

Times

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RAILWAY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

His Majesty issues three Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday issued three Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 61/2025 amends Royal Decree No. 3/2015 on ascribing the public utility status to the project of implementation of the first phase of the railway line from Al Buraimi Governorate to the Wilayat of Sohar.

Article (1) stipulates that the memo and masterplan attached to Royal Decree No. 3/2015 shall be replaced with the memo and masterplan attached to this decree.

Article (2) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. 62/2025 ratifies an agreement signed in the City of Muscat on 15 January 2025 between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and

the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion with respect to Income Tax.

Article (1) ratifies the above-mentioned agreement in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. 63/2025 ratifies an agreement signed in the City of Muscat on 27 May 2025 between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the reciprocal promotion and protection of Investments.

Article (1) ratifies the above-mentioned agreement in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. -ONA



OMAN-IRAQ TRADE EXCEEDS OMR239 MILLION IN 2025

Key Omani exports to Iraq during the first half of 2025 included electrical cables, gold jewellery, marble



MUSCAT: The relations between Oman and Iraq continue to witness cooperation across various fields, particularly in the economic and commercial sectors, bringing mutual benefits to both countries and their peoples.

The trade volume between Oman and Iraq reached OMR239,242,502 during the first half of 2025, marking a 1.2% increase compared to the same period in 2024, which recorded OMR156,552,000.

According to statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the value of Omani exports to Iraq in the first half of 2025 amounted to approximately OMR32,843,616, while Omani imports from Iraq totalled OMR206,398,886.

The statistics indicated that the number of visitors from Iraq to Oman during the first seven months of 2025 reached 11,558.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion said that the number of Iraqi companies investing in Oman during the first half of 2025 stood at 1,304, with a total capital of approximately OMR94.3 million and an Iraqi contribution rate of 68.2%.

Key Omani exports to Iraq during the first half of 2025 included electrical cables, gold jewellery,

Prime Minister of Iraq to visit Oman today

MUSCAT: Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, Prime Minister of Iraq will arrive in Oman on Wednesday, on an official visit lasting two days, during which he will conduct official talks with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

The visit comes within the context of the distinguishing ties and the relations of cooperation between Oman and Iraq. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Iraq will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising senior officials at the Iraqi government. -ONA

and marble, while natural gas, petroleum gas, and propane gas mixtures topped imports from Iraq.

The two countries are linked by several agreements, most notably the Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement, the Air Services Agreement, and an agreement to establish free trade zone between both countries.

Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stated

that the visit of Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, PM of Iraq reflects the depth of relations and cooperation between the two countries in various fields, particularly the economic sector. >A5

OMRAN GROUP

New strategic partnerships to boost tourism infrastructure

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its ongoing commitment to support the tourism sector and expand opportunities for growth, the Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) has announced a series of strategic investment partnerships with leading local and international institutions.

The announcements formed part of the Group's 20th anniversary celebrations, held under the patronage of Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, and attended by ministers, dignitaries, partners, investors, and leading figures from Oman's tourism sector.

The celebration reflected two decades of growth and expansion since Omran Group was established by Royal Decree in 2005.

Over this period, the Group has become a strategic driver of tourism and economic development, enhancing Oman's investment competitiveness and creating a sustainable ecosystem of hospital-



ity and infrastructure.

Omran Group has developed integrated destinations and hospitality assets that combine authenticity with modernity, offering unique experiences that showcase Oman's abundant tourism potential.

Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, President of the Oman Investment Authority, said: "This occasion marks an important

milestone in measuring the impact of the Authority's economic diversification efforts through Omran Group, by launching strategic investments in the tourism sector — one of the most promising sectors with wide-ranging economic and social returns — and by developing plans to further strengthen this impact in future planning stages.

"The Authority, through Omran



Group, is also committed to enhancing the Sultanate of Oman's position as a leading tourism and investment destination, in line with the priorities of the 'Economy & Development' and 'People & Society' pillars of Oman Vision 2040."

Azzan Qassim Al Busaidi, Chairman of Omran Group, affirmed that the Group will continue to

shape the future of the tourism sector in collaboration with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and other government entities, further enhancing Oman's global tourism standing.

He said that Omran Group remains committed to actively contributing to Oman Vision 2040 while aligning with the National Tourism Strategy. >A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Meeting to develop Wakan village held

1 A meeting was held for the development of Wakan Village in the Wilayat of Nakhal. >A2

OMAN Award for school students launched

2 Oman Society for Writers and Literati launched its Literary Creativity Award for School Students. >A3

SPORTS Jannik Sinner enters US Open quarters

3 World number one Jannik Sinner entered the US Open quarter-finals. >B6



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Wakan Village development plan discussed

Wakan Village has received Royal directives for its development as a tourist destination due to its natural beauty, elevated location, and distinguished tourism status



Al Busaidi, Wali of Nakhal, the Director General of South Al Batinah Municipality, and a number of officials from various government entities in the governorate.

Wakan Village has received Royal directives for its development as a tourist destination due to its natural beauty, elevated location, and distinguished tourism status, making it a prominent year-round attraction for visitors.

The meeting reviewed engineering designs and technical specifications proposed for the new road leading to the village, in addition to discussing developmental aspects and supporting services. These improvements are expected to facilitate visitor access and enhance

mountain tourism infrastructure in the region.

Discussions also covered studies related to the cable car project and implementation mechanisms aimed at providing a comprehensive and unique tourism experience while preserving the village's captivating mountainous landscape.

This project is part of broader efforts by South Al Batinah Governorate to develop infrastructure and promote tourism assets across its wilayats, in alignment with the objectives of "Oman Vision 2040", which aims to diversify national income sources and support sustainable local development. -ONA

HM sends condolences to leader of Republic of Sudan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to General Abdul Fattah Al Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council in the Republic of Sudan on victims of the landslides that took place in Tarseen village, west of Sudan.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sympathies to the Chairman of the

Transitional Sovereignty Council, families of the victims and the people of Sudan.

His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased souls in peace in paradise and to grant their families the fortitude to bear the loss.

HM Greets Captains Regent of San Marino

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin

Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Captains Regent Denise Bronzetti and Italo Righi of the Republic of San Marino on their country's National Day.

Heartfelt sentiments

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments to the Captains Regent and the people of their country. -ONA

Challenges facing the Islamic world discussed

DAKAR: Represented by the State Council, the Sultanate of Oman took part in the 54th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

Mohammed Salim Al Harthy, Member of the State Council, headed the Omani delegation at the meeting.

The session was opened by Malick Ndiaye, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal.

The session saw the election of the Parliamentary Union's vice-presidents (Arab and Asian sides), discussed follow-up reports and reviewed the schedule of upcoming panel meetings.

The representatives of par-



ticipating delegations discussed major issues and challenges facing the Islamic world, notably the Palestinian cause.

They stressed the need to rally efforts to halt Israel's ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people and its breach of international law. They also called for

practical steps to establish peace and stability in the Middle East region.

The meeting was aimed to coordinate member states' parliamentary stands and enhance legislative and oversight cooperation to support the cause of the Islamic nation. -ONA

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Forum to enhance professional ability organised in Sur



SUR: The Ministry of Labour today organised a forum titled "The Importance of the National Strategy for Professional Standards in Enhancing Professional Performance" at Sur Municipality.

The forum aimed to highlight the pivotal role of the National Strategy for Professional Standards in improving performance efficiency, enhancing the quality of training and qualification, and ensuring national cadres are ready to enter the job market according to clear and specific standards for each profession.

The forum included detailed presentations on the working mechanism of the National Strategy for Professional Standards.

This strategy is based on developing integrated professional standards in cooperation with specialised authorities and the

private sector, and linking them to a professional licensing system that boosts the reliability and qualification of workers in the market.

The forum also reviewed the sectors targeted in the current phase, presented data on the number of standards developed, and outlined the Ministry's future plans to gradually expand its scope to include all vital sectors.

The mechanism for applying these standards in the practical environment was also showcased.

This involves activating sectoral skills units in training institutions and linking them to precise professional assessments. This ensures that trainees possess the required skills for each profession, contributing to the development of high-quality national competencies. -ONA

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IN SALALAH

Oman hosts meeting of Arab Association for Prosecutors

SALALAH: The Supreme Judiciary Council, represented by the Public Prosecution, on Tuesday hosted the fifth annual meeting of the Arab Association for Prosecutors in Dhofar Governorate.

The event was attended by a number of public prosecutors and attorneys general from Gulf and Arab nations.

Judicial cooperation

The meeting addressed several key themes, most notably enhancing Arab judicial cooperation to ensure its effectiveness in combating crime, especially cross-border offenses.

It also focused on exchanging criminal expertise and unifying perspectives to address shared challenges posed by rapidly evolving crime patterns and methods.

