply rooted strategic vision and clear affirmation of the bank's pivotal role in leading the economic empowerment of entrepreneurs across the Sultanate.

This award is not merely a celebratory milestone, but the natural result of an integrated journey of tireless effort, carefully structured plans, and a real investment in Oman's economic future. It reflects years of consistent dedication, culminating in the development of the bank's comprehensive Tumouhi ecosystem — the most inclusive banking platform designed to support SMEs on every level: financial, technical, digital, and advisory. Oman Arab Bank has transformed from a financial service provider into an active growth partner in the success stories of thousands of local companies by offering flexible, customizable financial solutions, including term loans, working capital financing, and a full range of trade facilities tailored to different stages of business development; however, the bank's role has never been limited to financing — it has built a fully integrated digital infrastructure aligned with global standards, including smart payment solutions such as Soft POS, payment links, full digital banking platforms, and dedicated corporate branches and regional cash centers. Even more, the bank has redefined SME support through structured training and empowerment programs like Ruwad Al Arabi, Women's Leadership Development, and Financial Literacy, as well as through strategic partnerships with national institutions like the SME Development Authority (Riyada) to organize entrepreneurial competitions and targeted empowerment campaigns across Oman's governorates.

Times of Oman BEST BRAND IN CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE CX 2025

Recognizing that many freelance and informal businesses are often overlooked by traditional banking, Oman Arab Bank designed dedicated solutions that accommodate the unique needs of this segment — from street vendors and market traders to taxi drivers and independent service providers — thus driving tangible financial inclusion at the grassroots level. This ground-level presence has helped the bank expand its developmental footprint and reach underserved populations in a practical and meaningful way. Commenting on this achievement, Sulaiman Al Hinai, Chief Wholesale Banking Officer at Oman Arab Bank, stated: "This award is a confirmation of what we have committed to from day one — to be a creator of opportunity, not just a responder; a builder of business ecosystems, not just a lender. We believe SMEs are not a complementary sector, but the economic center of gravity and the axis of national transformation toward sustainable growth." He added, "We don't just offer banking products — we provide a fully integrated environment of support, guidance, expertise, and networks to help every entrepreneur turn ideas into impact."

With this recognition, Oman Arab Bank once again proves that it is more than a bank — it is a vital developmental force helping reshape Oman's economic landscape and placing SMEs at the heart of the national equation. This aligns directly with Oman Vision 2040's priorities of economic diversification, productivity, youth empowerment, and building a knowledge- and innovation-driven economy. The Bank stands firmly present across every step of the SME journey — from funding to advisory, training to partnership, and digital solutions to on-the-ground support — forging ahead with an unwavering commitment to solidify its position as the number one partner for entrepreneurship in Oman, driven by a national vision, relentless ambition, and limitless potential.

COMMENTARY

As the Road to Faith Begins

Saleh Al-Shaibany

More than two million pilgrims are now arriving in Makkah for the Hajj ritual expected to start on June 5 and the target will be the Kaaba built by the Prophet Abraham many thousands of years ago.

But most of them know that the road to the holy city begins at home at a much earlier date. The greatest challenge of them all is to prepare the mind to satisfy the moral readiness needed for the pilgrimage. Many would realise that the challenge of maintaining the 'spirit of Hajj' after this religious performance is too hard to meet in their daily lives. This is often the case when the mental preparation was too casual to begin with.

The performance of the Haj is one of the obligatory Five Pillars of Islam "for those who can afford" but it goes without saying it is also for those who are ready spiritually. Much older people would remember and tell you that an intense mental preparation would start years before one sets foot on the sacred grounds. There is a general tendency to accept the fact that once one is financially able then one can pack his bags and go.

There is a danger here of trying to satisfy one of the religious obligations and get it out of the way so you can continue with life by doing other things. To some people, it is like a thorn on the side that has to be dealt with as soon as possible. They are those who go and perform the Haj just because most of their friends have done so and they feel they have to go.

You don't go when you feel you need to go but only when you are ready for it. At the same time, you should gear yourself for that day sooner rather than later. People wiser than I would argue that there is no guarantee you would live to the day when you are prepared to go. I would argue, too, that since you only perform this ritual because you are repentant and one of the conditions is never to consciously repeat your sins, then there is no point in going and coming back only to start all over again.

Remember as a child when your parents asked you to clean your room? You cleaned up because you were told to do it, not because you wanted to. You knew that there was no guarantee of not messing it up again at a later date. However, as you grow older and wiser, you realise that you need to clean your room regularly and you would make every effort of not messing it up. We may never reach that stage of religious perfection but there is every chance of getting near it as we get older and wiser.

The Haj is a solemn promise to Allah not to go back to the old undesirable habits. I am not sure that some of those who make this journey really understand the awesome responsibility they are about to accept. There is only one way to go after that and we all know which way. Nevertheless, to see a throng of hundreds of thousands of people around the Kaaba does stir a feeling of spiritual awareness.

Thanks to technology, we can all watch and follow it closely in the comfort of our own living rooms. It is amazing how people from all walks of life rub shoulders, regardless of status or nationality, and become humble before the Creator. I do not think you can get any closer to all the goodness of the world anywhere else. It is the pinnacle of faith and the self-realisation for those who believe.

STEADY GROWTH

Minister of Interior holds meeting with governors

MUSCAT: Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, on Sunday chaired the Interior Ministry's first meeting of the year (2025) with governors.

During the meeting, which took place at the general diwan of the ministry, the Interior Minister stressed the importance of keeping pace with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's vision to combine efforts towards the steady growth of governorates.

The meeting also discussed means to assign governors to take steps towards the implementation of the Royal directives on activating Marriage Support Funds in the governorates.

The funds are scheduled to operate in accordance with standards to be issued by the Minister of Interior before the end of June 2025.

The meeting looked into a variety of other topics of common nature, including means of implementing the recommendations of municipal councils. -ONA

16-19 NOVEMBER 2025

Submissions invited for taking part in Gulf Film Festival

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth has announced the opening of submissions for the upcoming Gulf Film Festival, scheduled to take place in Muscat during 16-19 November 2025.

The event will be organised in collaboration with the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and aligns with the festival's regulatory framework established by the GCC Secretariat General, as part of the implementation of the GCC Cultural Strategy 2020-2030.

The ministry has extended an invitation to all Omani filmmakers to submit their works and compete across the festival's various categories, including feature films, short films, and documentaries.

Participants will vie for financial awards, with prizes awarded for Best Feature Film, Best Short Film, and Best Documentary, in addition to other awards such as Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Original Score, and Best Actor and Actress.

LABOUR MINISTRY

be'ah showcases sustainable healthcare waste management

SOHAR: Oman Environmental Services Holding Company "be'ah", represented by its Healthcare Waste Management Department, participated in a forum titled "Investment in Private Healthcare Sector: Opportunities and Challenges" organised by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry's North Al Batinah branch.

The company presented a technical working paper titled "Healthcare Waste Management and Sustainability Challenges."

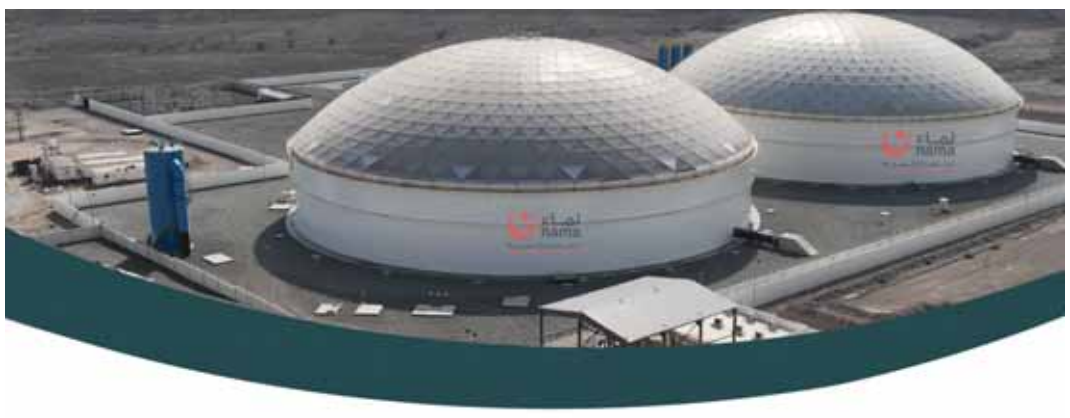
The paper detailed Oman's healthcare waste management system, highlighting the modern infrastructure developed by "be'ah" to serve this vital sector. It showcased the latest treatment technologies being utilised, including thermal treatment and sterilization technologies, to ensure safe and effective disposal of this specialised waste stream.

According to "be'ah"'s 2024 Sustainability Report, the company's healthcare waste treatment facilities successfully processed more than 4,000 metric tonnes of healthcare waste during 2023.

This achievement has directly contributed to supporting public health initiatives and environmental protection efforts. The presentation also emphasised the challenges facing the sector, particularly in light of the rapid expansion of private healthcare services.

The paper stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships between public and private sectors to ensure efficient and sustainable management of this hazardous waste category.

This participation forms part of "be'ah"'s ongoing efforts to promote circular economy principles in the healthcare sector and reaffirms its commitment to Oman Vision 2040 and Sustainable Development Goals through advanced solutions that protect both human health and the environment. -ONA



TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (NAMA WATER SERVICES) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2703103/ 2025	Price Agreement for Mechanical Seals for Five Years	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 500 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/6/2025	7/7/2025
T/2696095-2/2025	Consultancy Services for Strengthening the Nama Water Services 5-Years Business Plan (2026-2030)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies that have sufficient experience in the works mentioned.	R.O 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	29/05/2025	14/7/2025
T/ 2709103 /2025	Regional Asset Register Verification, Tagging and Valuation for Nama Water Services	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies that have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	R.O 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/6/2025	14/7/2025
T/2713103/ 2025	Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of Water Distribution Networks in Al Hazim Area in Al Rustaq Wilayat (Zone 1 & 2)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies that have sufficient experience in the works mentioned	R.O 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/6/2025	14/7/2025

The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into their (I-supplier Page).

Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: **https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration** in order to receive the login credentials of the Supplier portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-endering page (Supplier Login **https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Business-with-Us//Supplierlogin**). All participating companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope. Bid Bonds must be obtained from a local Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman addressed to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 2:00 pm on the bid submission date.

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details refer to Tender Page of our website **www.owwsc.nama.om** & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of **tender@owwsc.nama.om**

نماء nama WATER SERVICES

@nws_oman

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OMAN

RAM announces new international advisory board of global leaders

This strategic development marks a major milestone in RAM's ongoing efforts to elevate executive education and leadership development.

Dr Ali bin Qassim Al Lawati, President of The RAM

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM) has announced the formation of its newly reconstituted International Advisory Board, comprising a distinguished group of global leaders and renowned experts in leadership, management, and innovation.

This strategic development marks a major milestone in RAM's ongoing efforts to elevate executive education and leadership development.

The establishment of the Board reinforces the Academy's unwavering commitment to excellence, international collaboration, and alignment with the national priorities outlined in Oman Vision 2040.

On this occasion, Dr Ali bin Qassim Al Lawati, President of The Royal Academy of Management, stated: "We are proud to welcome this outstanding group of global thought leaders and experts to RAM's International Advisory Board. Their diverse insights, extensive experience, and international outlook will significantly contribute to shaping RAM's strategic direction.

"The board will play a vital role in enriching our programmes, offering forward- looking perspectives on leadership and innovation, and strengthening our global partnerships to enhance the Academy's international standing."

His Excellency also extended his gratitude to the outgoing members of the previous board, acknowledging their, foundational role: "We are deeply grateful to our former Board members for their invaluable contributions. Their vision, insight, and dedication played a pivotal role in shaping the Academy's early direction and advancing the development of its flagship initiatives and programmes. Their support has helped lay a strong foundation for RAM's emergence as a national leader in executive education and a beacon of leadership excellence."

Strategic importance

Reflecting on the board's importance, he added: "We are confident that the newly formed International Advisory Board will build on this legacy. It is worth noting that the former board had the distinguished honour of meeting His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik—may God protect him—during the Academy's official inauguration under the gracious Royal Patronage. That moment underscored the strategic importance of the advisory role in supporting RAM's national mission."

Dr Al Lawati concluded by stating: "We look forward to close collaboration with our new International Board members. Their collective wisdom and global expertise will be invaluable in advancing RAM's strategic goals and strengthening its impact within Oman and beyond."

The newly appointed board comprises a distinguished group of professionals with significant global influence and a proven track records of excellence across government, academia, and industry.

It includes Dasho Tshering Tobgay, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan; Enda Kenny, former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland; and His Excellency Eng. Abdullatif bin Ahmed Al Othman, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees at King Abdulaziz University, former Senior Vice President at Saudi Aramco, and former Governor of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority.