The meeting also honoured a number of distinguished professionals from the public prosecutions and attorney general offices of member states. Assistant Public Prosecutor Fat'hiya Said Al Habsi, Director General of Execution and Follow-up of Judgments, received the annual award from the Sultanate of Oman.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a specialised seminar on digital currency crimes will be held, focusing on investigation mechanisms for digital currency cases and evidence preservation, with member states sharing their experiences in this field.

Holding this meeting in the Sultanate of Oman underscores the active role the Sultanate has played since joining the Arab Association for Prosecutors on 16 November 2022.

Oman was elected Vice President of the Association for the Gulf Cooperation Council states on 29 November 2023. -ONA



Literary Creativity Award for school students launched

The award reflects the active partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Oman Society for Writers and Literati



MUSCAT: Oman Society for Writers and Literati on Tuesday launched the third edition of its Literary Creativity Award for School Students (2025-2026) at its headquarters in Airport Heights.

Dr. Abdullah Khamis Ambusaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, who sponsored the launch, emphasised that the award reflects the active partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Oman Society for Writers and Literati.

He noted that such cultural initiatives enrich the educational environment and open broader horizons for creativity and critical thinking.

He explained that the previous two editions saw significant growth, with participant numbers rising from approximately 1,500 to over 3,000 across various award categories, demonstrating strong student engagement and the award's importance in fostering creativity.

In his turn, Eng. Said Mohammed Al Saqlawi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Society for Writers and Literati, stated in his speech that the award represents one of the sustainable cultural projects aimed at nurturing emerging literary talents in Omani schools and providing a stimulating environment for creativity across various literary fields.

The award targets students from government and private schools, as well as students with special needs, divided into three age groups and multiple categories as follows:

- Young Category (Grades 1-5): Poetry recitation, classical Arabic poetry writing, and short story writing.
- Adolescent Category (Grades 6-9): Poetry recitation.
- Youth Category (Grades 10-12): Short story writing, classical Arabic speaking, literary text analysis, and poetry.

The top three winners in each category at the national level will be honored, and their winning works will be published in a special edition by the Society. -ONA

IN PARIS

Expertise and visions on the future of education discussed

PARIS: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the Digital Learning Week 2025, organised by UNESCO at its headquarters in Paris, from 2-5 September 2025.

The theme for the event is: "AI and the future of education: Disruptions, dilemmas and directions".

Majid Said Al Bahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs and head of the Omani delegation, affirmed that participating in such international platforms allows for the exchange of expertise and visions on the future of education.

He highlighted Oman's commitment to keeping pace with technological developments and leveraging them to serve sustainable development goals and enhance the efficiency of the national education system.

Digital Learning Week will discuss how to utilise these technologies in a fair and ethical manner. The goal is to ensure the improvement of education quality and the achievement of digital equity, without compromising human values or human effectiveness in educational decision-making.

This comes amidst the rapid transformations in the education sector due to the increasing integration of artificial intelligence technologies.

The dialogue sessions and academic discussions during the week will address challenges facing education systems, such as digital surveillance, systemic biases, and the decline of human accountability linked to AI ethics.

They will also review future trends that could reshape education to be more inclusive and sustainable.

The Ministry of Education's participation in this event is part of its continuous efforts to enhance international cooperation in digital transformation and AI.

This aligns with the Executive Program for Artificial Intelligence in School Education and aims to explore global best practices for integrating AI into school education, in line with the aspirations of achieving the educational goals of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA



MARITIME SECURITY

Indian Navy delegation visits Maritime Security Centre

MUSCAT: A delegation from the Indian Navy, led by Commodore Kartik Srimal on Tuesday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

Upon the delegation's arrival to the centre, they were received by Commodore Adil Hamoud Al Busaidi, Head of the MSC.

During the visit, the visiting delegation were briefed about the MSC's role in maintaining the maritime security in Oman. They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its various technologies and equipment. -ONA



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OCCI hosts Oman–Pakistan forum to boost investment and economic ties

The forum highlighted the significance of creating attractive and encouraging investment environments while exploring further opportunities driven by favourable investment climates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman–Pakistan Business Forum, hosted by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Tuesday, reaffirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation and joint investment between the private sectors of the two friendly countries in projects that support economic diversification.

This is to be achieved by creating a favourable and attractive investment climate while exploring further opportunities enabled by the encouraging business environment.

The forum was attended by Eng. Hamoud bin Salem Al Saadi, Second Deputy Chairman of the OCCI and Committee Chairman, Naveed Safdar Bokhari, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Sultanate of Oman, Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Former



Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Head of the Pakistani delegation, along with a number of Omani and Pakistani

business leaders. The forum discussed cooperation and investment opportunities across diverse sectors including food security, information and

communication technology, education, textiles, health, construction, travel and tourism, automotive, import and export and sporting goods. Eng. Hamoud bin Salem Al Saadi, Second Deputy Chairman of the OCCI and Committee Chairman, “The forum aims to strengthen bridges of cooperation and partnership between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and to open broader horizons for economic, trade and investment integration. It seeks to realise developmental visions and reflects the strong will to enhance cooperation, particularly in the economic field. This forum represents one of the continuous avenues of cooperation between Oman and Pakistan, which have shared deep historical ties spanning centuries.” Al Saadi emphasised that OCCI attaches great importance to ex-

panding cooperation with Pakistan, particularly in sectors that support economic diversification. He added that the forum serves as an ideal platform for exchanging expertise, showcasing investment opportunities, and developing joint projects. This, he noted, enhances the competitiveness of the private sectors in both countries and opens new avenues for increased trade and investment exchange. Naveed Safdar Bokhari, Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, said, “This forum embodies the depth of the historical relations between Oman and Pakistan. It is not just a platform for exchanging ideas but also a practical step towards strengthening trade and investment partnerships between our two friendly countries. We see in Oman a strategic partner, given its distinguished geographic location and economic stability. Pa-

kistan, in turn, offers promising opportunities across several vital economic sectors. We believe that integrating our resources and capabilities will open new horizons for bilateral cooperation in the interests of both peoples.” Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior vice president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), said, “This forum reflects the shared will to strengthen economic and trade partnership in a way that serves the interests of both the Omani and Pakistani peoples. It comes at a time when we are all facing global economic challenges that require closer cooperation and the exchange of expertise and investment opportunities. Pakistan views Oman as a strategic partner, given its unique location, attractive investment environment, and Oman Vision 2040. We call on the business communities of both countries to take advantage of mutual incentives and facilitations, and to work on establishing joint projects capable of competing in regional and global markets.” Aman Paracha, Vice President of the FPCCI, delivered a presentation highlighting the developments of Pakistan’s economy, promising sectors for investment, government incentives and facilitations, and the opportunities available for partnerships between the private sectors of Oman and Pakistan. The forum also witnessed bilateral meetings between business leaders from both countries to explore ways to strengthen partnerships, exchange expertise, and discuss joint investment opportunities across promising sectors, thereby contributing to opening new avenues of economic and trade cooperation between the two sides.

DHOFAR

Construction of roads in Dhofar Governorate gathers pace

SALALAH: Construction work of road projects in Dhofar Governorate continues as part of efforts by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology to develop the infrastructure and improve its efficiency in accordance with the latest internationally approved technical specifications. Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, confirmed that construction work is progressing according to the scheduled timeline and approved requirements and standards, with efforts being intensified to complete project phases as quickly as possible due to their importance in improving traffic safety, facilitating mobility, enhancing connectivity between governorates, and stimulating economic, social, and tourism activities. He stated that the ministry has

adopted modern technologies in construction work, including the use of pre-cast concrete moulds for constructing water culverts, typically built in valley courses to drain rainwater. This contributes to improving execution quality and accelerating the pace of completion. He explained that this technology is being applied in the project to dualise the Raysut–Mughsayl road project in Salalah, which is 33 kilometres long and currently 10% complete. The project includes the construction of 8 overpasses and underpasses, animal crossings, and two roundabouts, in addition to linking it with the 18 November Road and Salalah city centre, extending to the Sarfait border crossing in Dhalkout Governorate. He clarified that Sultan Said bin Taimour road project –the longest dual carriageway in Oman at 875 kilometres–receives special



attention, with work currently underway on the third, fourth, and fifth sections, spanning nearly 400 kilometres. The minister noted that the completion rate has reached 10.2%

in the third section, which extends between the wilayats of Haima and Maqshin over a length of 132.5 kilometres. The rate stands at 3.82% in the fourth section, extending from

Maqshin to Dukha over 135 kilometres, and 3.09% in the fifth section, extending from Dukha to the wilayat of Thumrait over 132.5 kilometres. He also indicated that projects to dualise internal roads in Salalah are progressing at a good pace, with the completion rate reaching 57% for the dualisation of Sultan Taimour Street in Al Saada area, spanning 6.8 kilometres, and 62% for the dualisation of Al Farooq Street, spanning 7.6 kilometres. He emphasised that these projects will accommodate urban and economic growth and alleviate traffic congestion. He highlighted that the Harweeb–Al Mazyouna–Meeten road project in the Wilayat of Al Mazyouna has achieved a completion rate of 72% over a length of 210 kilometres and consists of four main sections, in addition to the paving of the Andaat–Hibrut road span-

ning 10 kilometres. He noted that the project aims to enhance connectivity between niyabats and support economic and tourism development. The minister explained that the asphalt network project in the Wilayat of Maqshin is making notable progress, with a completion rate of 66% over a length of 170 kilometres. It consists of four main sections and is scheduled for completion in June 2026. In concluding his statement, Eng. Al Maawali mentioned that the completion rate for the Seeh Al Kheerat–Al Shisar road in Thumrait stands at 12.3% over a length of 46 kilometres. This project is being implemented in cooperation with the Development Office of Najd Agricultural area and is set for completion in October 2026. He emphasised the project’s importance in serving vital agricultural areas. -ONA

SHIELD 30

Sultan Qaboos Military College conducts exercise ‘Shield 30’



MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos Military College at the Royal Army of Oman Academy on Tuesday conducted a field exercise for the final training exercise, “Shield 30,” for its officer cadets. The exercise was held under the auspices of Major General Musallam Mohammed Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan’s Special Force. Also in attendance was Major General Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, and a number of

other senior officers from the Sultan’s Armed Forces and other military and security units. The exercise took place in the Royal Army of Oman training grounds in Dhofar Governorate. The patron of the event and the attendees were briefed on the various stages and training objectives of the exercise. They then observed the field exercise, which was conducted with live ammunition according to the planned scenario. -ONA

OMRAN GROUP

Strategy to enhance the tourism sector

< FROM A1 Hashil Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Omran Group, highlighted the Group’s focus on building a broad network of local and international partnerships, particularly with institutions specialising in tourism investment and urban development. He noted that this approach is matched with enhanced infrastructure, diversified tourism experiences, and new investment flows that reflect growing international confidence in Oman’s investment climate. He added that Omran Group will continue to advance the sector with a forward-looking vision embodied in pioneering strategic projects, working alongside government partners, investors, entrepreneurs, and local communities. The ceremony also showcased progress on major developments and strategic collaborations that Omran Group is advancing across its integrated tourism complexes. These included luxury hospitality projects, innovative visitor experiences, and new partnerships aimed at strengthening tourism

infrastructure, expanding accommodation options, and creating broader opportunities to explore Oman’s natural beauty, heritage, and leisure offerings. The new agreements underscored Omran Group’s comprehensive strategy to enhance the tourism sector and diversify the integrated visitor experience in the Sultanate. They spanned several key focus areas, including new business pathways to support the sector’s digital transformation, the empowerment of national enterprises, and the sustainability of the tourism value chain. **Integrated complexes** Highlights included the announcement of an agreement with VA Group to develop a mixed-use project at the Sultan Qaboos Port waterfront, as well as three new partnerships under the Yiti Integrated Tourism Development: two mixed-use projects with VA Group and Aurelian Group, and a luxury resort under the global Nobu brand with Enevoria Development. In addition, a partnership was

announced with Oman Agriculture Development Company to develop Janaen Salalah the first integrated agri-tourism project of its kind in the Sultanate. The event also unveiled design models for a number of projects, including Madinat Al Irfan, the Sultan Qaboos Port Waterfront, the upcoming Four Seasons Resort, and the Opera District development. The event featured the unveiling of the design model for the upcoming Club Med Resort in Musandam, the first of its kind for the global brand in Oman and the wider region. The project introduces a new dimension to luxury hospitality and further strengthens Musandam’s appeal as a distinctive destination. Updates were also shared on projects under development such as Santani Jabal Shams Resort, which focuses on luxury wellness and health tourism, and Alie Nivas Musandam Resort, blending premium hospitality with pristine natural surroundings. Together, these projects expand Omran Group’s hospitality port-

folio and diversify Oman’s accommodation offering. The ceremony also highlighted updates on projects designed to enrich visitor experiences, including Wadi Shah, with its natural beauty and outdoor exploration activities; Ras Al Shajar Nature Reserve, a model for sustainable eco-tourism; Majlis Al Jinn Cave, one of the largest and most unique caves in the world; Al Hoota Cave, offering an educational and leisure experience; and Hayl Al Diyar, which adds a cultural and recreational dimension. Collectively, these initiatives enhance Oman’s tourism proposition and reinforce its position as a global destination for nature and adventure. Omran Group also announced new strategic partnerships opening wider commercial avenues. These included acquiring a stake in UnderTheDoormat, supporting the alternative accommodation market and expanding digital marketing channels; acquiring a stake in the digital travel platform Godoba, advancing tourism’s digital transformation through innovative solutions.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

Pakistan School Muscat signs Memorandum of Collaboration with Mazoon College

MUSCAT: Pakistan School Muscat is proud to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Collaboration with Mazoon College, a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance educational excellence and student development. This partnership represents a strategic step forward in providing PSM students with enhanced career guidance, extracurricular engagement, and professional development opportunities.

The collaboration aims to benefit students through a series of initiatives, including career counseling sessions, the establishment of student clubs, and teacher training programmes. These initiatives are designed to foster holistic growth and strengthen the academic and extracurricular experiences of our students, preparing them for future success.

The signing ceremony was held at Mazoon College. From Pakistan



School Muscat, the event was attended by the chairman Board of Directors, Ameer Hamza, Senior Principal Abdul Raheem, Head of Academics and Research & Development Dr. Rifat Saba, and Sayna Mirza, Coordinator of the Board of Directors.

Representing Mazoon College, the ceremony was attended by Dr. Hamood Amur Al Wardi, Dean, along with Assistant Dean Dr. Uvesh Husain, Assistant Dean for

Academic Affairs and Reserach and their esteemed team.

This alliance marks another achievement in our journey towards academic and institutional excellence. It is a testament to our commitment to continuously improve and provide our students with the best opportunities for growth and success. We look forward to a fruitful partnership that will bring long-lasting benefits to our students and staff.

NATIONAL MUSEUM



Muscat Music & Art Academy concludes summer programme

MUSCAT: The Muscat Music and Art Academy concluded its 2025 summer programme at the National Museum, a two-month initiative that saw the participation of 32 trainees.

The closing ceremony was held under the auspices of Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, with an audience of officials, parents of the trainees, and those with an interest in music and arts.

Yahya Abdullah Al Dhanki, Director of the Muscat Music and Art Academy, stated that the event was the culmination of a comprehensive summer programme. The curriculum included a series of theoretical and practical music lectures, along with workshops



and training activities designed to hone participants' skills. The director noted that these efforts reinforced cultural identity and preserved Omani musical arts.

Al Dhanki added that the programme is part of the academy's broader mission to foster integra-

tion with official and private sectors related to music and arts. This also contributes to the development of Oman's cultural and artistic landscape. The academy aims to establish and support educational platforms that nurture emerging talent and provide opportunities for expression and creativity in a holistic learning environment.

The annual programme is designed to develop creativity and innovation in children aged three and more, and to build their self-confidence through musical and artistic performances. It also provides a platform for young talent to showcase their skills to the public, linking arts with national cultural institutions to strengthen identity and belonging. — ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS



Oman, Iraq keen to boost economic partnership

< FROM A1 "It also signals both nations' aspirations to expand economic cooperation and integration, enhancing the role of the private sectors in both countries in strengthening partnerships."

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), he added that the visit represents a significant opportunity to maximise economic and trade relations between the two countries, especially as the private sectors in Oman and Iraq have broad prospects for cooperation and partnership in diverse fields, including energy, mining, petrochemicals, trade, transportation, logistics, tourism, food industries, and agriculture.

He noted that the Republic of



Iraq represents an attractive investment destination, with its "Development Road" project offering numerous integration opportunities.

He expressed hope for Omani companies to participate in this

vital project, which involves international logistics connectivity linking the Gulf to Europe and provides significant opportunities for Omani firms specialising in transportation and logistics.

Al Rowas affirmed that Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry is committed to building effective communication bridges between the business communities of both countries and encouraging joint investments and knowledge exchange to diversify income sources and create new job opportunities. He emphasized that enhancing cooperation between private sector institutions in both countries will serve as a catalyst for bilateral relations and strengthen historical and fraternal ties. — ONA

Integration of culture, arts in school curricula recommended



The two-day forum was organised by Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science in cooperation with ALECSO

SALALAH: The First Regional Forum of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) held in Salalah, Governorate of Dhofar, concluded on Tuesday.

The two-day forum recommended the development of national policies in this field, the integration of culture and arts into educational curricula, the

enhancement of training programmes for educational cadres, the expansion of joint youth initiatives and the establishment of a specialised Arab platform for the exchange of experiences and expertise.

The forum, organised by Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science in cooperation with ALECSO, saw the participation of experts and educators from GCC states and other Arab countries.