The board also includes Lim Hwee Hua, former Minister for Finance and Transport in the Republic of Singapore; Yoshito Hori, CEO of GLOBIS and President of GLOBIS University in Japan; and Carola Schouten, Mayor of Rotterdam in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

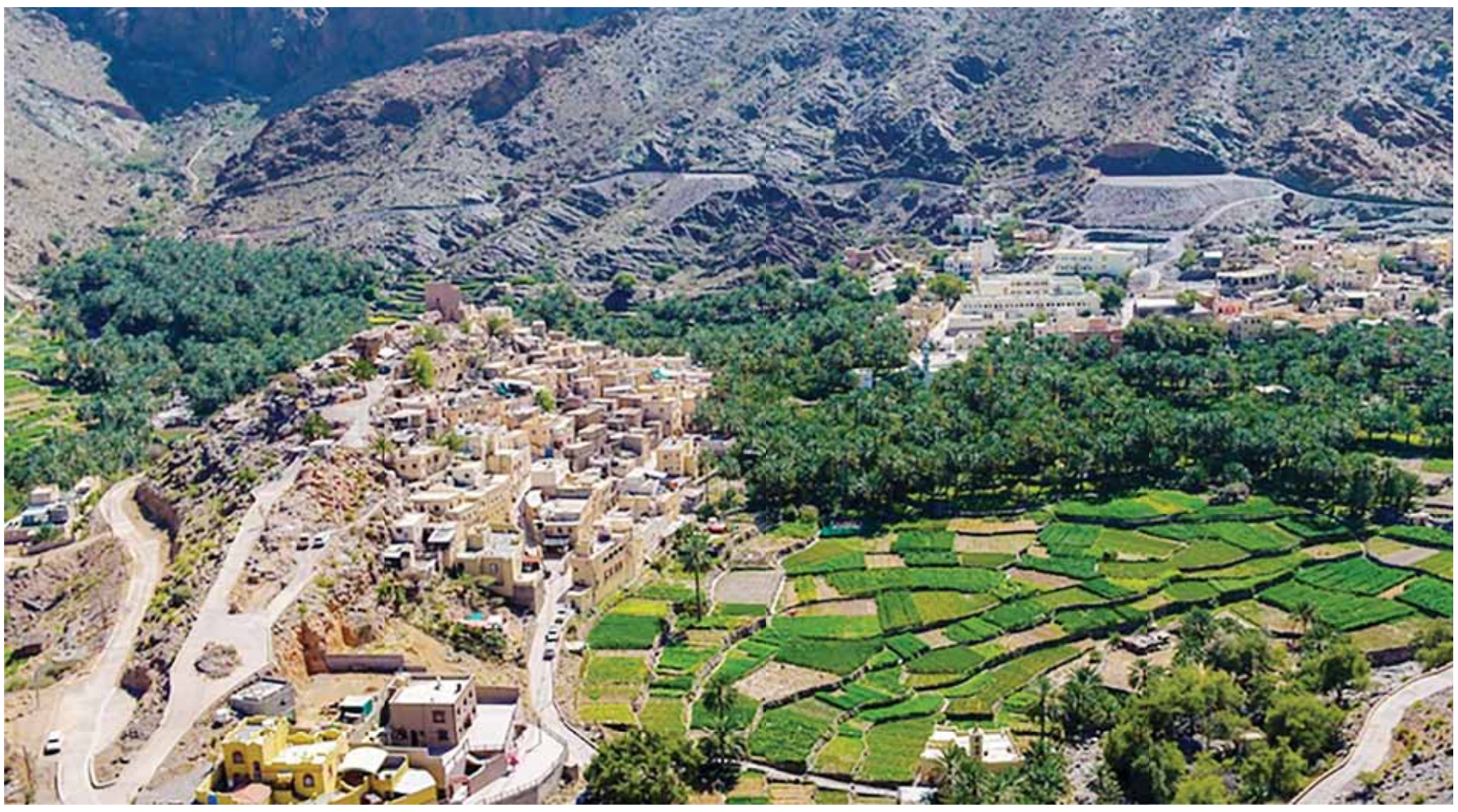
Joining them are Raymond Watt, Global Chairman Emeritus of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO); Professor Soumitra Dutta, Dean of Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford; and Arturo Bris, Director of the IMD World Competitiveness Center at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).The International Advisory Board serves as a strategic advisory body that offers insight into a wide range of fields including governance, leadership development, global disruptions, and future-readiness.

It supports RAM's long-term vision by contributing international perspectives and recommendations on matters related to leadership ecosystems, institutional excellence, and global trends.

The board is renewed every two years to ensure a continuous infusion of fresh perspectives aligned with global trends and emerging opportunities.

PREMIER DESTINATION

Bilad Sayt Village: A hub for tourism, adventure enthusiasts



A'RUSTAQ: Nestled amid lush oases and towering mountain peaks, Bilad Sayt village in the Wilayat of A'Rustaq in South Al Batinah Governorate, has emerged as a premier destination for adventure tourism.

The village captivates international thrill-seekers due to its location along the famed Wadi (valley) of Bani Auf trail, known as "Snake Canyon" for its challenging terrain. It also serves as a gateway to an ancient mountain pathway officially recognized among Oman's mountain trails, linking Bald Sayt to the Wilayat of Al Hamra.

Dr. Al-Mu'tasim Nasser Al Hilali, Director of Heritage and Tourism in South Al Batinah, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the village boasts five tourist facilities with 42 rooms, attracting numerous daily visitors.

Its natural and heritage diversity, coupled with unique experiences, makes it particularly popular in winter (September to April) when temperatures drop and tourism peaks. Summer tourism (May to August) also thrives due to the village's moderate climate.

Bilad Sayt lies along an active tourist route promoted by travel companies for its historical landmarks, natural springs, and traditional markets. These attractions complement the adventure offerings of Wadi Bani Auf and extend toward Al Hamra in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate.

The canyon, a dramatic rock fissure in Bani Auf Valley, earns its name from its serpentine twists.

Adventurers can tackle three rappelling points—the highest at 23 meters—and navigate 13 natural water pools across a 3-kilometre stretch.

A shorter trail, "Baseer Al-Zama," features a 4-meter rappel and opportunities for swimming and cliff-jumping amid striking rock formations.

Bilad Sayt's origins are deeply rooted in history, with landmarks like the fortified "Al-Manie Tower," the ancient "Al-Madiq Mosque," and the 400-year-old "Great Falaj" irrigation system, now a UNESCO-listed architectural heritage site.

The village also preserves intangible heritage, including traditional crafts like basket-weaving, rope-making, and palm-frond handicrafts.

Funded by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources and Al Zubair Institution, the "Agri-Ecotourism in Aflaj Systems" project aims to revitalise rural areas. As Oman's first such initiative, it seeks to bolster economic sustainability and local community development. -ONA

Hajj mission takes part in Jeddah symposium

Held under the theme "Capability in Hajj and Contemporary Developments," the event took place at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Jeddah

JEDDAH: The Omani Hajj mission took part in the 49th edition of the Grand Hajj Symposium, organized by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in collaboration with the Council of Senior Scholars and King Abdulaziz Foundation.

Held under the theme "Capability in Hajj and Contemporary Developments," the event took place at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Jeddah.

Since its inception in 1397 AH (1977), the symposium has served as a leading knowledge platform, fostering scholarly and intellectual exchange among Islamic scholars and thinkers. It focuses on the religious, cultural, and social dimensions of Hajj, highlights Saudi Arabia's achievements in serving the guests of the Most Merciful, and showcases pioneering projects in the Two Holy Mosques. Additionally, it promotes intellectual dialogue to address challenges facing the Islamic world.

The symposium commenced with a special meeting for heads of Hajj affairs offices from various Islamic countries, including the Omani delegation, to discuss coordination and cooperation in serving pilgrims.

The opening session featured welcoming remarks, followed by the first main session, titled "Facilitating the Ritual and Empowering Pilgrims: Saudi Arabia's Vision in Serving Hajj Performers." This session highlighted the Kingdom's efforts in streamlining pilgrims' journeys—from arrival to departure—providing integrated healthcare, and ensuring their safety through security measures and regulatory permits. It also reviewed infrastructure development projects in Makkah and the holy sites.

The second session, "The Concept of Capability in Islam and Its Role in Facilitating Hajj," discussed topics such as physical and financial capability (istita'ah) and the importance of educating pilgrims on its jurisprudential aspects.

On the sidelines of the symposium, specialised workshops were held, with participation from the Omani Hajj mission, including sessions on healthcare services, and media and awareness. These aimed to enhance service quality for pilgrims and craft a global narrative for Hajj. The event concluded with a final statement emphasising the need for stronger cooperation among Islamic nations to serve pilgrims and address contemporary challenges.

Held for over four decades, the Grand Hajj Symposium underscores Saudi Arabia's role as a religious and cultural beacon. Oman's participation reflects its commitment to contributing to this intellectual forum, which fosters dialogue and unifies efforts to improve the Hajj experience.

On the sidelines, Tawfiq Fawzan Al-Rabiah, Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah met with Ahmed Saleh Al Rashdi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and head of the Omani Hajj mission, along with heads of Hajj delegations from several brotherly and friendly countries. They discussed various topics related to organising pilgrims' affairs. -ONA

FOREIGN MINISTER

Copy of credentials of UAE and Senegal envoys received

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Sunday a copy of credentials of Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum Al Maktoum, Ambassador-designate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties and the bilateral relations further development and growth.

The meeting was attended by Najeeb Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocols Department at the Foreign Ministry and several officials.

Meanwhile, Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister also received a copy of credentials of Ibrahima Seck, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Senegal to the Sultanate of Oman.

During this meeting, Sayyid Badr wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties and the bilateral relations further progress and growth.

The meeting was attended by Saleh Mohammed Al Saqri, Head of the Africa Department and Najeeb Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocols Department and several other officials from the Foreign Ministry. -ONA

ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

Investments in renewable energy

< FROM A1

In remarks to Oman News Agency (ONA), he noted that the electrical equipment and machinery sector is experiencing rapid growth due to increasing local and regional demand, driven by infrastructure expansion projects—particularly in electricity networks, utilities, and new cities—alongside growing investments in renewable energy-related industries.

He affirmed that this sector is a priority under Oman's Industrial Strategy 2040, given its role in developing supply chains, enhancing value-added economic activities, supporting entrepreneurship, and localizing advanced technologies.

Eng. Jassim Saif Al Jedidi, Technical Director at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen the presence of Omani products in regional and global markets—a key objective of the industrial strategy and a pillar of economic diversification under Oman Vision 2040.

Speaking to ONA, he explained that these efforts include launching qualitative initiatives to improve the efficiency and quality of national products by supporting local manufacturers in adhering to the highest technical standards and international certifications. This enhances competitiveness and consumer confidence in Omani products.

He added that the ministry, in coordination with relevant entities, is working to open new markets for Omani exports by activating regional and international trade agreements, participating in trade exhibitions and missions, and providing incentives and facilities for Omani exporters. -ONA

LABOUR MINISTRY

Conference begins on drafting legislation to boost governance

NIZWA: A two-day conference titled "Drafting legislation to enhance governance" kicked off on Sunday in the Wilayat of Nizwa.

The conference is organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with "Media Thought" company.

The conference aims to exchange expertise among legal departments and public policy specialists.

The conference will elaborate on mechanisms for drafting legislation efficiently and effectively.

It explores concepts of governance in legislation within the context of digital transition, as well as international experiences in legislative development.

The conference is attended by specialists and experts from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad.

The participants represent legislative, legal, and audit bodies, judicial and banking institutions, members of legislative and executive councils, academics and researchers in law and public policy.

Besides building an integrated legislative system that keeps pace with global economic and technological updates, the conference will contribute to the development of a fair and inspiring business environment that supports the competitiveness of the national economy. -ONA

ECONOMY

Dip in public debt service

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Moreover, current expenditure amounted to OMR8,534 million by the end of 2024, down by OMR39 million compared to a budgeted amount of OMR8,573 million.

This reduction is mainly attributable to a decrease of OMR114 million in public debt servicing compared to the budgeted figure.

By the end of 2024, actual spending on defence and security amounted to OMR2,987 million, down by OMR83 million compared to the estimated figures in the 2024 budget.

The current and capital expenditure of civil ministries by the end of 2024, stood at OMR4,611 million, up by 4% compared to a budgeted amount of OMR4,453 million.

Public debt service by the end of 2024 reached OMR936 million, reflecting an 11% decrease from the budgeted figure of OMR1,050 million approved in the 2024 budget.

This decrease was due to the government's management of its financial obligations and the replacement of high-cost loans with lower-cost alternatives.

Actual spending on development projects of civil ministries and government units reached OMR1,498 million, up by 31% compared to approved allocations in the 2024 Budget. This increase is driven by increased financial allocations for development budgets across government units and governorates for2024, in addition to the settlement of outstanding dues owed to private sector companies executing these development projects.

Development expenditure for the infrastructure sector reached 44% of total development expenditure, while the social infrastructure sector amounted to 38% in 2024.

By the end of 2024, contributions and other expenses stood at OMR2,209 million, representing a 14% increase over the OMR1,937 million approved in the 2024 budget. This rise was mainly driven by higher petroleum product subsidies, which reached OMR232 million, compared to the budgeted OMR35 million. Additionally, subsidies to the electricity sector exceeded the budget by OMR105 million.

The Ministry of Finance paid more than OMR1.6 billion to the private sector by the end of 2024. This reflects the payment vouchers received through the e-financial system, which have completed the documentary cycle.

The Actual Performance for the Fiscal Year 2024 achieved a surplus of OMR540 million compared to a budgeted deficit of OMR640 million. This is due to higher hydrocarbon revenue.

By the end of 2024, public debt reached OMR14.6 billion, down by OMR660 million, compared to actual figures in 2023.

This is as a result of repaying part of Government loans and obligations. -ONA

Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

No	Subject	Tender number	Last date for Inquiries	Last date to submit the tender	Tender documnet price
1	Supply of Ration for Royal Army of Oman for three years	14/2025	23/06/2025	30/06/2025	175 RO
2	Supply of different Socks for the period of three years	15/2025	07/07/2025	14/07/2025	149 RO
3	Supply of Clothing accessories for modes for three years	16/2025	07/07/2025	14/07/2025	204 RO
4	Supply of Towels for three years	17/2025	07/07/2025	14/07/2025	166 RO

2. Tenders terms and documents may be obtained through MOD TABSEET e-Services portal at the following link: **https://eservices.tabseet.gov.om**
3. Tender fees must be paid electronically via the aforementioned portal for each respective tender.
4. Bids must be submitted electronically through TABSEET portal in accordance with instructions provided.
5. For further information or inquiries, kindly contact us via email: **modit.pur@mod.gov.om** or via call center: 24300038

OMAN/WORLD

11th Five-Year Plan panel holds meeting

This meeting was in pursuance of efforts to formulate a comprehensive development plan that keeps pace with the approaches of Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: The Supervisory Committee tasked with drafting the 11th Five-Year Development Plan on Sunday held its third meeting at the Ministry of Economy.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Committee

The meeting was aimed to ensure that the 5-year plan's preparation is proceeding in accordance with the approved timeframes and technical specifications.