The recommendations highlighted the need to devise comprehensive national policies and programmes on culture and arts with support from ALECSO and specialised experts.

The updates are envisaged to reflect the innate values of each country and to keep pace with developments in the process of education.

A key recommendation was that the subjects of culture, arts and heritage be integrated into school curricula in an interactive manner that contributes to enhancing the learning experience and developing the skills of think-

ing among students.

The forum participants called for the development of regular training programmes for teachers and educators in the target fields.

The forum recommended the establishment of an Arab observatory for education in culture and arts, under the supervision of ALECSO, to monitor experiences and practices and exchange expertise among Arab countries. The observatory, scheduled to be supervised by ALECSO, will be entrusted to monitor leading experiences and exchange expertise among Arab countries.

The forum laid emphasis on launching joint Arab innovative programmes targeting youth, to enhance communication among generations and to support the process of sustainable development in the Arab world.

The forum included reference documents drafted by the technical team of ALECSO, among them a reference guide for school theatre, a reference guide for music education and a reference guide for visual arts education. — ONA

WALI OF MUTRAH

Rehabilitation project reviewed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr Hamad bin Said bin Abdullah Al Maamari, Wali of Muttrah, met in his office with representatives from Sering International, the company appointed to implement the comprehensive infrastructure study and rehabilitation project.

Challenges facing wilayat During the meeting, the most remarkable challenges facing the wilayat and solving them were discussed, confirming considera-



tion within the project's consultative study.

The Wali's Office affirmed its preparedness to provide all facilities to succeed the project, and offer the company with community

details regarding the residents, social lifestyles to support planning, and development efforts and contributing to achieving the desired purposes.

This project reflects Muttrah's efforts to develop infrastructure and facilities consistent with Oman Vision 2040. It achieves the sustainable urban development requirements, contributes to improving the quality of life and public services. While promoting Muttrah as significant tourist, commercial and heritage centre in Muscat Governorate.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2025/113	Development of an O & M Plan including all SOPs' /SMPs' manuals, emergency response plan and troubleshooting for NDS Wastewater Directorate	17-Sep-2025	01- Oct-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/115	Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance Systems and Safety Equipment at WRP, MPS, APS, and Other Regional STPs in Dhofar Region	17-Sep-2025	01- Oct-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/116	REHABILITATION OF CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF THERMAL DRYERS IN WRP	17-Sep-2025	01- Oct-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/078-2	Re-Tender: Tender for implementation of Manage Engine	17-Sep-2025	25-Sep-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/118	Pretreatment system of Sulphur (H2S) gas removal and odor elimination at Maqshan Desalination Plant	17-Sep-2025	01- Oct-2025	52.500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below: https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be placed in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



TELEPHONE CALL

Foreign Minister, Turkish counterpart discuss means of promoting ties

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, held a telephone call on Tuesday with Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkiye.

The two ministers discussed a number of issues related to bilat-

eral cooperation and its development, as well as consultations on regional and international situations.

Sayyid Badr lauded Turkiye's stances opposing the inhumane and illegal Israeli policies against the Palestinian people in Gaza and

the occupied territories.

The two sides agreed to enhance joint coordination to support security and stability, expressing their hope for sustained efforts by the international community to take practical and constructive steps to achieve justice and peace. -**ONA**



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Sudan landslide kills over 1,000 as landslide wipes out entire village

The landslide occurred in the village of Tarasin — located in the Marra Mountains — after days of incessant rain, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army said.

ated in the Marra Mountains — after days of incessant rain, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army said.

The rebel movement said that there was a lone survivor in the disaster-struck village.

“Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated to be more than one thousand individuals, with only one survivor,” the group said.

The village “has now been completely leveled to the ground,” it added.

The group has appealed to the United Nations and international aid agencies to help in the recovery of the bodies of victims.

The worsening humanitarian situation in Sudan

Sudan is currently in the third year of a deadly civil war and is witnessing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

A famine has been declared in parts of Darfur.

People escaping the war between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in North Darfur state have sought shelter in the Marra Mountains area where food and medication is scarce.



DARFUR: A massive landslide in western Sudan's Darfur region has destroyed a village, leaving over 1000 people dead, a rebel group that controls the area said on Monday.

Only one person is said to have survived.

The landslide occurred on Sunday in the village of Tarasin — lo-

IN ARCTIC NORWAY



AI helps protect endangered Atlantic salmon

SKALLELV, Norway: On a late summer morning in Skallelv, a small village inside the Arctic Circle, the Skallelv River glitters under the pale sun. Beneath the icy water flowing quietly toward the Barents Sea, endangered wild Atlantic salmon struggle upstream to reach one of their breeding grounds.

Each year from June to September, the salmon undertake this arduous migration, overcoming natural obstacles to spawn. But in recent years, new risks have compounded their struggle. Rising water temperatures caused by climate change, environmental changes linked to fish farming, and most critically, the rapid spread of invasive pink salmon have mounted pressure on the native species.

The invasive pink salmon threatens wild Atlantic salmon on multiple fronts, Vegard Kjenner, chief technology officer of

Huawei Norway, told Xinhua. It takes over prime spawning grounds, pollutes rivers and spreads disease through its carcasses, and competes aggressively for limited food, he explained.

To tackle the invasion, an artificial intelligence (AI) sorting system was introduced in the Skallelv River in 2021. The project, developed through cooperation between Chinese tech giant Huawei and Norwegian partners, is part of Huawei's global TECH4ALL program, launched in 2019 to promote inclusivity and sustainability through innovative technology.

“After we were given funding from TECH4ALL to start this project, we searched across Norway for partners,” Kjenner said. “We found Simula, one of the top AI institutes in Norway, and TrollSystems, which has extensive experience in the fish farming industry.” - **Xinhua**

MORE ECONOMICALLY PRODUCTIVE

Why some countries want fewer public holidays

PARIS: Scrapping public holidays is in vogue. In July, French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou proposed eliminating Easter Monday and Victory in Europe Day (May 8) from France's annual list of 11 public holidays. Outrage ensued, with political leaders from across the spectrum attacking the plan.

Bayrou said the move would help France ease budgetary pressures. He is not the only one to have come up with such a proposal.

Earlier this year, Slovakia cut one of its public holidays in an effort to improve its fiscal position, mirroring a move made by Denmark in 2023, when it removed a post-Easter holiday. Copenhagen's reasoning was that it needed to create fiscal space to meet rising defence budgets.

Across the Atlantic, US President Donald Trump has gotten in on the act. On June 19, he wrote on his personal social media website that “too many non-working holidays in America” were costing “billions of dollars.”

Many interpreted the comments as a political statement because he made them on ‘Juneteenth’, a day that commemorates the end of slavery and which was made into a public holiday by the Biden administration. But is there sufficient evidence to suggest that countries with fewer public holidays are more economically productive?

“Evidence to support this idea is limited,” Charles Cornes, senior economist with UK economic consultancy Cebr, told DW. “Productivity is driven less by the number



of public holidays and more by factors such as labour efficiency, capital investment, workforce skills, and technology.”

Studies suggest very minor increases in gross domestic product (GDP) are possible as a result of cutting holidays.

A 2021 study by researchers Lucas Rosso and Rodrigo Andres Wagner found that public holidays may actually increase demand for some subcategories of GDP, but also that when public holidays fall on weekends and are not replaced, there is a small increase in GDP.

However, studies by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Germany's Bundesbank found that any increase in GDP would be proportionally much smaller than the increase in total working days.

In theory, a day off work for a worker means that worker's productivity is zero for that day. There is also the argument that worker productivity slows in the days around public holidays as well, as many people take these off these to

maximize their time off.

While cutting a public holiday may lead to increased tax revenues for a government, there are counter-arguments that days off increase worker well-being in the longer term, which may also impact productivity.

“There is evidence to suggest that without more vacations and holidays, workers are at a higher risk of burnout, and this could lead to a decline in worker well-being more holistically,” Adewale Maye, a policy and research analyst with the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, told DW.

Public holidays and paid vacation time

The debate on public holidays is part of a wider discussion on working hours overall. Germany, the UK and the Netherlands are among the countries trying to tackle sluggish economic growth by reversing recent drops in average working hours.

However, scrapping public holidays is a separate idea from

encouraging more labor force participation — for example, by encouraging those who work part-time to work longer hours, as Germany is doing. That typically provokes a far less intense reaction than the idea of getting rid of national holidays altogether.

When public holidays and statutory paid vacation days are added together, most countries in the OECD have between 30 and 36 paid days off for workers annually, according to a 2020 study.

The US as an outlier

Some of the countries with the most combined days, such as Austria (38), Denmark (36) and Finland (36) also have among the highest GDP per capita in the world.

The US is the only OECD country that does not have any statutory leave. It has 11 public holidays, but according to Adewale Maye, many industries such as retail, tourism and transportation still operate during public holidays as workers are not guaranteed paid days off.