This meeting was in pursuance of efforts to formulate a comprehensive development plan that keeps pace with the approaches of Oman Vision 2040 and contributes to sustainable economic and social development in the Sultanate of Oman.

National priorities

The meeting focused on developing a clear-cut, comprehensive five-year plan that aligns with national priorities and responds to the citizens' aspirations for the forthcoming stage.

The meeting also laid emphasis on the integration of roles of different government departments, sector establishments and civil society institutions—to ensure that the 5-year plan would be effective in meeting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

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NIGERIA

Over 20 athletes killed in bus crash after festival

KANO: At least 21 athletes were killed on Saturday after the bus they were travelling on drove off a bridge in the northern Nigerian state of Kano, the state governor said.

The athletes were returning home from the National Sports Festival that they had been participating in for the previous week in Ogun state, in the country's southwest.

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf said that the driver of the bus appeared to lose control while crossing over the Chiromawa Bridge on the Kano-Zaria expressway.

Several other passengers were injured in the crash.

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) said the accident may have been the result of "fatigue and excessive speed" following a long overnight journey.

Footage after the accident showed a mangled bus underneath a bridge.

Athletes returning from Nigeria's National Sports Festival

More than 30 passengers were on board at the time. The survivors were taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Monday has been declared a day of mourning in Kano. The deputy governor, Aminu Gwarzu, said that the families of the victims would be given 1 million naira (around $630, €550) as well as food supplies.

The athletes had been representing their state in the festival which takes place every two years, allowing competitors from Nigeria's 35 states to take part in multi-sports events, including wheelchair basketball and traditional west African wrestling.

President Bola Tinubu said of the festival that it represented "the unity, strength and resilience that define us as a nation."

Poor road conditions and a casual enforcement of traffic rules make road accidents a common occurrence in Nigeria.

The FRSC recorded 9,570 road accidents and 5,421 deaths last year. — DW

BANGLADESH

Exiled ex-PM Sheikh Hasina on trial

DHAKA: The trial against Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina began in Dhaka on Sunday, with the fugitive former leader being accused of crimes against humanity. Hasina was ousted in a student-led uprising last year, with the nationwide unrest ending with her fleeing Bangladesh and finding refuge in neighbouring India.

She has since refused an extradition order to return to Dhaka.

The trial against Hasina is being held in absentia by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT). The officials are focusing on her government's crackdown against the protest movement, which marked the end of her 15-year rule.

What did prosecutors say about Sheikh Hasina?

"Upon scrutinising the evidence, we reached the conclusion that it was a coordinated, widespread and systematic attack," ICT chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam told the court in his opening speech.

"The accused unleashed all law enforcement agencies and her armed party members to crush the uprising."

Prosecutors have accused Hasina of directing the violent crackdown, including ordering the killing of student protester Abu Sayeed, the first to be killed during the uprising.

The prosecution has listed five charges against Hasina and several other top officials from her government, including "abetment, incitement, complicity, facilitation, conspiracy, and failure to prevent mass murder during the July uprising."

Islam said the charges amounted to "crimes against humanity."

How has Sheikh Hasina responded to the charges?

Hasina claims the charges against her are politically motivated. Her party, the Awami League, was banned pending the result of the trial.

Islam vowed the trial would be impartial, saying: "This is not an act of vendetta but a commitment to the principle that, in a democratic country, there is no room for crimes against humanity."

Sunday's trial also included ex-police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who is in custody but was not in court on the opening day, and former Interior Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal who is on the run, presumed to also be in India.

The ICT was first set up by Hasina in 2009 to investigate crimes carried out by the Pakistani military during Bangladesh's war for independence in 1971. — DW

DEAL SIGNED

IndiGo places order for another 30 Airbus A350 planes

New Delhi: IndiGo on Sunday announced it has placed orders for another 30 Airbus A350, on top of the 30 orders already in place with the French aircraft manufacturer.

Announcing the orders, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said that the deliveries of the aircraft will start from 2027.

> In April 2024, IndiGo had placed an order for 30 A350 aircraft

A firm order

"It was last year that IndiGo signed a deal with Airbus for buying 30 Airbus 350 900s with 30 firm and 70 purchase rights, and today we're confirming the intention to confirm 30 out of those 70 also into a firm order," the CEO said at a press conference

"We're going to sign an MoU for that and we're going to sign that here, right here and now," the CEO added as he signed the agreement with Airbus.

In April 2024, IndiGo had placed an order for 30 A350 aircraft, and kept an option to purchase another 70 such planes in the future.

IndiGo has a total of over 900 planes on order, scheduled to be delivered in the years to come.

In June 2023, IndiGo placed the largest ever single aircraft order by any airline for 500 aircraft with Airbus. With that, the outstanding orderbook of A320 Family aircraft stood at almost 1,000 aircraft, which are yet to be delivered well into the next decade.

These orders will bring the strategic relationship between IndiGo and Airbus to an unprecedented level in terms of depth, breadth, and size, the airline had earlier stated.

With IndiGo's current fleet, the almost 1000 A320 Family aircraft yet to be delivered, and today's order for aircraft, IndiGo is not only well positioned to expand and densify its unparalleled network but equally importantly, IndiGo will play its part to fulfill the Indian Government's stated mission of becoming an aviation leadership. — ANI

USE OF HAZARD RISK MAPS

How does Switzerland predict landslides?

BLATTEN: The destructive landslide in the Swiss village of Blatten is the latest natural disaster to hit valley communities in the Alpine nation.

While Blatten was engulfed by a slick of icy sediment this week, early warnings of a potential landslide gave residents time to evacuate. Only one person — who chose to remain in his home — is currently unaccounted for. The search for him has been suspended.

Switzerland is an early warning success story.

Government agencies there use a broad range of technologies and methods to assess risks that could threaten lives and property.

This includes terrain mapping and continuous monitoring of rainfall, permafrost melt, groundwater levels, tectonic shifts and ground movement.

This data allows authorities to maintain hazard risk maps across the country.

"Every community in Switzerland that's affected by a hazard has a hazard map. They're federally mandated for the areas where people live," said Brian McArdell, a geomorphologist at the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL).

In Blatten's case, officials issued alerts after a nearby rockfall destabilised the Birch Glacier.

Combined with warming summer temperatures, the glacier fractured. A slurry of ice, sediment and mud then roared down the mountain to the village below.

World's mountainous regions most at risk

Steep slopes, unstable terrain and exposure to high rainfall or permafrost melt put mountain regions more at risk of landslides and avalanches.

For valley communities in Switzerland, the potential for a landslide can mean entire towns need to be evacuated.

Following the Blatten landslide, several nearby communities remain on alert, including for potential flooding.

Brienz, a village around 25 miles (41 km) north of Blatten, is also preparing for possible evacuation. The town has faced repeated warnings and "near miss" rockslide events since 2023.

"In general, debris flow is a mixture of coarse and fine sediment — so everything from boulders, to mud, to very fine sediments and water," said McArdell.

"These events can occur quite suddenly and they're quite, quite dangerous."

Regions with the highest landslide-related fatalities globally include the Himalayas, parts of Central and South America, Italy and Iran. The International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation is currently being held in Tajikistan, where Farinotti expects the release of a "Glacier Declaration" urging greater action to protect ice masses from the effects of climate change.

"[It will] call for various actions and, among others, it will call for increased preparedness against risk deriving from cryospheric hazards, so avalanches," he said.

Guzzetti also highlighted the UN's Early Warnings for All initiative, which aims to establish a global early warning system by 2027. If achieved, this could be a major step toward saving lives from natural hazards.

While wealthy nations like Switzerland have reliable infrastructure to warn communities of potential disasters, many others are still playing catch-up. According to UN figures, only 108 countries had the capacity for "multi-hazard early warning systems" last year though that is more than double the number from 2015.

The benefits are clear, said Guzzetti, pointing to the Blatten evacuation: "It seems that they were very good at evacuating the town in time, so that fatalities were nil, or very small."

"I think it points to the fact that we are moving in the right direction." — DW

SHAILUNG RURAL MUNICIPALITY

Newly built 'mini-great wall' in Nepal becomes major tourist attraction

SAILUNG: A scaled-down replica of the Great Wall of China built on the foothills of the Shailung, by Shailung Rural Municipality, has been gathering tourists in recent times.

In the Tamang language, 'Shai' means one hundred and 'Lung' means hillocks, as one can view 108 hillocks in this area has always been an attraction for tourists. Adding to the attraction, the rural municipality has now built a replica of the Great Wall of China. The local body initially had prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of the 950-metre Great Wall from Kalapani to Dafedhunga, but only 500 metres have been constructed.

"I am feeling pleased and enjoying the view around here in Shailung, it was a dream to come here (Shailung) and see the mini-great wall. I was planning for this trip since three years and have been able to complete it now when the meadows are green," Badri Acharya, a tourist trekking around the Shailung hills, told ANI. Shailung, a centre of attraction for tourists due to its natural scenery and beauty, has been attracting tourists in large number. As per the official figures, the number of tourists visiting the area is increasing for meditation, study, research and exploration.

As per the information provided by Sanjeev Neupane, the chief administrative officer of Shailung Rural Municipality significant number of tourists are seen on Fridays, Saturdays and holidays. Approximately 20,000 individuals visited the Great Wall on Nepali New Year Day in April this year.

"The construction of the mini-great wall by the local body here is commendable. Shailung on its own is a tourist place, tourists used to come here, but the construction of the mini-great wall has added more fragrance to it as it will boost the tourist flow," Thakur Acharya, another tourist in Shailung hills, told ANI.

The new tourist attraction was developed through joint funding from the federal government's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, and the Shailung Rural Municipality.

As per the official, the federal government provided 70 per cent of the budget, and the rural municipality bore 30 per cent of the construction costs. For the initial phase of the construction of the 500-metre Great Wall, a contract was awarded for NRs. 49.415 million. – ANI

US-Israeli aid plan for Gaza failing, says MSF

In a statement following the massacre committed by Israeli forces on Sunday morning—which killed at least 30 Palestinians and injured 150 others as they attempted to receive aid at a distribution point in Al-Mawasi, west of Rafah, MSF said the assault exemplifies how aid is being weaponised

GAZA: The international humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) has strongly condemned the deadly Israeli attack on Palestinian civilians in Rafah and warned that the US-Israeli humanitarian aid plan for Gaza is "failing catastrophically."

In a statement following the massacre committed by Israeli forces on Sunday morning—which killed at least 30 Palestinians and injured 150 others as they attempted to receive aid at a distribution point in Al-Mawasi, west of Rafah, MSF said the assault exemplifies how aid is being weaponised.

MSF denounced Israel's handling of humanitarian operations in Gaza, describing it as a policy of inhuman treatment over the past 19 months.

The organisation criticised Israel's manipulative aid strategy, saying it channels assistance only to specific areas where civilians are concentrated, often under coercion.

The organisation emphasised that the humanitarian system in Gaza is suffocating due to Israel's tight restrictions, allowing only a trickle of aid trucks to enter.

MSF concluded by warning that the use of aid as a weapon of war may constitute crimes against humanity.

Death toll in Gaza rises to 54,418 as Israel continues its aggression

The death toll in the Gaza Strip has climbed to 54,418, the majority of them women and children, since Israel launched its military offensive on October 7, according to medical sources.

The number of wounded has reached 124,190, with thousands still trapped under rubble, as rescue efforts remain severely hampered by the ongoing bombardment.

Over the past 24 hours, 37 more people were confirmed dead, including five bodies recovered from beneath the debris, and 136 others were injured. The figures do not include casualties in northern Gaza, where access to hospitals remains impossible due to heavy fighting.

UNRWA: Information on Gaza aid volumes is misleading, only 9% of needs met

Adnan Abu Hasna, media advisor to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), stated on Sunday that widely circulated information regarding the volume of humanitarian aid entering Gaza is misleading, emphasizing that the distributed food baskets cover only a small fraction of the needs of over two million people.

In an interview with Voice of Palestine Radio, Abu Hasna explained that only 800 aid trucks entered Gaza over the course of 17 days, meeting just 9% of the population's basic requirements. He warned that hunger and malnutrition are rapidly rising, while Gaza faces a collapsing health system and widespread water contamination, marking one of the darkest chapters in the lives of its residents.

Abu Hasna also highlighted ongoing Israeli efforts to dismantle UNRWA, replacing it with an alternative system that lacks operational capacity and infrastructure. He noted that while UNRWA previously managed aid through 400 distribution points, the current system operates with only three to four, making effective aid delivery nearly impossible.

Journalists Syndicate urges international action to save detained journalist Ali Sammoudi

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate has issued an urgent appeal to international institutions to intervene and save the life of detained journalist Ali Samoudi, 58, warning of a serious deterioration in his health due to Israel's policy of medical neglect against Palestinian prisoners.

In a press statement, the syndicate expressed deep concern over Sammoudi's condition, holding the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for his well-being.

Sammoudi's family confirmed that his health has significantly worsened, noting he suffers from chronic illnesses and requires constant medical care. He also carries live bullet fragments in his head from a previous injury sustained while covering Israeli military attacks.

Sammoudi was detained by Israeli forces on April 29 from his home in Jenin. He was subjected to abuse following his detention, initially held in an Israeli military outpost in Jenin before being transferred to Al-Jalama detention center, and later to Megiddo prison. -DW

SPORTS

Al Zubair shines in Jordan with MERC2 win, title race heats up

Omani teammate Zakaria Al Amri continues to lead the Group N category in Middle East Rally Championship after the fourth round

MUSCAT: Omani rally driver Abdullah Al Zubair delivered a stellar performance at the FIA Jordan International Rally, claiming victory in the MERC2 (Group N) category and finishing fifth overall, in the fourth round of the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC) near the Dead Sea on Saturday.

Driving a Subaru Impreza alongside his co-driver Taha Soomar, Al Zubair dominated the 12-stage rally from start to finish, topping the N Group and collecting 30 crucial points, reigniting the championship battle with compatriot Zakaria Al Amri.

The rally featured a competitive field of 22 entries and was held over rugged mountainous terrain and the arid landscapes near the Dead Sea.

Al Zubair's triumph capped a successful outing for Oman, with Abdullah Al Rawahi finishing second in the overall MERC standings, just behind Qatar's rally legend Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah.

Al Rawahi's strong showing further cemented Oman's growing presence in the regional rallying scene.

The spotlight, however, was firmly on the fierce intra-Omani duel between Al Zubair and Al Amri. Coming into Jordan with a 15-point lead, Al Amri was under pressure to maintain his advantage, but Al Zubair's commanding pace — especially on Day One, where he won every stage — saw him seize control early on. "It was a very difficult race, extremely hot, and our first time here," said Al Zubair.

"The first day we were flat out and won every stage. On the second day, we took it slow because we had a good lead and the strategy paid off. I'm happy to have closed the gap in the MERC2 standings and I thank my team, especially Taha Soomar and our support crew. Hopefully, more support from the private sector will help us push for the title."

Despite facing car issues on the opening day, Al Amri and his co-driver Mohammed Al Mazrui recovered well on the second day, finishing second in the category and eighth overall, maintaining a slim nine-point lead over Al Zubair with two rounds remaining in the MERC2 championship.

"The rally was difficult and the stages were tough, but we managed to recover and fight back on Day Two," said Al Amri.

"We're still at the top of the standings and we'll fight to stay there. I thank my navigator, the team, and the Omani fans who supported us all the way in Jordan."

The second leg of the rally, which included the challenging Panorama, Suwayma, and Wadi Nar stages, saw intense competition between the two Omanis.

Al Zubair, however, executed a strategic and disciplined drive, securing his lead early and maintaining it comfortably to the finish.

His impressive fifth-place overall finish — outpacing several drivers in faster, higher-spec cars — drew praise from many in the paddock, with several urging Al Zubair to compete in an R5 category car next season. With two more rounds to go in the championship, the Omani rally rivalry between Al Zubair and Al Amri is set for a thrilling conclusion, as both drivers eye the coveted MERC2 crown.

49ER EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Oman Sail's 49er duo sets sail for Olympic dream in Greece

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's high performance 49er team is set to compete in the prestigious 2025 49er European Championship in Thessaloniki, Greece, where 56 elite crews from 25 nations will battle it out from 3 to 8 June.

The regatta, organised by the Hellenic Sailing Federation and the International 49er and Nacra Class Association, also features the 49erFX and Nacra 17 fleets.

Flying the flag for Oman are experienced sailors Musab Al Hadi and Waleed Al Kindi, who will take to the water for three intense races per day during the qualification rounds, followed by a final series and medal race to conclude the event.

"This is a prestigious event where we will line up against some of the most accomplished 49er sailors in the world," said Hashim Al Rashdi, Head Performance Coach at Oman Sail.

"With qualification for the 2026 Asian Games and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games on the horizon, this championship is a valuable opportunity to measure progress, sharpen race strategy, and gain critical experience."

Al Hadi emphasised the duo's focus and long-term ambition. "We are incredibly determined to qualify for the Olympic Games and represent Oman at the highest level," he said.

"Together with Waleed, we've been working hard on our tactical and technical performance, and this event marks the beginning of what we hope will be a strong season."

Guiding the Omani team in Greece is seasoned Polish coach Jacek Nowak, a former national 49er sailor and member of the victorious Cape31 Team 'Aspire'. With coaching experience spanning the Finnish national team and numerous international campaigns, Nowak brings world-class expertise to the Omani effort.

"The ability to anticipate, adapt, and make decisions under pressure is what separates good crews from great ones," Nowak said.

"We've been drilling tactical scenarios and focusing on building a resilient, winning mindset — not just for Greece, but for the entire Olympic campaign."

Following the European Championship, the Omani duo will continue their Olympic journey with a packed international schedule, including Kieler Woche in Germany (21–25 June), the 49er World Championship in Italy (7–13 October), and the Asian Sailing Championship in November.

With eyes firmly fixed on Olympic qualification, Oman Sail's 49er duo are setting a course for excellence — one regatta at a time.

Real Madrid top Forbes' 2025 list of world's most valuable football clubs

LONDON: Real Madrid has been named the world's most valuable football club for the fourth successive year in *Forbes*' annual ranking, underlining its global dominance both on and off the pitch.

The Spanish powerhouse claimed the top spot with an estimated value of US$6.75 billion, supported by the highest reported revenue in the sport—US$1.129 billion during the 2023-24 season.

The latest list of 2025, published by *Forbes*, measures the enterprise value of football clubs, taking into account equity, debt, revenue, operating income, and overall financial strength.

Real Madrid's continued commercial growth, European pedigree, and unmatched brand visibility played key roles in retaining the No.1 position.

Despite a challenging season, Manchester United ranked second with a valuation of US$6.6 billion, a 1% increase from the previous year. The English club remains a global commercial giant, even though its recent performances on the field have been inconsistent.

Barcelona came in third, while Liverpool and Manchester City rounded out the top five. Notably, City recorded the second-highest revenue of the year—US$901 million — but ranked fifth in overall value at US$5.3 billion, reflecting the growing importance of sustained brand development alongside sporting success.

The valuations reflect financial data from the 2023-24 season, including earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA). They also account for club revenues, long-term debt, and stadium economics, though not the real estate value of the stadiums themselves.

The rankings underscore the enduring commercial pull of legacy clubs, particularly in Europe, where historical success, fan engagement, and global sponsorships contribute significantly to long-term value. Clubs with strong merchandising, broadcasting rights, and international followings continue to lead, even if their on-field results fluctuate.

Top 10 most valuable football clubs in 2025: 1. Real Madrid, 2. Manchester United, 3. Barcelona, 4. Liverpool, 5. Manchester City, 6. Bayern Munich, 7. Paris Saint-Germain, 8. Arsenal, 9. Tottenham Hotspur, 10. Chelsea. - Agencies

MARKET
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MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,565.23 points, up by 0.09% from previous close. The Shariah Index ended up by 0.50% at 447.81 points. Muscat Gases, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 10.00%, was the top loser. > B2

Muscat Stock Exchange posts its first monthly gain in May

In terms of sectoral performance, all three sectors on the exchange recorded gains during the month, led by the Industrial Index, which posted a 10.1% rise

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) 30 Index recorded its first monthly gain following four consecutive declines, posting a 5.7% increase in May-2025 and closing the month at 4,561.0 points, according to a new report.

"In terms of sectoral performance, all three sectors on the exchange recorded gains during the month, led by the Industrial Index, which posted a 10.1% rise," the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest said in its latest GCC Markets Monthly Report May 2025. "This was followed by the Services Index, which registered a gain of 5.7%, while the Financial Index recorded a moderate growth of 3.9%, closing the month at 7,942.0 points," the report further added.

Double-digit share price gains among Financial Index constituent companies such as Muscat Finance (+12.8%) and Global Financial Investment Company (+23.8%) supported the overall performance of the Financial Index during the month. Similarly, strong double-digit share price increases by several companies in the Industrial Sector, including Oman Cement Company (+26.8%) and Oman Cables Industry (+16.5%), fueled the notable rise in the Industrial Index during May-2025.

The monthly stock performance chart was led by Al Maha Ceramics Co, which recorded a gain of 53.0%, followed by Oman Chromite Co. and Oman Cement Co., which posted gains of 30.2% and 26.8%, respectively. On the decliners' side, Majan Glass Co. registered the largest drop, falling by 33.3%, followed by Salalah Mills and Barka Water and Power, which recorded declines of 16.6% and 15.4%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange witnessed a significant increase during May-2025. The total volume of shares traded surged by 42.2% to reach 941.9 million in May-2025, compared to 662.1 million in April-2025. Similarly, the total value traded rose by 47% to OMR148.4 million, up from OMR100.9 million recorded in April-2025. OQ Exploration & Production topped the monthly value traded chart with OMR22.9 million worth of shares changing hands, followed by OQ Base Industries and Bank Muscat with values traded at OMR21.6 million and OMR20 million, respectively. In terms of monthly volume traded, OQ Base Industries led with 239.7 million shares, followed by Sohar Bank and OQ Gas Networks, which recorded volumes of 128.1 million shares and 110.3 million shares, respectively.

In economic news, Oman's Q1-2025 public revenues declined by 7% to reach OMR2.6 billion, compared to OMR2.8 billion during the same period in 2024, according to data released by the Sultanate's Ministry of Finance. The decline in revenue was primarily attributed to a reduction in hydrocarbon receipts, as net oil revenue fell by 13% year-on-year to OMR1.4 billion, down from OMR1.7 billion in Q1-2024. Additionally, net gas revenue registered a 2% decline, amounting to OMR725 million in Q1-2025, compared to OMR744 million in Q1-2024. On the expenditure side, Oman's public spending increased by 4% in Q1-2025 to reach OMR2.8 billion, compared to OMR2.7 billion during Q1-2024. The increase was largely driven by higher development expenditures compared to the corresponding period in 2024. Overall, Oman's current spending amounted to OMR2 billion in Q1-2025, against current revenues of OMR725 million during the quarter. Development spending by the Sultanate's ministries and government entities reached OMR254 million by the end of Q1-2025, representing approximately 28% of the total development budget of OMR900 million allocated for the full year 2025. Meanwhile, subsidies allocated to Oman's social protection system and petroleum products amounted to OMR144 million and OMR27 million, respectively, as of the end of Q1-2025.

GCC markets

Equity markets in the GCC region remained volatile during May-2025 replicating the trend in the broader global financial markets, Kamco Invest said in its latest report. Almost all markets in the region witnessed gains during the month, but a 5.8% decline in the TASI dragged the MSCI GCC index into the red with a decline of 2.6% during the month.

Dubai and Kuwait benchmarks ended with gains of 3.3% and 1.9%, respectively, followed Abu Dhabi with a gain of 1.6%. Gains in Kuwait were mainly led by gains in the BK Premier Market index that more than offset a decline in the Main Market index. In terms of YTD-2025 performance, Kuwait continues to lead in the region with the only market with a double-digit gain of 10.2% followed by Dubai and Abu Dhabi with gains of 6.2% and 2.8%, respectively. The rest of the GCC markets show a YTD decline with Saudi Arabia leading with a fall of 8.7% as was the MSCI GCC Index with a fall of 1.6%.

In terms of sector performance, most large-cap sectors registered declines during the month. The Utilities index witnessed the biggest decline of 9.6% followed by Healthcare and F&B with declines of 5.2% and 5.0%, respectively. Sectors like Materials, Real Estate and Banks also registered declines. Gainers were few and was topped by Capital Goods index with an increase of 2.6% followed by Diversified Financials and Transportation indices with gains of 2.2% and 1.1%, respectively. Global markets continued to witness volatility especially given the tariff threats followed by postponements. The MSCI World index witnessed a gain of 5.5% during May-2025 led by gains across key global equity markets. Nasdaq Comp index was the best performing market with a gain of 9.6%.

ECONOMY

India prioritising lower denomination notes and digital transactions, says Finance Minister

NEW DELHI: Indian Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday that the priority of the government is to "make sure" that currency in circulation will be in "lower denominations" and spreading more awareness for "doing digital transfers."

Answering a question on the future of Rs 500 currency, Sitharaman said, "We are making every effort to make sure that currency will be in the lower denominations, used much more than the higher, as the Rs 2000 is almost completely out of circulation, except for possibly 0.02, which is still lying outside. Others have given it to the banks."

"We need to have more digital awareness built so that people see a benefit in doing digital transfers," the Union Finance Minister said at the 'National Commemorative Seminar on 60 Years of Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Integral Humanism Lectures' in the national capital.

In recent years, India has witnessed an unparalleled rise in digital transactions, marking a significant milestone in its journey towards becoming a cashless society.

At the forefront of India's digital payment revolution is UPI with a record hit of 16.73 billion transactions in December 2024.

In addition to this, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) and FASTag have emerged as pivotal players, making financial transactions faster, more accessible, and secure.

As of recent data from the National Payments Corporation of India, UPI has set a new record by processing over 16.73 billion transactions, with a staggering transaction value of Rs 23.25 lakh crore. This is a notable jump from Rs 21.55 lakh crore in November.

In 2024, UPI processed around 172 billion transactions, marking a 46 per cent increase from 117.64 billion in 2023. — ANI

FROM EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY RESEARCH

Port of Duqm wins the 'Quality Choice 2025' Diamond award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a prestigious international ceremony held in the Swedish capital Stockholm, the Port of Duqm was awarded the "Quality Choice 2025 – Diamond Category" by the European Society for Quality Research (ESQR). This honour recognises the port's strong commitment to business ethics, pioneering initiatives in quality management and sustainability, and its exceptional success at a global institutional level.

A total of 48 institutions from 41 countries across Europe, Asia, the Americas, Africa, and Australia were selected to receive this year's award. During the ceremony, Eng. Hashim Tahir Al Ibrahim, Chief Business Support Officer at the Port of Duqm, gave a speech expressing the port's pride in this recognition, stating: "This award not only reflects the strength of our systems and procedures, but it also embodies the vision and commitment of every individual at Port of Duqm. We don't just provide logistics services — we play a strategic role in building a green economic future for the Sultanate of Oman."

A strategic gateway

Al Ibrahim highlighted that the Port of Duqm is more than a maritime port; it serves as a strategic gateway between the Middle East and Europe and is leading efforts to become a regional hub for green hydrogen, in alignment with Oman Vision 2040.

He emphasised that the concept of quality at the Port of Duqm goes beyond performance indicators. It encompasses customer satisfaction, employee safety, operational efficiency, and a continuous drive for digital transformation and innovation.