He points to all the other OECD countries that provide statutory vacation days without damaging their economies. “These economies have done well for themselves while also allowing workers the right to rest,” he said.

He says that is one of the central arguments against President Trump's hypothesis that the US has too many “non-working holidays.” - **DW**

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Deepak Mittal appointed as next Ambassador of India to UAE



NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed Deepak Mittal as the next Ambassador of India to the United Arab Emirates.

The IFS officer from the 1998 batch has previously served as India's Ambassador to Qatar. He played a key role in establishing the first formal diplomatic contact between India and the Taliban after the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. Deepak Mit-

tal met Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, then head of the Taliban's Political Office in Doha, in 2021.

Deepak Mittal will replace Sunjay Sudhir, who has been serving as India's Ambassador to the UAE since 2021.

Diplomatic relations

India diplomatic relations with UAE were established in 1972. Over the years, they have grown

significantly and gained new momentum after PM Modi's visit in 2015, the first by an Indian PM in over three decades.

PM Modi visited UAE in 2015, which marked the beginning of a new Comprehensive and Strategic partnership between the two countries. This was followed by five other visits of PM in the last 8 years, most recently in Nov-Dec 2023 to attend COP28-World Climate Action Summit in Dubai, ac-

cording to MEA.

From the UAE, there have been multiple visits by the President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed (MBZ). In 2016 and 2017, he visited as Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. In Sep 2023, he visited India as the President of the UAE to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit. In Nov 2023, President MBZ participated in the 2nd Virtual Global South Summit. In Jan 2024, he visited Gujarat to attend the 10th Vibrant

Gujarat Global Summit as the Chief Guest.

To complement these high level visits, there have been regular ministerial visits from India to the UAE, including the visit of EAM Dr S Jaishankar to UAE and other Ministers. Likewise, there have been multiple visits from the UAE to India including the visit of UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed.

- **ANI**

Afghanistan quake: Death toll tops 1,400, rescue operations underway

Rescue efforts are ongoing as teams search for survivors following the magnitude 6.0 quake, which has left over 3,000 people injured, with the majority of casualties reported in Kunar province

KABUL: The death toll from the powerful earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan on Sunday night has risen to 1,411, officials said, according to Al Jazeera.

Rescue efforts are ongoing as teams search for survivors following the magnitude 6.0 quake, which has left over 3,000 people injured, with the majority of casualties reported in Kunar province.

Aid workers are facing major challenges in reaching remote, mountainous areas that have been cut off from roads and mobile networks.

In response to the disaster, India has extended urgent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in the wake of the earthquake. The post



In a post on X on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that, "India extends humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in the wake of the earthquake." The post featured images of trucks loaded with sacks of rice and other food supplies, symbolising India's commitment to stand by Afghanistan during this critical time.

The earthquake struck early Monday morning with a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale, and tremors were felt across the region, including parts of Pakistan, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). A series of aftershocks, ranging in magnitude from 4 to 5, followed the initial quake.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the earthquake's epicentre was in the Kama district of Nangarhar Province, near the Pakistan border. Preliminary reports indicate that at least 800 people have been killed across four provinces, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan--while around 12,000 people have been directly affected.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi to convey India's condolences over the tragic loss of lives. He also confirmed that India has already dispatched relief materials, including 1,000 family tents to Kabul and 15 tonnes of food supplies being moved from Kabul to Kunar by the Indian mission.

"Spoke with Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi today. Expressed our condolences at the loss of lives in the earthquake. Conveyed that India has delivered 1,000 family tents today in Kabul. 15 tonnes of food material is also being immediately moved by Indian Mission from Kabul to Kunar. Further relief material will be sent from India starting tomorrow. Wish early recovery of those injured. India stands by Afghanistan at this difficult time," Jaishankar stated in a post on X. — ANI

ISRAELI BOMBARDMENT



46 Palestinians killed in Gaza bombing

GAZA: Health sources in the Gaza Strip reported that of 46 Palestinians have been killed between midnight and 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday as Israel's bombardment of different areas across the Strip.

According to the latest data, the deaths were distributed among hospitals as follows: Al-Shifa Hospital 32, Sheikh Radwan Clinic 4, Al-Awda Hospital 4, Al-Aqsa Hospital 1, and Nasser Hospital 5. No fatalities were reported at Al-Ma'amoudiya Hospital during the same period.

Emergency and ambulance teams are working around the clock to deal with casualties and deaths resulting from the aggression, stressing that the health situation in the Strip is extremely critical due to the ongoing bombing and targeting of medical infrastructure.

Since October 7, 2023, the occupying forces have launched an aggression against the Gaza Strip, resulting in the killing of 63,557 Palestinians, the majority of whom children and women, with 160,660 reported injured.

Israel has killed 18,651 Palestinians students since Oct 7, 2023

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education announced on Tuesday that 18,651 students have been killed and 29,114 injured since the start of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on October 7, 2023. — WAPA

RIGHTS GROUP

20 people missing in Indonesia protests

JAKARTA: At least 20 people are missing after demonstrations and unrest in Indonesia, a local rights group said on Tuesday.

The Southeast Asian archipelago has been rocked by widespread protests since last week, when the government enhanced perks for lawmakers.

The KontraS rights group was cited by the AFP news agency as saying that there were initially 23 reports of missing persons, 20 of which remained missing after a "search and verification process."

According to KontraS, a number of the instances were reported in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, or in the suburb of Depok on the city's outskirts.

Other cases were from the city of Bandung, also located on the country's most populous island, Java.

The KontraS NGO monitors instances of forced disappearances, torture and other rights violations.

Meanwhile, student groups at two Bandung universities, the Islamic University of Bandung (UNISBA) and Pasundan University (UNPAS), said authorities fired tear gas into crowds near the campuses.

The protest wave has been a major test for the administration of President Prabowo Subianto, who took office in October of last year.

Protests began after the government introduced a new monthly housing allowance for lawmakers that critics say is ten times higher than the minimum wage in many regions. The demonstrations escalated on Thursday after footage showed Indonesian paramilitary officers running over a 21-year-old delivery driver.

Prabowo cancelled a planned trip to China over the unrest and also announced that he would revoke lawmaker perks that helped spark the unrest.

At least eight people have died in the protests, according to Economy Minister Airlangga Hartarto.

Jakarta police chief Asep Edi Suheri said around 1,240 people had been arrested in the unrest, according to Indonesia's state Antara news agency. — DW



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- Public-Private Partnership for Community Development
- Public Engagement Initiative
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Oman defeat Kyrgyzstan 2-1 in CAFA Nations Cup

With this victory in the second round, the points tally of the Omani national team has risen to four

Times News Service
TASHKENT: Oman's national football team snatched a valuable victory over Kyrgyzstan, with a score of 2-1, in the second round of the 2025 Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) Nations Cup, hosted by Uzbekistan.
With this victory, the national team raised its score to 4 points,



topping Group A, pending the outcome of the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan match.
The match started at a fast pace,

with Kyrgyzstan threatening early in the first minute. However, goalkeeper Ibrahim Al-Mukhaini excelled in clearing the ball away.



Oman team responded with a dangerous attempt through a shot by Abdullah Fawaz in the 11th minute, after a pass from Nasser

Al-Rawahi.
Kyrgyzstan opened the scoring in the 24th minute through striker Kozubaev, following a cross from

the right, and the first half ended with Kyrgyzstan leading 1-0.
At the start of the second half, the national team coach made several substitutions, bringing on Mohsen Al-Ghassani, Salah Al-Yahyai, Ahmed Al-Khamisi, and goalkeeper Fayed Al-Rashidi.
This gave the team more momentum, and Ahmed Al-Mishkhi came close to equalising in the 74th minute with a powerful shot that went close to the goal.
In the final moments of the match, the national team turned the tables, with Issam Al-Sobhi scoring the equaliser with a header in the 90th minute, before the same player scored the winning goal in stoppage time after a perfect pass from Mohsen Al-Ghassani.
Oman's team will face Turkmenistan in its third match next Friday, September 5th, while the final and third-place matches will be held on September 8th.