He also shed light on current and future environmental sustainability projects, including the development of green infrastructure, the use of solar energy, biofuels, and equipment powered by electricity and hydrogen.

Al Ibrahim also reviewed the port's efforts to protect marine life, such as preserving Arabian Sea humpback whales, restoring coral reefs, and researching seaweed farming, in collaboration with partners and the local community.

He stressed that Port of Duqm's philosophy of quality is rooted in social, economic, and environmental sustainability, aligning all initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting youth empowerment and entrepreneurship in Al Wusta Governorate through social responsibility and training programmes.

He concluded by saying: "This recognition marks a new starting point toward achieving higher levels of excellence. We dedicate this achievement to our partners, stakeholders, and our community, and we look forward to a more sustainable, inclusive, and quality-driven future."

SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE

Sohar Emergency Response Organisation inaugurated

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Eng. Saeed bin Hamoud bin Saeed Al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communication, and Information Technology, Sohar Port and Freezone hosted the inauguration ceremony of the Sohar Emergency Response Organisation, a milestone that redefines industrial safety and resilience in Oman.

The Sohar Emergency Response Organisation is a fully integrated initiative, jointly established by Sohar Port and Freezone in close partnership with its tenant community. Designed to serve all stakeholders, from employees and contractors to port users and visitors ,this model represents a unified, community-wide approach to emergency preparedness.

Its collective nature is what sets it apart as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region.

Ensuring the safety of people and the protection of valuable assets are fundamental principles at Sohar.

The Emergency Response Organisation enhances risk mitigation, safeguards facilities, and ensures business continuity, directly supporting Sohar's mission to be a reliable, safe, and sustainable industrial hub.

Eng. Saeed bin Hamoud bin Saeed Al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communication, and Information Technology, emphasized the broader significance of this achievement: "The Sohar Emergency Response Organisation represents a critical step in aligning with Oman's vision for resilience and sustainability. By enhancing safety standards and ensuring operational continuity, it supports not only Sohar's growth but also Oman's strategic objectives in the logistics sector."

"This is not just a facility, it is a strategic outcome of collaboration," said Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Sohar-Port and Freezone. "Together with our tenants, we have built a shared resource that protects the entire Sohar ecosystem. This unified model reflects our collective responsibility toward safety, operational excellence, and long-term resilience."

Operating 24/7 and equipped with advanced technologies, the center provides rapid response to a wide range of emergency scenarios, from medical incidents and industrial fires to hazardous materials and technical rescues. Developed in collaboration with international experts such as the Safety Authority Rotterdam, and operated by Unity Fire and Safety Services LLC, the facility aligns with the best global practices adapted to the local context.

The inauguration of the Sohar Emergency Response Organisation sets a new regional benchmark in industrial safety, not only for its operational capability, but for its ability to unite diverse stakeholders under one mission: protecting the entire Sohar community through collective action.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Muscat Gases, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 10.00%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,565.23 points, up by 0.09% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.50% at 447.81 points. Muscat Gases, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 10.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 2498 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR9.91 million, with more than 60.05 million shares changing hands. Out of 65 traded securities, 26 advanced, 18 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR474,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR445,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR29,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,957.61 points, up 0.2%. Prices of Muscat Insurance, Oman United Insurance, Financial Corporation, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance were up by 8.11%, 3.56%, 3.33%, 2.02%, 1.89% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Insurance, Al Madina Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Oman Arab Bank, Bank Muscat were down by 2.50%, 2.17%, 1.35%, 0.68%, 0.37% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,649.50 points, up 1.28%. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 9.09%, 5.23%, 2.87%, 2.53%, 0.45% respectively. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy were down by 2.08%, 1.54%, 0.94%, 0.75% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.37% before closing at 1,619.08 points. Prices of Muscat Gases, OIFC, Al Jazeera Services, National Gas, Ooredoo were up by 10.00%, 6.94%, 4.10%, 2.53%, 2.38% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Shell Oman Marketing, Musandam Power, Abraj Energy, Al Suwadi Power were down by 10.00%, 5.98%, 1.96%, 1.95%, 1.41% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,586.23	4,551.82	4,565.23	4,561.04	4.19	0.09
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,960.19	7,924.32	7,957.61	7,941.95	15.67	0.20
Industry Index	6,719.68	6,565.17	6,649.50	6,565.17	84.33	1.28
Services Index	1,642.85	1,619.08	1,619.08	1,625.07	-6.00	-0.37
MSX Shariah Index	450.95	445.60	447.81	445.60	2.21	0.50
MSX TR INDEX	6,779.13	6,728.27	6,748.09	6,741.89	6.20	0.09
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,433.82	9,391.31	9,430.77	9,412.20	18.57	0.20
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,257.47	8,067.61	8,171.24	8,067.61	103.62	1.28
SERVICES TR IDX	2,089.44	2,059.20	2,059.20	2,066.83	-7.62	-0.37
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
60,057,265	9,913,748	2,498	27,894,229,851	26	18	21	65

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 1

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	510,404	103,694	65	0.200	0.209	0.200	0.203	0.195	0.008	4.103	0.203	0.203	0.214	0.100	8,697,127
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	72,180	16,589	15	0.225	0.234	0.225	0.233	0.225	0.008	3.556	0.233	0.228	0.233	0.100	23,300,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,809,283	367,318	169	0.198	0.205	0.198	0.203	0.198	0.005	2.525	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.100	44,660,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	777,241	170,006	91	0.215	0.226	0.215	0.215	0.210	0.005	2.381	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	139,953,009
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	253,020	25,292	15	0.099	0.101	0.098	0.101	0.099	0.002	2.020	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	20,200,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	545,000	33,740	22	0.061	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.061	0.001	1.639	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	22,079,892
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	587,771	129,686	53	0.220	0.224	0.220	0.223	0.220	0.003	1.364	0.223	0.222	0.224	0.100	208,663,686
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	93,726	7,669	12	0.081	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.220	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	6,183,870	915,090	189	0.147	0.149	0.147	0.149	0.148	0.001	0.676	0.149	0.150	0.149	0.100	645,262,964
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	340,617	288,080	33	0.845	0.849	0.844	0.847	0.844	0.003	0.355	0.847	0.847	0.856	0.100	635,250,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	22,010	8,403	10	0.381	0.386	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.380	0.383	0.100	47,461,225
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	40,000	3,250	2	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	7,290,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	14,833,493	2,091,910	73	0.141	0.142	0.140	0.141	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.100	933,031,724
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	123,005	12,527	13	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.095	0.102	0.100	228,169,209
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	174,900	49,847	25	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.286	-0.001	-0.350	0.285	0.281	0.285	0.100	67,376,850
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,724,203	472,064	45	0.271	0.275	0.271	0.273	0.274	-0.001	-0.365	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.100	2,049,246,398
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	13,978	9,350	5	0.670	0.670	0.665	0.665	0.670	-0.005	-0.746	0.665	0.665	0.730	0.100	62,252,753
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	957,301	68,508	35	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	47,917,008
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,436,631	101,193	75	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	50,008,444
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	24,929	9,567	10	0.373	0.389	0.373	0.384	0.390	-0.006	-1.538	0.384	0.384	0.385	0.100	46,080,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	5,141,231	1,317,829	171	0.256	0.261	0.251	0.251	0.256	-0.005	-1.953	0.251	0.251	0.257	0.100	193,320,200
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	4,300	10,105	4	2.350	2.350	2.350	2.350	2.400	-0.050	-2.083	2.350	2.350	2.350	0.100	210,795,000
Total		22	35,669,093	6,211,718	1,132											

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	100,512	10,865	24	0.100	0.110	0.100	0.110	0.100	0.010	10.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	3,300,000
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	400	240	1	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.555	0.045	8.108	0.600	0.000	0.600	1.000	6,615,028
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	131,251	42,426	37	0.310	0.330	0.310	0.322	0.306	0.016	5.229	0.322	0.320	0.322	0.100	17,710,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	20	1	1	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.030	0.001	3.333	0.031	0.030	0.000	0.100	2,170,929
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	25,460	13,141	18	0.490	0.535	0.490	0.502	0.488	0.014	2.869	0.515	0.502	0.515	0.100	166,098,100
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	485,610	38,878	50	0.080	0.082	0.079	0.081	0.079	0.002	2.532	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	6,885,000
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	600	62	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.102	0.002	1.961	0.104	0.100	0.104	0.100	18,096,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	49,702	2,636	4	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.001	1.887	0.054	0.053	0.058	0.100	16,585,902
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	10,274,495	1,221,472	642	0.117	0.120	0.117	0.120	0.118	0.002	1.695	0.120	0.121	0.120	0.040	415,138,902
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	5,376,281	635,647	70	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.002	1.695	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	625,049,314
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	100	6	1	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.667	0.061	0.058	0.066	0.100	13,556,640
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	15,630	3,212	9	0.204	0.207	0.204	0.206	0.205	0.001	0.488	0.206	0.204	0.225	0.100	41,124,934
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	3,425	760	2	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.221	0.001	0.452	0.222	0.221	0.222	0.100	10,160,007
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	6,675	3,024	2	0.453	0.453	0.453	0.453	0.453	0.000	0.000	0.453	0.440	0.470	0.100	74,914,875
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV. HO.	125,000	32,500	3	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.100	106,404,042
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	323,901	27,522	22	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	24,400,961
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	844	131	1	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.100	364,196,907
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	125	32	3	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.000	0.000	0.252	0.227	0.252	0.100	45,319,025
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	7,855	1,155	2	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.135	0.159	0.100	446,850,384
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	4,680	3,089	2	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.660	0.000	0.000	0.660	0.635	0.000	0.100	40,441,500
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	856,257	104,463	8	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.122	0.125	0.100	74,191,438
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	128,292	8,360	7	0.066	0.067	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.065	0.071	0.100	95,069,095
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	31,629	2,228	12	0.069	0.072	0.069	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	10,888,528
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	4,599	381	3	0.081	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.100	53,832,996
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	1,500	194	1	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.121	0.129	0.100	9,440,250
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	185,654	21,164	38	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.112	0.114	0.100	67,423,804
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	3,232	475	1	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.147	0.147	0.148	0.100	245,403,270
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	196,975	20,858	20	0.106	0.107	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	100,230,055
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	118,156	8,661	16	0.070	0.074	0.070	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	8,896,875
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	800	200	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.255	-0.005	-1.961	0.250	0.250	0.257	0.100	17,597,500
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	4,455,332	1,294,715	239	0.296	0.296	0.289	0.292	0.298	-0.006	-2.013	0.292	0.292	0.298	0.010	2,336,000,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	21,457	975	6	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.045	0.046	-0.001	-2.174	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.100	3,825,000
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	223,694	44,261	18	0.200	0.200	0.195	0.195	0.200	-0.005	-2.500	0.195	0.195	0.205	0.100	22,688,443
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	9,050	4,842	4	0.535	0.535	0.535	0.535	0.569	-0.034	-5.975	0.535	0.534	0.535	0.100	50,825,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	33,433	6,658	13	0.200	0.220	0.198	0.198	0.220	-0.022	-10.000	0.198	0.198	0.204	0.100	31,680,000
Total		35	23,202,626	3,555,234	1,282											

GCC STATISTICAL CENTER

GCC Financial markets composite index posts 0.7% growth in 2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The overall composite index of financial markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries recorded a slight growth of 0.7% in 2024. The index reflects the performance of GCC financial markets as a unified bloc.

By the end of 2024, the total market capitalisation of GCC financial markets stood at approximately $4.2 trillion, according to the latest statistics issued by the GCC Statistical Center.

However, the total market capitalisation witnessed a decline of 4.4% compared to the end of 2023. In 2024, the market capitalisation of GCC financial markets accounted for around 3.5% of the total global market capitalisation

BUILDING LOCAL ECONOMY

BankDhofar provides exclusive services and benefits to support SMEs

MUSCAT: Aligned with the government's ongoing efforts to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Oman, BankDhofar — second-largest bank by branch network in the Sultanate of Oman — offers exclusive benefits for SMEs, contributing towards the growth and expansion of these businesses that further support and build the local economy.

BankDhofar offers its SMEs a dedicated business account with features tailored specifically to the day-to-day needs. These include a smart point-of-sale (POS) system to facilitate sales transactions and boost revenue, a wage protection system that streamlines salary payments, and a remote cheque collection and deposit service that enables efficient processing of bulk cheques, offering greater flexibility to business owners.

BankDhofar recently launched SME Pro innovative solutions that simplifies banking for SMEs by enabling instant registration without the need for paperwork or in-person visits. Business owners can sign up securely using a one-time password (OTP), ensuring convenience and enhanced protection.

Additionally, with BankDhofar SME Pro, Business owners can benefit from a host of exclusive features designed to support their business needs. These include free transfers on the first transaction and every third transaction thereafter, applicable to both local and international transfers. Additionally, they will receive a complimentary annual checkbook, along with exemptions from service fees and annual credit card fees for the first year. SME owners will also be provided with a free direct debit card for the first year, six free Wage Protection System (WPS) transactions, access to a smart device point-of-sale (POS) system, remote check collection services, and a range of other value-added solutions tailored to enhance operational efficiency and financial flexibility.

To further support SME growth, BankDhofar introduced a suite of credit cards designed exclusively for small and medium businesses. These cards are available without the need to submit additional financial documentation, and include Mastercard Gold, Mastercard Platinum, Mastercard World, Visa Gold, Visa Signature, and Visa Infinite options. The cards come with benefits such as first-year annual fee waivers, global acceptance, a rewards points program redeemable through the bank's mobile app or website, and complimentary access to airport lounges in various international destinations.

For more information about the SME Pro platform and other SME-focused services, customers can visit any of more than 130 branches of BankDhofar across all governorates of the Sultanate, including Dhofar Islamic.

IN JULY

Opec+ countries agree production adjustment of 411,000 barrels per day

VIENNA: The eight Opec+ countries, which previously announced additional voluntary adjustments in April and November 2023, namely Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman met virtually on 31 May 2025, to review global market conditions and outlook.

In view of a steady global economic outlook and current healthy market fundamentals, as reflected in the low oil inventories, and in accordance with the decision agreed upon on 5 December 2024 to start a gradual and flexible return of the 2.2 million barrels per day voluntary adjustments starting from 1 April 2025, the eight participating countries will implement a production adjustment of 411,000 barrels per day in July 2025 from June 2025 required production level.

This is equivalent to three monthly increments as detailed in the table below. The gradual increases may be paused or reversed subject to evolving market conditions. This flexibility will allow the group to continue to support oil market stability. -WAM

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Indian Male MBA (Finance) having 5 yrs Exp. in Accounts, Finance, Admin upto finalization, well versed with software's, ERP, Tally, Microsoft Dynamics, with Oman D/L. Available in oman. Looking for suitable position.
GSM +968 78647611/95171197
Email: shaikmansoor782@gmail.com

MANAGER
HR manager 15 yrs experience in the Gulf looking for a suitable position. NOC available, valid D/L. Qualification: MBA in HR & Certifications. Available to join immediately.
Contact: 95323264
Email: deep.vg9@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

IT Professional
Experienced IT Professional (Indian) with 15+ yrs in IT service delivery, cloud, system administration, project management. Certified ITIL®, Prince2®. Available in Oman.
Contact: +968 76312054
Email: hadizeni123@gmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER
Dynamic professional with 16+ years of progressive experience in Financial Strategy, Business Consulting, Operational Excellence, and Growth Leadership across Civil Construction, RMC Production, and MNCs. Open to strategic senior management opportunities.
Contact: 97403883 / 92022786.
Email: gm.seekers.2025@gmail.com

PROJECT ASSISTANT
Female, well-versed in **Project Administration** with 13 years of proven experience in training, recruitment, administration, finance, and secretarial support.
As an **Executive MBA** holder, I can contribute effectively to your organizational goals and looking forward to an interview call and the opportunity.
Contact: 98260708 | meena.v24@gmail.com

ENGINEER
Omani Offshore Onshore senior field engineer well integrity and well interventions, 14 yrs experiences in oil and gas global, IWCF certificate, Bachelor Degree mechanical engineering).
Contact: 92518399
Email: murshid9493@hotmail.com

ENGINEER
Estimation Engineer: Indian, Btech Mechanical Engineering holder having 12 years of experience in Oman as Estimation Engineer. Holding Oman driving licence and can join immediately.
Mobile: 95945230
Mail id:mearung@gmail.com

JOB WANTED
FMCG Business Manager
with exceptional sales management skills. Qualified Marketer.
10+ years of FMCG sales & business management.
MNC experience in Oman.
NOC/DL available.
Email: oswaldrsilva@yahoo.com,
Contact: 96223114

MEP PROJECT MANAGER
Seeking for a job opportunity with solid background in **MEP Project management** with 21 years of professional experience in managing MEP projects across GCC (Bahrain, Saudi, Oman).
Contact number: +968 76861551,
E-mail: karthi.engr2004@gmail.com

SALES/ MARKETING
Indian male, Masters in International business, with 19 yrs of experience in sales, marketing & administration .
Field of interest insurance Currently residing in Muscat and looking for suitable positions.
Contact : 76381960
Email: ragunath.avalon@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

We are Hiring !
Job Description

Market Research & Business Development Assistant

Company : Zenith Gulf LLC
Location : Remote/ Nizwa

Job Summary

We are seeking a young enthusiastic Omani national sales and marketing representative to support our business growth in Oman and the Gulf region. The ideal candidate will help expand our market presence in the chemical industry, particularly in the fields of paint, resin, construction materials, and polymer additives.

Key Responsibilities
- Develop and maintain relationships with local clients, distributors, and industrial buyers.
- Conduct market research and identify potential customers and partners in Oman and surrounding markets.
- Promote and sell company products in accordance with corporate strategy.
- Participate in industry events, exhibitions, and trade meetings.
- Coordinate with internal supply and logistics teams to ensure timely delivery and customer satisfaction.
- Provide customer feedback and local market insights to management.
- Assist with proposal preparation, pricing, and contract negotiation.

Requirements
- Fluent in Arabic and English.
- Proven experience in B2B sales or marketing, preferably in chemicals, construction, or industrial sectors.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Oman-based (preference given to Muscat/Nizwa residents or those with local network).
- Driving license and willingness to travel locally.
- Familiarity with government procurement processes is an advantage.

Employment Type : Full-time (initial 3-month probationary period)
Compensation : Competitive base salary + sales commission + travel allowance

Interested candidates please
Send C.V to (a.sharifi@zenithgulf.om)

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GSM 99011352

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED
We are looking urgently for **Senior Accountant for Oil and GAS service company**

Mandatory Requirements
1) Education Finance/Accounting Degree.
2) Minimum 8-10 years of experience in Finance and Accounting.
3) Worked in Treasury, Management and financial accounting.
4) Know how to deal with auditors, Tax and VAT return.
5) Experience in TALLY system is a preference.

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OMAN NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION LLC,
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3. **Project Manager** – Experience 5 years in oman

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REQUIRED URGENTLY
A REPUTED OPAL APPROVED IVMS COMPANY BASED IN MUSCAT IS LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Position	Qualification
IVMS / DFMS Monitoring Analyst	• Diploma/Bachelor's in IT or relevant field Good analytical and report-writing skills Proficient in MS Office
IVMS / DFMS Technician/ Engineer	• Diploma in Electronics or vocational certificate in electronics • Experience in installation of DFMS/TPMS, speed limiters • Ability to work independently and travel to remote sites
IVMS / DFMS Technical Support	• Diploma/Bachelor's in IT or relevant field • Handles backend processes and technical validations • Strong organizational and multitasking abilities • Good command of MS Office and job management tools
Project Coordinator	• Diploma/Bachelor's in Projects / IT or relevant field • Experience in feet operations and IVMS • ERP working experience mandatory • Coordinating IVMS and telematics solutions across sites
Executive – Data Management & Certification	• Diploma/Bachelor's in Software / IT or relevant field • Experience with ERP systems and data work fows • Detail-oriented • Proficient in report generation and data platforms

Language Skills: English, Arabic / Urdu (advantage);
Availability: Ready to join immediately;
Application Email: **muscat.ivms@gmail.com**

URGENTLY REQUIRED
A leading construction company in Oman is urgently seeking **experienced Civil Engineers** (Over 3 years of work experience in Oman with valid Omani driving license) & Civil Foremen.
Interested candidates, please send your CV to
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Experienced
CHEF/COOK
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URGENTLY REQUIRED
Well established company in Muscat, seeks a qualified and experienced
Business Manager.
Ideal candidate would be an engineer with 6-8 years of Oman/AGCC experience in industrial equipment and project sales with consistent revenue generation above 1 million USD per annum.
A very high level of proficiency in English with DL is a must. Tech-savvy individuals with ability to join in 2 months only need to
apply to m.oman@mis-intl.co

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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

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CHANGE OF NAME

I **Ryhan** (holder of Indian Passport No. N7201826) Son of Mohammed Saleem Damda having residence in F-11 2/1/46/5/F-11 Sayeeda Complex (complete postal address in India) and presently residing in 403, Al Noor Building Al khuwair, Muscat (complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name **from Ryhan (Old Name) to Ryhan Damda (New Name)** for all practical purpose, Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.Box No, 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

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CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

DRIVER

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

Looking for Accountant job, with D/L. Contact: 92092486, Email: sagarjohn28@gmail.com

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

Experienced Finance & Accounts professional seeks immediate placement. Contact:78581435

Accountant with 2 yrs experience searching for job, have own D/L. accounting well known & VAT filing, bank reconciliation known. Contact: 91875558

Experienced part-time accountant with book keeping, finalization, VAT, tax filing. Contact: 79102100

Indian (M), 24yrs, B.Com graduate (+SAP FICO&SAP B-ONE) with 01 yr of experience in accounting. Currently in Oman and looking for a suitable position. Contact: 76422467. Email: mohdthanseeb@gmail.com.

ADMINISTRATION

Secretary with 20 yrs of experience in India and Oman looking for a job. NOC available. Contact: 97932277.

ADMINISTRATION

HR Manager 15 yrs experience in the Gulf looking for a suitable position. NOC available, valid D/L. Qualification: MBA in HR & finance & HR certifications. Available to join immediately. 95323264, Email: deep.vg9@gmail.com

Dynamic and well-experienced professional: 5 yrs of Dubai and 4.5 yrs of Muscat experience in operations management, business excellence or key account management looking for new challenges. Contact: 96766702, Email: ilyas3299@gmail.com

Indian male 30 yrs old, have 8 yrs experience in project management, coordination. 95645241

Indian(M), excellent English, Oman experience in corporate communications, project administration, CEO office, operations. Contact: 99283938

MBA HR & Marketing, Indian female, knowledge of MS office, Looking for suitable job, Currently in Oman. Contact: 72851131, Email:teenavalen01@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

Qualified junior Architect with experience in software such as Auto- CAD, lumion, sketchUp, revit, 3Ds max etc. looking for job in Oman. Contact: +968 78902260, E-mail: ar.mohamedadhelka@gmail.com

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

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

DRIVER

Looking for driving job with 8 yrs experience. Contact: 79453897

DRIVER

Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job. Contact: +968 99532361

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

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD D/MAN

MEP design engineer, MEP site coordinator, exp in design softwares available in empl visa Contact: 99506977

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

B.E Electrical engineer 6yrs exp in Oman with light D/L, Contact: 77405954. Email: michaelmathu@gmail.com

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

ENGINEER

Experienced Biomedical Engineers seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipv1@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225

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

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

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

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

MEDICAL

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

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

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

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

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

MANAGER

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

PROCUREMENT/ PURCHASE

Looking for MEP.QS, MEP procurement /mep estimation vacancy in construction field,currently in muscat, with more than 10 yrs experience in Oman, valid D/L. Contact 90475943

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

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

Indian female, 33, with 5 yrs UAE, Oman experience in sales coordination, marketing, business development (IT/security). Seeking new opportunity. Contact: 93198789.

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

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

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

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

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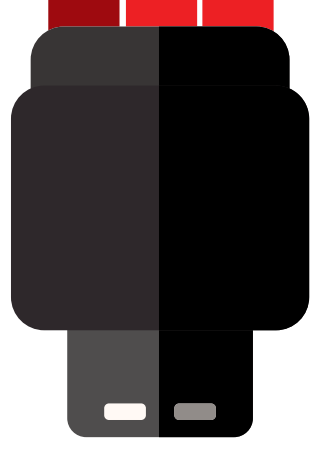

The findings depict how information is processed in our brain's circuitry, offering insights for neurological disorders and brain-like AI systems

Neurobiologists using cutting-edge visualisation techniques have revealed how changes across our synapses and neurons unfold.

The findings depict how information is processed in our brain's circuitry, offering insights for neurological disorders and brain-like AI systems.

How do we learn something new? How do tasks at a new job, lyrics to the latest hit song or directions to a friend's house become encoded in our brains?

The broad answer is that our brains undergo adaptations to accommodate new information. To follow a new behaviour or retain newly introduced information, the brain's circuitry changes.

Such modifications are orchestrated across trillions of synapses -- the connections between individual nerve cells, called neurons -- where brain communication takes place.

In an intricately coordinated process, new information causes certain synapses to get stronger with new data while others grow weaker. Neuroscientists who have closely studied these alterations, known as "synaptic plasticity," have identified numerous molecular processes causing such plasticity.

Yet an understanding of the "rules" selecting which synapses undergo this process remained unknown, a mystery that ultimately dictates how learned information is captured in the brain.

University of California, San Diego neurobiologists William "Jake" Wright, Nathan Hedrick and Takaki Komiyama have now uncovered key details about this process.

The main financial support for this multi-year study was provided by several National Institutes of Health research grants and a training grant.

As published April 17 in the journal Science, the researchers used a cutting-edge brain visualisation methodology, including two-photon imaging, to zoom into the brain activity of mice and track the activities of synapses and neuron cells during learning activities. With the ability to see individual synapses like never before, the new images revealed that neurons don't follow one set of rules during episodes of learning, as had been assumed under conventional thinking.

Rather, the data revealed that individual neurons follow multiple rules, with synapses in different regions following different rules. These new findings stand to aid advancements in many areas, from brain and behaviour disorders to artificial intelligence.

"When people talk about synaptic plasticity, it's typically regarded as uniform within the brain," said Wright, a postdoctoral scholar in the School of Biological Sciences and first author of the study.

"Our research provides a clearer understanding of how synapses are being modified during learning, with potentially important health implications since many diseases in the brain involve some form of synaptic dysfunction."

Neuroscientists have carefully studied how synapses only have access to their own "local" information, yet collectively they help shape broad new learned behaviours, a conundrum labelled as the "credit assignment problem."

The issue is analogous to individual ants that work on specific tasks without knowledge of the goals of the entire colony.

The new information offers promising insights for the future of artificial intelligence and the brain-like neural networks upon which they operate.

Typically, an entire neural network functions on a common set of plasticity rules, but this research infers possible new ways to design advanced AI systems using multiple rules across singular units.

For health and behaviour, the findings could offer a new way to treat conditions including addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder and Alzheimer's disease, as well as neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism. - ANI

SPORTS

VIOLENCE AND TRAGEDY

Two dead, hundreds arrested in France amid PSG Champions League celebrations

PARIS: France was rocked by violence and tragedy on Saturday night as wild celebrations following Paris Saint-Germain's historic Champions League victory turned chaotic, leaving two people dead and hundreds arrested.

A 17-year-old boy was fatally stabbed in the town of Dax, while a 23-year-old man died in Paris after being struck by a vehicle while riding a scooter, authorities confirmed.

The unrest erupted after PSG's emphatic 5-0 win over Inter Milan secured the club's first-ever Champions League title.