HIGH-PROFILE

Transfer window of Spain shut with Mikautadze and Gonzalez signings



MADRID: On the final day of Spain's transfer window, several high-profile signings were completed just before the midnight deadline.
Nico Gonzalez arrives on loan at Atletico Madrid from Juventus to add depth to the flanks of Diego Simeone's side after the earlier departures of Samuel Lino and Rodrigo Riquelme.
Gonzalez's loan deal contains an option for Atletico to make the move permanent if certain conditions are met during the season.
Villarreal has reportedly paid a club record fee for Georgia international forward George Mikautadze to join from French side Lyon on a deal until June 2031.
Struggling Girona signed 23-year-old striker Vladyslav Vanat from Dynamo Kyiv for 15 million euros on a five-year contract.
Meanwhile, Yangel Herrera has left Girona to join Real Sociedad, with the Venezuelan also signing on until June 2030.
Veteran forward Alexis Sanchez has joined Sevilla, with the former Inter Milan, Barcelona and Arsenal forward joining at the request of coach Matias

Almeyda, while the club's left-back Adria Pedrosa has joined Elche on loan, with an option to make the move permanent at the end of the season.
Meanwhile, Real Betis has confirmed the arrival of Brazil's Antony from Manchester United.
The winger, who enjoyed a successful spell on loan with Betis in the second half of the 2024-25 season, returns to the club in a permanent move thought to be worth around 25 million euros.
Antony has signed a contract until June 2030 to put an end to his frustrating spell at Old Trafford, where he had been forced to train apart from the main squad over the summer.
Spain international central defender Aymeric Laporte returns to Athletic Bilbao on a three-year contract after leaving Saudi side Al Nassr, though the deal may not be made official until Tuesday.
The 31-year-old began his career in the Athletic youth system, making 222 first-team appearances before joining Manchester City in 2017, playing 180 times for Pep Guardiola's side before moving to Saudi Arabia in 2023. -xinhua

LOAN ARRIVAL

Chelsea's Jackson joins Bayern Munich in last-minute loan move

BERLIN: Bayern Munich confirmed the loan arrival of Senegal international striker Nicolas Jackson from Chelsea in the final hours of Monday night.
Initially, Chelsea had withdrawn permission for the 24-year-old to undergo a medical in Munich, citing an injury to striker Liam Delap and ordering Jackson to return to London. However, persistent talks between the clubs led to a breakthrough, allowing Bayern to secure the attacker as its fourth new signing of the transfer window after Jonathan Tah, Luis Diaz and Tom Bischof.
"Nicolas was keen to play for Bayern from the beginning, so we are especially pleased that things have finally worked out," said sporting board member Max Eberl. "Even at a young age, he has already gained significant experience at international level. With his dynamism, speed, and hunger, he perfectly fits our profile and will immediately strengthen our attack."



Sporting director Christoph Freund echoed the praise, highlighting Jackson's pace, eye for goal, and positive character as qualities that will help him settle

quickly.
Jackson, who will wear the No. 11 shirt previously held by Kingsley Coman, moves to Germany with an impressive resume. Since

joining Chelsea from Villarreal in 2023, he has scored 30 goals in 81 matches, including a strike in the UEFA Conference League final triumph over Real Betis. The forward had earlier registered 13 goals in 48 appearances for Spanish side Villarreal before testing himself in the Premier League.
A 14-time international for Senegal, Jackson is expected to provide support and competition for Harry Kane in Bayern's frontline.
"I'm really happy to now be part of this great club," said Jackson. "Bayern are one of the best clubs in the world. Everyone knows the names of the legends who have played here and the success this club represents. I have got big goals and dreams, and I will give everything to help Bayern win more titles."
Jackson could make his debut as early as September 13 when Bayern faces Hamburger SV, before possibly meeting his parent club Chelsea in the UEFA Champions League later this month. -xinhua

LEGENDARY STRIKER

No one is prepared for that: Argentina goalie on Messi's retirement

BUENOS AIRES [ARGENTINA]: Former Argentina international goalkeeper Franco Armani, the World Cup-winning footballer still active in the club scene for River Plate, said that legendary striker Lionel Messi should think over his retirement very carefully as "no one is prepared for that".
Messi is all set to continue through next summer's FIFA World Cup as he aims to defend the title he finally won back in 2022, but it remains to be seen what the future has in store for him, with Argentina and club Inter Miami, as the club contract extension beyond the end of the year yet to be agreed with the Major League Soccer (MLS) side.
The eight-time Ballon d'Or

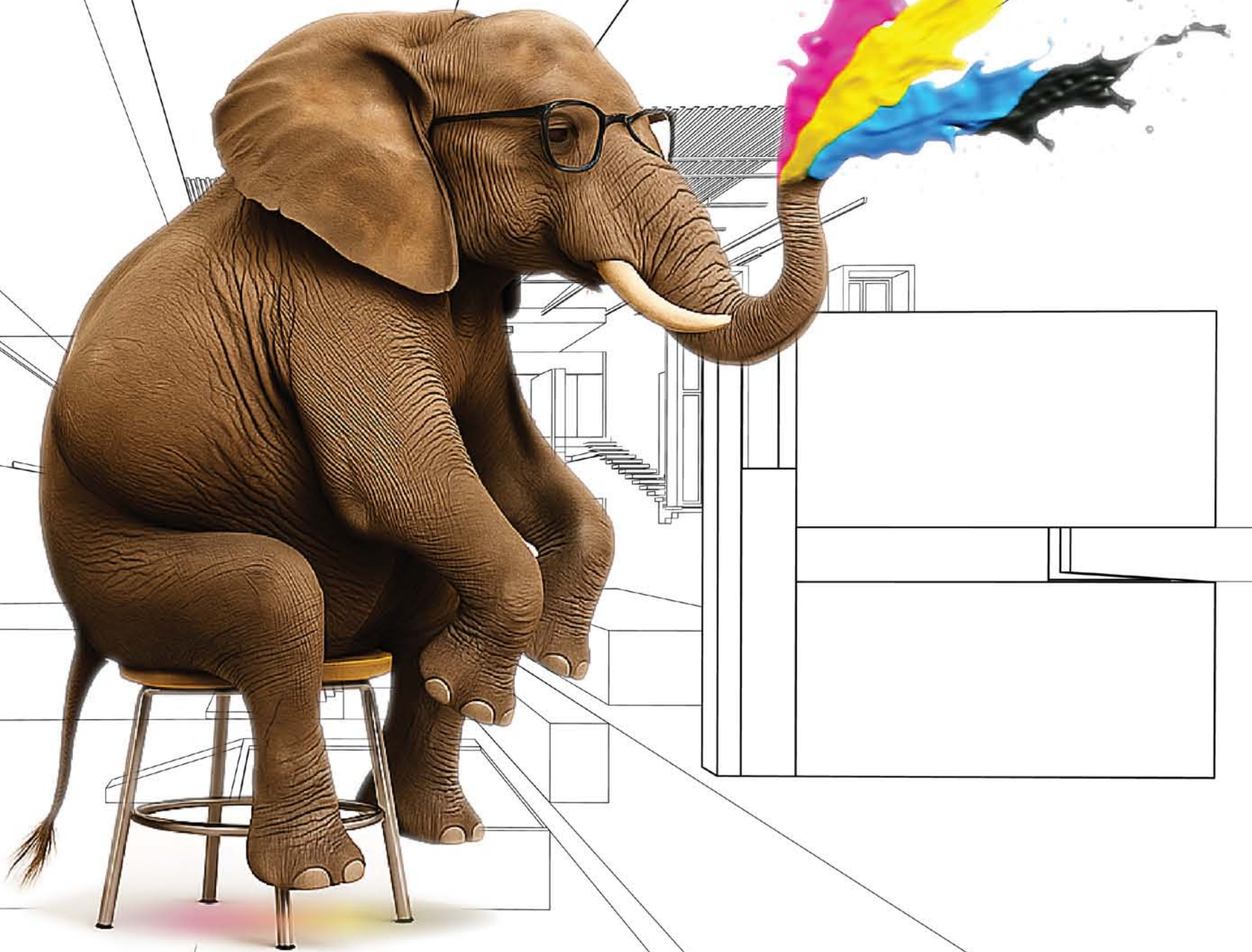


winner has been a part of the Argentina set-up for 20 years since his senior debut in 2005. During the course of a decorated career, which finally saw him capture

the biggest prize three years back, the iconic footballer has earned 193 appearances and netted 112 goals.
Messi has secured a World Cup

and two Copa America titles for Argentina, and also an Olympic gold medal back in 2008 at Beijing. But at the age of 38, there are speculations over how long Messi will continue. The iconic footballer has already hinted that he will bow out of international football following the 2026 World Cup, with the outing against Venezuela on Thursday set to be his last competitive game on home soil for his nation, he had said.
"I do not know if there will be friendlies or more matches after Venezuela, but it is a very special match, so my family will be there with me: my wife, my children, my parents, my siblings. We are going to live it like that. I do not know what will happen next," he added. -ANI

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2025 reaching \$71.64, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.12 from the price of Monday, which was \$70.52. - **OMA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 5,120.05 points, up by 0.35% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.54% at 475.98 points. Al Batinah Power, up 0.10%, was the top gainer while the Pearl REIF, down 0.05%, was the top loser.

Sohar Port inks pact to develop sustainable shore power project

The project will attract international shipping lines focused on reducing their environmental footprint and complying with International Maritime Organisation requirements, including the Carbon Intensity Indicator and Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone announced the signing of an agreement to develop a landmark project aimed at establishing advanced infrastructure to provide shore power for vessels berthed at Sohar's container terminal.