As fans poured into the streets to mark the momentous win, celebrations quickly descended into disorder. Across the country, 559 people were arrested — 491 of them in Paris alone — while 192 were reported injured, including 22 police officers and seven firefighters. Authorities said 264 vehicles were torched and several shops looted, particularly near the Champs-Elysées and Place des Ternes.

Paris police prefect Laurent Nuñez confirmed the club's trophy parade would proceed as planned on Sunday evening, but warned of a heavy security presence.

"This is just half time for us," Nuñez said, referring to ongoing concerns over violence. "We will not tolerate any abuse today... PSG supporters shouldn't be mixed up with gangs of looters and vandals."

Riot police deployed water cannons and tear gas to control unruly crowds attempting to reach the Arc de Triomphe.

Elsewhere, clashes broke out near the city's ring road and the Parc des Princes stadium. In Grenoble, a car rammed into a group of PSG supporters, injuring four family members — two seriously. The driver, who turned himself in, is not believed to have acted deliberately.

Despite the violence, the majority of fans celebrated peacefully. The Eiffel Tower was lit in PSG's blue and red, and streets echoed with chants and car horns.

President Emmanuel Macron congratulated the team, writing on X: "A glorious day for PSG! Bravo, we are all proud. Paris, the capital of Europe this evening." - Agencies

Five-star PSG pulverise Inter in historic Champions League final

Paris Saint-Germain dismantled Inter Milan 5-0 in Champions League final in Munich, lifting their first-ever European crown and an emotional triumph for coach Luis Enrique

MUNICH: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) finally conquered Europe in astonishing style, thrashing Inter Milan 5-0 to win the Champions League for the first time on Saturday night packed with symbolism, emotion, and sensational football.

Luis Enrique's team didn't just win —they overwhelmed an experienced Inter side with a level of intensity, flair, and cohesion rarely seen at this stage.

At the heart of it all was 19-year-old Desire Doue, who etched his name into history with two goals and an assist, becoming the youngest player ever to score twice in a Champions League final.

For Enrique, the night carried profound personal meaning. The 54-year-old became only the sixth coach to win the trophy with two different clubs, after guiding Barcelona to glory in 2015.

He had promised himself and his late daughter Xana — who died from bone cancer in 2019 — that he would one day plant another flag in triumph. After the final whistle, he pulled on a T-shirt featuring a cartoon of the two planting a PSG flag — just as PSG fans unveiled a giant banner in tribute. Tears flowed as football glory met raw human emotion.

"I'm very happy. It was very emotional at the end with the banner from the fans for my family," Enrique said.

"Since day one, I said I wanted to win important trophies, and Paris had never won the Champions League. We did it. It's a great feeling to make people happy."

PSG took control early, with Doue setting up Achraf Hakimi in the 12th minute before doubling the lead himself eight minutes later.

His second goal came just after the hour mark, capping a sensational personal performance that saw him become only the third teenager to score in a Champions League final —joining Patrick Kluivert and Carlos Alberto — and the first to be involved in three goals in one.

Even after Doue departed to a standing ovation, PSG's relentless march continued. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and 19-year-old substitute Senny Mayulu added to Inter's misery, sealing the biggest winning margin in any European Cup or Champions League final.

The win marks the culmination of a seismic shift in PSG's approach. Gone are the superstar-laden 'bling bling' years of Neymar, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe.

Instead, Enrique has built a younger, hungrier squad led by the likes of Vitinha, Joao Neves, Pacho, Hakimi and, of course, Doue.

PSG's knockout campaign was already remarkable — they ousted Manchester City, Liverpool, Aston Villa and Arsenal. But this final was on another level. Inter, the oldest team in the tournament, looked outdated against the youthful energy of a side that never let up.

PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi hailed the moment: "This is the best season ever. We are building for the future. The real work starts today."

For the neutrals, it was pure footballing joy. For PSG, it was redemption, glory, and the start of a new era.

"It's the best performance I can remember in a Champions League final," said former defender Nedum Onuoha. "This was thrilling, progressive football — and it's just the beginning."

On an unforgettable night in Munich, Paris truly became the City of Light. - Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Piastri clinches Spanish GP

BARCELONA: Oscar Piastri led Lando Norris to a McLaren one-two at the Spanish Grand Prix at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya on Sunday as a late safety car led to a controversial final few laps involving Red Bull's Max Verstappen and George Russell.

Piastri made an excellent start from pole position, allowing the 24-year-old to build an early lead from Verstappen who had overtaken Norris into Turn 1. Norris later retook the position – only for Verstappen to leapfrog both McLarens after the first pit stops, putting himself into P1.

This proved to be brief, however, as the Dutchman pitted early for a second stop, handing the lead back to Piastri – all of which triggered much intrigue over whether Verstappen would opt for a three-stop strategy, a scenario that could pose a threat to the papaya squad should the Red Bull have fresher rubber later on.

Verstappen did indeed embark on a three-stop – but the whole picture was dramatically shaken up when a Safety Car was deployed in the latter stages after

Kimi Antonelli's Mercedes pulled off track with a mechanical issue, prompting most of the frontrunners to pit again.

While Piastri and Norris surged clear at the restart amid a six-lap dash to the flag, Verstappen found himself passed by Charles Leclerc for third before battling with Russell.

The pair made contact and Verstappen was forced to go down the escape road, only for Red Bull to tell their driver to hand the position back. There was then another collision between the pair for which Verstappen subsequently received a 10-second time penalty.

Leclerc sealed the final spot on the podium for Ferrari in third, while Russell claimed fourth and Nico Hulkenberg was an eye-catching fifth for Kick Sauber after starting back from P15 on the grid.

Lewis Hamilton followed in sixth for Ferrari, while Isack Hadjar added to Racing Bulls' tally in seventh and Pierre Gasly claimed eighth for Alpine. Fernando Alonso finally scored his maiden points of the campaign in P9 for Aston Martin, while Verstappen's penalty dropped him down to a final position of P10. - Agencies

FRENCH OPEN

Swiatek rallies to defeat Rybakina

PARIS: Poland's 23-year-old Iga Swiatek turned things around at Roland-Garros after dropping eight of the first nine games against 12th-seeded Elena Rybakina in the fourth round on Sunday, putting together a 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory to extend her bid for a record fourth consecutive French Open championship.

The big-serving and hard-hitting Rybakina — who won Wimbledon in 2022 — got off to a stunning start, leading 5-0 after less than 20 minutes and grabbing 24 of the initial 32 points. She was responsible for 10 of the match's first 12 winners. "I needed to do something to get back in the match and, honestly, with her playing like that, I didn't have a lot of hope," Swiatek said afterward.

Swiatek carried a 24-match tournament winning streak into Sunday and a chance to become the first woman in the Open era, which began in 1968, to win the Roland-Garros trophy four years in a row.

In the quarterfinals, Swiatek will play No. 13 Elina Svitolina of Ukraine. Svitolina is three-time major semifinalist but 0-4 in previous French Open quarterfinals.

Svitolina saved three match points earlier Sunday to get past 2024 runner-up Jasmine Paolini of Italy 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1. All of the top eight women's seeds reached the fourth round; No.4 Paolini was the first to exit.

Djokovic advances

Also on Saturday night, three-time champion Novak Djokovic defeated Austrian qualifier Filip Misolic 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to set up a fourth-round meeting with Britain's Cameron Norrie.

Victory was also Djokovic's 99th at the clay-court major, which he last won in 2023.

Norrie maintained his focus to beat British rival Jacob Fearnley in a third-round match, winning with authority in a 6-3, 7-6 (7-1), 6-2 scoreline. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

bp Oman concludes 'Smoothy' programme

The programme benefited 270 students from grades 3 and 4 during the 2024/2025 academic year

MUSCAT: In partnership with bp Oman, Tech Space concluded the "Smoothy" coding programme, which aimed to teach foundational programming skills to early-grade students.

The programme benefited 270 students from grades 3 and 4 during the 2024/2025 academic year, across 10 schools in Muscat Governorate. It focused on introducing children to programming at an early age, encouraging them to use technology to develop creative projects, and fostering their personal and cognitive skills.

The first phase of the programme involved training 13 teachers from the participating schools on the Smoothy curriculum. This enabled them to deliver coding lessons in classrooms during the second phase. Students learned the basics of programming in a fun and interactive way that fostered creativity and logical thinking, using the specially designed Smoothy language through the HelloCode platform. This approach helped prepare them to understand more advanced programming languages in the future. The third and final phase included on-site school visits to evaluate and showcase the students' projects.

Ibrahim Al Hinai, Social Investment Manager at bp Oman, Qatar and Kuwait, commented: "We are proud to contribute to empowering our students and equipping them with modern programming and tech skills. The students demonstrated impressive abilities, creating innovative solutions through coding. Over 1,076 creative projects were developed, and 2,853 coding challenges were solved. We remain committed to supporting young talents in building the future."

Eman Al Rawahi, CEO of Tech Space, stated:"This programme successfully achieved its intended goals as a foundational coding initiative for early-grade students.

"It promoted critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and the students impressed us with their creative programming projects, which reflected their ability to express ideas and innovations through code. We are very proud of the level these young coders have reached."

VALUABLE PLATFORM

Oman Oasis participates as Friend-of-the-Event sponsor at HORECA

MUSCAT: Oman Oasis, Oman's leading bottled water brand, participated as a Friend-of-the-Event sponsor at HORECA Oman 2025, the region's premier hospitality and food service exhibition. The event brought together top industry professionals, chefs, suppliers, and innovators, offering a valuable platform for Oman Oasis to showcase its premium water products.

At the Oman Oasis booth, visitors explored the brand's full product portfolio while the team actively engaged with attendees to educate those unfamiliar with its offerings, highlighting the brand's commitment to health, innovation, and quality. This initiative played a key role in strengthening brand awareness across the hospitality sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Moosa Al Hasni, CEO of Oman Oasis, stated, "Our participation as a Friend-of-the-Event Sponsor at HORECA Oman reflects our strategic focus on aligning with key industry platforms that shape the future of hospitality. Through this engagement, we not only reinforced our leadership in FMCG products but also deepened relationships that support growth, innovation, and operational excellence across the value chain."

Oman Oasis products also took centre stage in the event's signature competitions. Mai Alkaline Water, renowned for its pH balance and mineral content, was the official hydration partner for the Barista Competition.

Meanwhile, Sifr Zero-Sodium Water, known for its purity and wellness focus, was the water of choice for the Mocktail Competition, supporting creative beverage innovation.

BRIEFS

ISWK coach part of India's medal-winning team at worlds

MUSCAT: In a historic achievement, the Indian national team clinched the bronze medal in the 35+ handball category at the World Masters Games 2025 in Taipei — marking India's first-ever international medal in handball. Among the standout performers was Shifas from the Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir (ISWK), who played a key role in contributing to the team's performance throughout the tournament. Shifas is a seasoned handball and basketball coach at the ISWK, where he has served with dedication for the past 15 years. Under his mentorship, the ISWK teams have consistently excelled, participating in national-level tournaments for the last 11 years. Before achieving international recognition, Shifas was a prominent handball player in India, having represented Kerala University and Mahatma Gandhi University for six consecutive years. "This is a proud moment not only for Indian handball but for every aspiring player back home," said Shifas. "It's an honour to represent India and be part of a team that made history."

Knowledge Oman and Muscat College collaborate

MUSCAT: Knowledge Oman and Muscat College have embarked on an impactful collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reinforcing their shared commitment to educational and community development. This strategic partnership was initiated by the Research Centre at Muscat College and formalized during a dedicated meeting held at the college campus. The MoU was signed by Dr. Araby Madbouly, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs at Muscat College, and Tariq Al Barwani, Founder of Knowledge Oman, in the presence of Abdullah Al Farsi, Assistant Dean for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Balqees Al Hassani, President of Knowledge Oman, along with representatives from both organizations. The collaboration aims to foster innovation, research, and impactful community initiatives.

Tennis coaching camp

MUSCAT: The Indian Social Club Oman organised a specialized tennis coaching camp offering the all tennis enthusiasts an opportunity to participate, learn & practice the wonderful game that they love most. The camp witnessed almost 50 tennis participants taking part in the camp, the culmination of which happened in the form of an exciting competition amongst all the participants. The ISC Tennis Coaching Camp Tournament wrapped up recently after a week of exciting matches and great sportsmanship. Players across age categories competed with enthusiasm at the tennis courts of the Indian Social Club Oman in Darsait.

FOR SECOND YEAR

Zubair EDC joins MEC's student project incubation programme judging panel

MUSCAT: For the second consecutive year, the Zubair Enterprise Development Centre (Zubair EDC) participated as a member of the evaluation and judging committee for the Student Project Incubation Programme organised by Middle East College (MEC). This collaboration aligns with the ongoing partnership between the two institutions to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among students and support innovation-driven projects.

Zubair EDC's involvement is part of the strategic cooperation framework established under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) previously signed with MEC. The MoU aims to enhance student-led initiatives by providing expert guidance, knowledge exchange, and advisory support to the college's incubator management. It also promotes the joint development of programmes and initiatives that support emerging entrepreneurs.

Ali Shaker from Zubair EDC stated,"We take great pride in our partnership with Middle East College and in witnessing the growing sophistication and impact of student projects this year. Several initiatives aligned closely with national and international sustainable development goals, which is truly encouraging. We look forward to continuing our support through advisory services and workshops in the upcoming stages of the program."

Dr. Saleh Al-Shuaibi, Dean of Middle East College, emphasised the value of engaging industry partners such as Zubair EDC in student development, "Our collaboration with the Zubair Enterprise Development Centre is an essential pillar in building a robust entrepreneurship ecosystem at MEC. Their expertise has been instrumental in mentoring and evaluating student ventures. The quality and depth of this year's projects reflect both the dedication of our students and the strength of our support mechanisms. We are excited to expand this partnership and further empower our students to contribute meaningfully to both local and global markets."

Dr. Saleh Al-Shuaibi, Dean of Middle East College, emphasised the value of engaging industry partners such as Zubair EDC in student development, "Our collaboration with the Zubair Enterprise Development Centre is an essential pillar in building a robust entrepreneurship ecosystem at MEC. Their expertise has been instrumental in mentoring and evaluating student ventures.

HIGH-ENERGY TOURNAMENT

Oman triumphs at Diplomatic Club's tennis tournament

MUSCAT: Team Oman emerged victorious in a thrilling finale against Team India at the International Tennis Team Championship 2025, hosted at the Diplomatic Club's tennis courts. The high-energy tournament was organised by the Diplomatic Club of Muscat, drawing 15 teams and around 55 players representing over 15 nationalities.

In the championship match, Oman's Abdul Malik Al-Oufi defeated India's Hassan Haider 9/4 in the opening singles. India responded with a 9/5 win in doubles, with Hassan and Sivan Govind overcoming Abdullah Al-Yahuaey and Muneer Al-Rawahi. The deciding singles saw Muneer Al-Rawahi dominate Vikram Gokhale 9/0, securing a 2-1 victory for Oman.

Participating teams included four from Oman, two from India, and others from Italy, the UK, Indonesia, Lebanon, the Netherlands, the Commonwealth, and three teams from the Rest of the World.

The tournament was made possible with the generous support of OQEP, Europcar, Škoda, and Supas.

Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europcar Oman & Bahrain, added: "This tournament perfectly aligns with Europcar's mission of supporting dynamic, multicultural experiences. We are thrilled to support an event that highlights excellence, teamwork, and international harmony through sport.

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

Taageer Finance, MPH partner to expand easy access to premium healthcare

MUSCAT: Taageer Finance Company has announced a strategic partnership with Muscat Private Hospital (MPH) - one of Oman's most premier healthcare providers. This collaboration enables patients to access premium planned and elective healthcare services through flexible financing and easy EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) options from Taageer Finance.

The tie-up makes world-class treatments and diagnostic procedures more financially accessible and just an EMI away, to a wider segment of the population, reinforcing both organizations' vision of putting patient wellbeing and empowerment at the forefront. From specialist consultations and elective surgeries to advanced diagnostics and wellness programs, eligible patients at MPH can now avail financing support that brings life-changing healthcare a step closer.

This financing facility is designed to benefit a wide demographic, encompassing both Omani citizens and expatriate residents. Eligibility is determined based on the specific financial assessment and approval criteria set by Taageer Finance, ensuring that individuals facing financial constraints can access the healthcare services they need, provided they meet the necessary requirements. By offering this inclusive solution, the partnership aims to remove economic barriers and extend the reach of quality medical care to a larger segment of the community.

Fahad Khamis Al Bulushi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Taageer Finance Company SAOG, said: "Healthcare is a basic human right, and at Taageer, we believe that finances should never be a barrier to accessing the care one deserves. Our partnership with Muscat Private Hospital marks yet another step forward in our mission to support the nation's people with innovative, need-based financial solutions. This initiative allows us to extend our reach beyond traditional sectors, playing a more active role in enhancing lives and supporting Oman's healthcare transformation journey."

Founded on shared values of quality, compassion, and accessibility, the partnership reflects the evolving expectations of today's healthcare consumer - where affordability and excellence go hand in hand. For Taageer, it is an extension of its diversified approach to supporting Oman's key sectors. For Muscat Private Hospital, it represents a new chapter in delivering high-quality care with enhanced financial convenience.

Hassan Al Lawati , CEO, Muscat Private Hospital, commented: "At Muscat Private Hospital, we are committed to delivering exceptional medical care that is both patient-centric and world-class. Through this partnership with Taageer Finance, we are taking a significant step toward removing financial barriers that often delay or deter timely treatment. By offering convenient and accessible EMI options, we are empowering our patients to make informed healthcare decisions without compromise - because at MPH, we believe that everyone deserves access to the best care, when they need it most."

ROUND-UP

EXEED enters Oman market in partnership with Silver Lake Motors

EXEED will introduce its full range of electric, hybrid, and combustion-engine vehicles to Oman

MUSCAT: Silver Lake Motors, one of the Middle East's leading business groups, has officially entered a new strategic partnership and agreement with EXEED, the premium automotive brand renowned for its innovation, advanced engineering, and modern luxury.

Under this agreement, EXEED will introduce its full range of electric, hybrid, and combustion-engine vehicles to the Sultanate of Oman, marking a major step forward in its Middle East expansion strategy. This collaboration brings together EXEED's cutting-edge technology and design with Silver Lake Motors' strong local presence and market expertise. Together, the two companies aim to offer a new standard of premium mobility in Oman—one that blends performance, luxury, and sustainability with a deeply customer-centric approach.

Trusted partnership built on experience

This new agreement designates Silver Lake Motors as EXEED's exclusive distributor in Oman, extending a successful three-year partnership that began in Qatar. Since 2022, Silver Lake Motors has led EXEED's entry into the Qatari market, most notably with the opening of a flagship showroom in Doha at "West Walk"—an architectural showcase for the brand's tech-luxury vision.

The Oman partnership was formalized during a signing ceremony at EXEED's global headquarters in Wuhu, China, attended by top executives from both companies.

Ping Ding, Representative of Silver Lake Motors, said: "We are proud to announce our exclusive partnership with EXEED in Oman, a nation full of promise and opportunity. EXEED's presence in Oman marks a significant milestone, as it is known for its premium craftsmanship, forward-thinking design, and commitment to innovation, EXEED brings a new standard of excellence that aligns perfectly with Oman's vision for progress and sustainable development.

This partnership reflects our deep respect for Oman's growing economy and its ambitious outlook. Together with EXEED, we aim to offer Omani customers a new driving experience, one that combines luxury, performance, and advanced technology. "

"Aligning with Silver Lake Motors allows us to combine EXEED's innovation with their deep understanding of the regional market," said Qin, CEO of EXEED International. "Together, we're ready to redefine what premium automotive experiences look like across the GCC."

Leading tech-luxury transformation

EXEED is the only luxury car manufacturer offering a full lineup across electric vehicles (EV), range-extended electric vehicles (REEV), plug-in hybrids (PHEV), and internal combustion engine (ICE) models.

The brand is making headlines globally for its pioneering achievements, including the EXEED ES sedan, which recently set a Guinness World Record for "Most moving vehicles weaved through in 30 seconds." In addition, EXEED's REEV models deliver an impressive range of over 1,000 km on a single charge and full tank, while the EXEED RX Plug-in Hybrid SUV—powered by EXEED's advanced Super Hybrid System—boasts a total range of 1,300 km, with real-world fuel efficiency as low as 1.2L/100 km.

Commitment to safety and innovation

EXEED is also globally acclaimed for its commitment to safety and engineering excellence. The brand's cage-style body structure and patented innovations have earned it 5-star global safety certifications.

In a demonstration of its commitment to rigorous standards, the EXEED ET successfully completed the world's first 31.9-meter free-fall collision test, while the RX Plug-in Hybrid has passed stringent electric vehicle crash tests—further proving its reliability in diverse conditions.

Redefining Premium Automotive Experiences in Oman

With plans to open flagship showrooms and establish a full-service network across Oman, EXEED and Silver Lake Motors are set to offer Omani drivers an entirely new level of sophistication, technology, and personalized care.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

Introducing Kia PV5 WAV: A new era of wheelchair accessible electric vehicles

MUSCAT: Kia Corporation showcased the PV5 WAV (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle) model at the Financial Times' Future of the Car Summit in London, in collaboration with UK-based Motability Operations Ltd. Part of Kia's ongoing commitment and contribution to enhancing mobility for people with disabilities, the exhibition underscores the company's leadership as a Sustainable Mobility Solutions Provider.

"The PV5 WAV is more than just a vehicle; it's a gateway to independence and freedom for those with mobility challenges," An official from Kia Corporation shared. "By integrating cutting-edge Platform Beyond Vehicle (PBV) technology with thoughtful design, we are paving the way for a future where everyone can enjoy the benefits of sustainable mobility, and our partnership with Motability Operations is a testament to our commitment to making this vision a reality."

Kia's development of a competitive electric WAV (eWAV) has aligned with the evolution of its industry-leading PBV models and comes in response to increasing worldwide demand for accessible vehicles.

Factors such as increased life expectancy and growing elderly populations are leading to a greater requirement for WAVs, with transport operators expanding their WAV-related services and changes being made to WAV-related policies in certain markets. With the continued growth of the sector projected to clash with the planned phasing out of ICE vehicles that would usually be converted into WAVs, the introduction of eWAV options is of vital importance.

Kia's PV5 WAV is designed to provide freedom of movement not only for wheelchair users, but their families, caregivers and drivers as well. The vehicle will enable users to enjoy more convenient, comfortable and accessible travel while seamlessly transitioning to electric mobility.

The PV5 WAV features a side-entry system that allows wheelchair users to board safely from the sidewalk. It also includes a third-row tip-up seat, enabling caregivers to assist wheelchair passengers from the side. The model will provide easy curbside access to enhance safety and convenience. It will also feature a quick-use, 300kg-rated wheelchair entry ramp and a specially developed wheelchair belt fastening system.

Beyond hardware innovations, the PV5 WAV will also integrate necessary applications for individuals with disabilities, based on the AAOS open software platform.

AWARD

Alizz Islamic Bank recognised for 'Best Islamic Bank in Customer Experience'

MUSCAT: In recognition of its outstanding commitment to customer experience, Alizz Islamic Bank recently awarded for 'Best Islamic Banking Brand in Customer Experience (CX)' at the Oman CX Awards that was held at the St. Regis, Al Mouj Muscat Resort under the patronage of His Highness Mohammed Bin Salim Al Said. The award was received on behalf of the bank by Saif Al Yahyai, Acting Chief Retail Banking Officer of the bank.

Winning this award is a significant recognition of the Bank's commitment to 'Personalising every experience through innovative & smart solutions'.Alizz Islamic Bank continues toplace customers at the heart of their strategy, transforming customer experience through technology, empathy and excellence.

Saif Al Yahyai, Acting Chief Retail Banking Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank said "We are honoured to receive this recognition from the Oman CX Awards and to be recognised for our continued efforts to provide innovative Shari'a compliant solutions for our customers. The award reflects the Bank's commitment to implement world-class services and products for our customers. "

NO-COST INSPECTION

Mercedes-Benz Oman offers complimentary vehicle check

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman invites customers to help their vehicle's star shine again with a complimentary 16-point vehicle health check. Available at Service Centres in Muscat, Salalah, and Sohar, the offer will run from 17 to 19 June and from 24 to 26 June. This no-cost inspection helps keep your Mercedes-Benz in top condition.

The health check includes inspection of the engine oil level, potential oil leaks, engine air filter, coolant fluid level and coolant system, vehicle undercarriage, brake fluid level and condition, windscreen wipers, front and rear brake pads, A/C temperature and filters, suspension and steering components, and bodywork. It also features a full electronic diagnostic test, topped off with a complimentary car wash, vacuum, and tire shine.

This offer is valid for all models registered before 1st June 2022.

Using StarView by Mercedes-Benz Oman, the entire health check is recorded and shared with customers through a personalized video, delivered via email and SMS, along with a detailed estimate. This ensures total transparency and a seamless service experience.

AWARENESS SESSION

St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort hosts blood donation drive

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to the community, The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort recently hosted a blood donation drive and an awareness session, "A Drop of Giving Creates Hope," a heartfelt initiative organized in partnership with the Central Blood Bank of Oman and Oman Blood Donation Group.

The event brought together residents of Al Mouj Muscat, representatives of the Alfardan Group along with the dedicated hosts of the resort. The turnout was positive and served as a reminder of the continuous demand for blood donations and the importance of turning one-off campaigns into sustained efforts.

Guided by the timeless St. Regis spirit of generosity and the Marriott International Serve 360 strategy, this initiative underscores the resort's unwavering commitment to making a meaningful and sustainable impact. The event is a reflection of Marriott's 2025 Sustainability and Social Impact Goals and resonates with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort's dedication to both global progress and local community enrichment.

At the heart of this initiative is the belief that every drop of blood donated carries the promise of hope, a sentiment echoed by all who participated.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meethaq Islamic enriches pilgrims travel experience to Hajj

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat is continuing its initiative to support pilgrims during their Hajj journey. Running until June 4, Meethaq teams will be present at Muscat International Airport and the Al-Rub' Al-Khali Boarder with Saudi Arabia in Ibri, in partnership with Ibri Charity. The teams will distribute gifts to the pilgrims, including specially designed Hajj bags with essential supplies, ensuring smooth travel experience.

Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Personal Banking, said: "I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our valued customers and visitors for their positive feedback regarding this initiative, which reflects Meethaq's commitment to community engagement during religious, national and social occasions. This effort reinforces our dedication to social responsibility and community service. During the Hajj season, Meethaq is offering tailored banking services for pilgrims, including Travel Finance at a competitive profit rate and a variety of credit card benefits."

Meethaq's Travel Finance solution is designed to be comprehensive and customer-centric. It provides financing with convenient instalment plans, competitive pricing and minimal charges. The offering is made more accessible through strategic partnerships with top travel operators across Oman. Pensioners are also eligible to benefit from Travel Finance product by assigning their pension to Meethaq.

Meethaq also offers a wide range of credit cards designed to meet diverse customer needs. These include Meethaq Lulu Credit Card, Visa Gold Credit Card,Visa Platinum Credit Card and Hafawa Visa Signature Credit Card. Cardholders can enjoy exclusive benefits such as airport lounge access, cashback rewards, and the flexibility of the Easy Payment Plan. Additional features include free issuance of supplementary cards for family members, secure online shopping, global acceptance, and access to an extensive range of international privileges and discounts. Furthermore, Meethaq has provided a package of banking facilities for companies and contractors involved in Hajj and Umrah trips, who are accredited by the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs. The initiative is designed to support their working capital needs and facilitates the purchase of buses.

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