The agreement was signed in collaboration with MoonRock, as the lead investor, and Denmark's PowerCon, as the technical partner. The signing took place on the sidelines of Sohar's participation in the GCC Green Mobility Forum.



Shore power, also known as cold ironing, allows ships berthed at the terminal to connect to the onshore electricity grid and switch off their auxiliary engines. This technology reduces fuel consumption, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, decreases air pollutants, and cuts noise emissions near the port area.

"This project represents a strategic milestone for Sohar Port and Freezone and for the Sultanate of Oman," said Dr. Abdullah Al Abri, VP Sustainability. "By partnering with leaders like MoonRock and PowerCon, we support Oman's Vision 2040 and Net Zero by 2050 goals, while enhancing the competitiveness of our port and logistics sector."

The project will also attract international shipping lines focused on reducing their environmental

footprint and complying with International Maritime Organization (IMO) requirements, including the Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) and Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI). It further supports Oman Vision 2040's ambition to foster sustainable growth and establish the country as a hub for clean, efficient, and competitive logistics in the GCC.

This agreement demonstrates Sohar Port and Freezone's ongoing commitment to sustainable port operations. As a multifunctional port driving innovation and efficiency across Oman's logistics, marine services, and trade sectors, Sohar continues to strengthen its position as a key regional hub for sustainable growth and environmental responsibility.



REPORT

MSX 30 Index records its second consecutive monthly gain in August

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) 30 Index posted its second consecutive monthly gain in August-2025, rising 5.2% after a 6.2% increase in July-2025, closing at 5,029.9 points, according to a new report.

"The advance was broad-based, with all three sectoral indices recording gains. The Services Index led the upturn with a notable 8.3% increase. The Financials Index rose 3.1%, closing the month at 8,372.13 points," the Kuwait-based Kamco said in its latest GCC Markets Monthly Report August-2025. "This growth was primarily driven by share price gains in key constituents, including National Bank of Oman (+7.7%) and Global Financial Inv. Co. (+14.6%)," the report further added.

Similarly, the Services Index was fuelled by significant increases from several constituents, such as Sembcorp Salalah (+22.6%) and Al Batinah Power Co. (+12.4%). Meanwhile, the Industrials Index recorded a 1.5% gain, reflecting moderate performance across its constituent companies.

The monthly stock performance chart was topped by Sembcorp Salalah, which recorded a 22.6% gain in August-2025.

Sembcorp Salalah reported moderate Q2-2025 net profits of OMR6.6 Mn as compared to OMR6.5 Mn in Q2-2024. The SMN Power Holding followed with a 16.6% increase, while Muscat Thread Mills Co. posted a 14.9% rise. On the decliners' side, Oman Fisheries Co. registered the steepest drop, falling by 6.9%, followed by Al Madina Investment Holding Co and Oman Cables Industry Co, which saw declines of 6.8% and 5.1%, respectively.

The report further said that trading activity on the exchange was mixed during August-2025. The total volume of shares traded declined by 1.3% to 2.72 billion compared to 2.75 billion in July-



2025. Likewise, the total value of shares traded rose by 12.8%, reaching OMR518.6 million against OMR459.9 million in the previous month. Bank Muscat led the monthly value traded chart with OMR110.8 million in trades, followed by Sohar Bank and OQ Base Industries with OMR98.4 million and OMR85.9 million, respectively. In terms of trading volume, Sohar Bank ranked first with 713.3 million shares exchanged, followed by OQ Base Industries and Bank Muscat at 599.3 million and 367.8 million shares, respectively.

In economic developments, Oman's public debt declined by 2.1% year-on-year to OMR14.1 billion in Q2-2025, mainly supported by Finance Ministry payments to the private sector according to the Oman News Agency. The Ministry distributed over OMR749 million during Q2-2025 to help increase the liquidity of the Sultanate's local markets. On the other hand, the Sultanate's public revenue totalled OMR5.84 billion by the end of Q2-2025 recording a 6% year-on-year decline from OMR6.2 billion in Q2-2024. The lion's share of the

revenue dip was mainly due to a decrease in hydrocarbon revenue.

In context, net oil revenue amounted to OMR3 billion during Q2-2025, recording 10% fall from OMR3.4 billion to the corresponding period in 2024, reflecting lower average oil prices and production. On the other hand, Sultanate's net gas revenue declined by 6% to OMR884 million during the period. In terms of the Sultanate's expenditure, public spending witnessed 5% year-on-year growth to OMR6.1 billion during Q2-2025 mainly due to increased development expenditure while current expenditure witnessed 1% year-on-year decline to OMR4.1 billion during the period. In terms of the Sultanate's spending on development projects, Oman spent OMR688 million on development projects during Q2-2025 which accounted 76% of the OMR900 million allocated for the year, the Kamco Invest report said.

Other GCC markets decline

The report further said that after two consecutive months of gains, GCC equity markets declined dur-

ing August-2025 led by a fall in most markets in the region.

The MSCI GCC index receded 2.3% during the month, wiping all the gains made over the previous two months.

Abu Dhabi witnessed the biggest decline in the region during August-2025 by 2.7% followed by Saudi and Dubai benchmarks with declines of 2.0% and 1.6%, respectively. Kuwait also declined by 1.4% whereas Qatar and Bahrain registered marginal declines. Oman was the only market which saw healthy gains during the month.

In terms of year-to-date 2025 performance, the MSCI index now shows a much smaller gain of 1.4% as the YTD declines in Saudi Arabia (-11.2%) and Bahrain (-2.9%) were more than offset by healthy gains seen in most other markets in the region. At the sector level, the GCC Materials sector witnessed healthy gains during the month at 4.3% led by gains in basic materials companies listed in Kuwait further supported by gain in large-cap companies in Saudi Arabia, including SABIC (+6.0%), Advanced Petrochemicals (+4.0%) and YANSAB (+2.0%). The Pharma & Biotech and Diversified Financials sectors were next with gains of 3.9% and 2.7%, respectively. On the decliner's side, the Insurance index witnessed the biggest decline of 7.2% during August-2025 followed by Healthcare and Real Estate with declines of 3.9% and 2.7%, respectively. Banks also reported a decline of 2.4% while the Energy index was flat.

The decline in GCC equity markets came despite gains across key global equity markets during the month. The fall reflected concerns surrounding oil prices that was down by 6.1% on oversupply and demand recovery concerns. On the other hand, the MSCI ACWI witnessed a gain of 2.4% during the month led by gain in the US equity market in addition to gains in Emerging Market and in Europe.

PHARMACONEX EXHIBITION IN CAIRO



Opaz invites global firms to invest in pharmaceutical industry sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones Opaz invited global companies participating in the PharmaConex Exhibition in Cairo to invest in the pharmaceutical industry sector in Oman. PharmaConex, held in Cairo from September 1 to 3, is a prominent event that brings together many companies operating in the pharmaceutical industry and investors.

The Authority's pavilion at the exhibition highlights the available investment opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry sector within the economic, industrial, and free zones in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the factors that contribute to successful investment in this sector. The pavilion also showcases the major achievements of companies operating in the sector and their key products.

During the panel discussion held on the sidelines of the participation, the Authority presented the incentives, opportunities, and advantages available to investors, including tax and customs exemptions, the possibility of 100% foreign ownership of projects, simplified and expedited licens-

ing procedures through the unified investment window, and the advanced infrastructure of the investment environment in the economic, free, and industrial zones, which includes ports, airports, and integrated logistics networks.

The Authority has given special attention to the pharmaceutical industries and medical supplies sector within its strategic plans for the zones it supervises, due to the sector's high added value and significant growth opportunities in vital sectors such as health and pharmacy, in local markets as well as in the Gulf, Middle East, Africa, and Asia markets.

In this participation, the Authority focused on attracting biotechnology companies (Biotech), manufacturers of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), pharmaceutical packaging companies, research and development centers, and other related companies operating in the pharmaceutical sector.

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones Opaz invited attendees to visit the Authority's pavilion at the exhibition and directly learn about the investment opportunities offered by the economic, free, and industrial zones in Oman.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Batinah Power, up 0.10%, was the top gainer while, the Pearl REIF, down 0.05%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,120.05 points, up by 0.35% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.54% at 475.98 points. Al Batinah Power, up 0.10%, was the top gainer while, The Pearl REIF, down 0.05%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while OQEP were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 4847 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 32.01 million, with more than 127.84 million shares changing hands. Out of 66 traded securities, 19 advanced, 17 declined, and 30 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 2976K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 2419K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 557K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,407.10 points, down -0.09%.

Prices of Bank Muscat, National Bank Oman were up by 1.27%, 0.60% respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, DIDIC, Al Omaniya Financial Services, United Finance, Oman & Emirates Investment were down by 3.77%, 3.57%, 1.56%, 1.52%, 1.41% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,978.03 points, down -0.34%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Gulf Mushroom Products, Al Maha Ceramics were up by 2.00%, 0.84%, 0.63% respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cement, Galfar Engineering were down by 3.52%, 1.67%, 1.52% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.37% before closing at 2,025.75 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power, Dhofar Generating, Phoenix Power, Muscat Gases were up by 9.80%, 9.71%, 8.75%, 7.00%, 4.39% respectively.

Prices of OQ Gas Networks were down by 1.85% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

MSX 30 INDEX

FINANCIAL INDEX

Industry Index

Services Index

MSX Shariah Index

MSX TRI INDEX

FINANCIAL TRI IDX

INDUSTRIAL TRI IDX

SERVICES TRI IDX

INDICES

Index

High

Low

Value

Prev. Value

Diff

Diff %

Trading Summary

Volume

Turnover

Trades

Market Cap.

Up

Down

Equal

Sec. Traded

127,849,737

32,012,577

4,847

30,109,568,540

19

17

30

66

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000004925

ALBATINAH POWER

1,130,585

120,968

66

0.103

0.112

0.103

0.112

0.102

0.010

9.804

0.112

0.108

0.112

0.100

75,587,392

OM0000004933

AL SUWADI POWER

1,104,845

119,444

82

0.104

0.113

0.104

0.113

0.103

0.010

9.709

0.113

0.113

0.113

0.100

80,727,916

OM0000002804

ASAFFA FOODS

194

99

1

0.510

0.510

0.510

0.510

0.500

0.010

2.000

0.510

0.450

0.510

0.100

61,200,000

OM0000002796

BANK MUSCAT

22,475,618

7,147,668

679

0.317

0.321

0.315

0.320

0.316

0.004

1.289

0.320

0.321

0.320

0.100

2,492,047,060

OM0000003026

OMAN TELECOM

2,858,085

2,952,562

245

1.031

1.045

1.026

1.041

1.031

0.010

0.970

1.041

1.134

1.042

0.100

780,750,000

OM0000001483

NATIONAL BANK OMAN

881,380

27,511

288

0.334

0.336

0.333

0.335

0.333

0.001

0.334

0.335

0.335

0.100

544,892,020

OM0000002226

ALJAZEERA SERVICES

35,983

6,622

5

0.184

0.185

0.184

0.184

0.183

0.001

0.546

0.184

0.184

0.185

0.100

7,883,110

OM0000008854

ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES

779,661

215,115

308

0.276

0.277

0.274

0.277

0.276

0.001

0.362

0.277

0.278

0.277

0.100

213,345,400

OM0000003224

RENAISSANCE SERVICES

124,866

34,857

15

0.373

0.380

0.370

0.380

0.379

0.001

0.358

0.380

0.379

0.380

0.100

66,184,800

OM0000001087

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE

200,000

48,000

5

0.240

0.240

0.240

0.240

0.240

0.000

0.000

0.240

0.238

0.264

0.100

24,000,000

OM0000001707

OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY

2,300

4,945

5

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.150

0.000

0.150

0.200

0.150

0.150

0.100

192,855,000

OM0000002168

AL ANWAR CERAMIC

599,878

104,954

66

0.175

0.175

0.174

0.175

0.175

0.000

0.000

0.175

0.175

0.175

0.100

38,500,000

OM0000002440

AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.

4,451

386

2

0.085

0.088

0.085

0.088

0.088

0.000

0.000

0.088

0.085

0.088

0.100

7,920,000

OM0000003388

SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK

13,314,441

1,929,284

339

0.145

0.146

0.144

0.145

0.145

0.000

0.000

0.145

0.146

0.145

0.100

959,500,708

OM0000003681

VOLTAMP ENERGY

107,247

89,837

22

0.840

0.840

0.830

0.840

0.840

0.000

0.000

0.840

0.840

0.875

0.100

78,635,056

OM0000003968

COREDIO

147,891

38,516

20

0.261

0.262

0.259

0.260

0.260

0.000

0.000

0.260

0.234

0.260

0.100

168,245,500

OM0000004420

BANK MUZWA

1,652,355

179,246

44

0.107

0.112

0.107

0.109

0.109

0.000

0.000

0.109

0.108

0.109

0.100

243,877,880

OM0000004788

MADINA TAKAFUL

338,369

28,832

26

0.086

0.086

0.085

0.086

0.086

0.000

0.000

0.086

0.085

0.086

0.100

15,600,000

OM0000001533

OMINVEST

127,800

29,278

9

0.230

0.230

0.228

0.229

0.229

-0.001

-0.435

0.229

0.229

0.229

0.100

214,277,555

OM0000002374

UNITED FINANCE

28,850

1,887

6

0.066

0.066

0.065

0.065

0.066

-0.001

-1.515

0.065

0.064

0.066

0.100

23,148,274

OM0000008072

OQ GAS NETWORKS

10,282,808

1,640,603

566

0.162

0.163

0.159

0.159

0.162

-0.003

-1.852

0.159

0.161

0.163

0.100

688,569,203

OM0000002176

JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS

117,670

54,860

14

0.466

0.470

0.465

0.466

0.463

-0.007

-3.520

0.467

0.466

0.480

0.100

58,320,449

Total

22

56,083,457

14,983,662

2,813

</



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Email: habib.rehman@outlook.com

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Email: bm.engg008@gmail.com

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contact: +968 7183 4846 ,WA+91 99625 09490

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Email: prabhumanjunath359@yahoo.co.in

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Email: gm.seekers.2025@gmail.com

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Accounts asst with 4 yrs of exp in Gulf (accounts) looking for a job. Contact 76253948. Email: jafar-ali2016m@gmail.com

Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: +968 76297279

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

Indian male, Asst Finance manager (Mcom&MBA Finance), having 10 yrs of Oman experience, valid D/L. Contact 97524285. Email bobykjkj@gmail.com

Indian male accountant with 4+ yrs of experience, pursuing CMA US. Seeking new opportunities. Contact: +968 76226098

Indian male B.Com graduate having 2+ yrs of experience in India accounts, sales looking for suitable placement, Ready to join immediately. Contact: +968 76324360

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

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

ACCA, CA Inter.MS finance Senior accountant. 12 yrs Gulf exp.Can join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 77258382

Indian (male) Accountant who is having good experience in accounts seeking suitable placement. Contact 99262495

Indian male 31 yrs BBA(finance),2 yrs experience in accounts(India). Contact +96876410874.Email minqadnakhuda@gmail.com

Qualified Indian male Accountant with 18 yrs of experience in Oman capable of handling upto finalisation with valid D/L is available for immediate placement. Contact 95345872. Email: carrierfin2026@gmail.com

B.Com, Diploma in Accounts, currently pursuing M.Com (Final Semester), with 1 yrs of hands-on experience in accounting up to finalization. Proficient in handling day-to-day accounts, reconciliations, and financial reporting. Currently in Muscat and available for immediate joining. Contact: 95998225 Email: sauravkiran3@gmail.com

Senior Accountant with 18 yrs of exp in Oman. Expert in finalisation, VAT, auditing,known of Tally ERP, Muscat on family visa. Seeking HRIS,admin,coord roles. Contact 79880173. Email: laharikotian@gmail.com

CS Grad, ex-Cappgemini with 5+ yrs in Tech HR, now in Muscat on family visa. Seeking HRIS,admin,coord roles. Contact 79880173. Email: laharikotian@gmail.com

Indian female, MBA (HR), LLB, PHRM certified. Experienced HR & office administration professional seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: 95539667. Email: sudhakar.sandhya@hotmail.com

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

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male, certified international procurement professional,manager by IPSCMI USA and have 13+ yrs of procurement, supply chain and projects experience in oil & gas & financial services of UAE. Presently in Oman. Contact. 9943900. Email: s_k_azeemuddin@rediff.com

MEDICAL

Indian female Pharmacist with 2 yrs experience in Oman,passed Oman prometric and licensed. Seeking suitable job opportunities. Contact : 96126261, 951376651

LOGISTICS

Indian male MBA have 13yrs. experience in Oman in sales & marketing, sales coordination, operations. Looking for suitable placement.have D/L. Contact: 79808832

Indian male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L. looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 9456 6786

16 yrs sales executive in Mars Wrigley's company Enhance,seeks placement.Presently in Oman. Contact: 96544255

Indian male 14 yrs sales marketing experience with Oman D/L, looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 95136784

Indian M (35) MBA in Oman 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma with D/L. Contact: 79755795

Indian male 14 yrs sales marketing experience with Oman D/L, looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 95136784

Indian male with Oman experience in building materials & home appliance. 8yrs of sales & inventory controller. with Oman D/L. Looking for job opportunities. Contact : 94552460. Email: sahim.730@gmail.com

Indian male, 17 yrs experience in sales marketing in Oman with valid D /L. (FMCG, electrical, sanitaryware). Contact 99508485

Experience FMCG, building material sale person available Contact : 94389128-94260324

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MBA, B.Com, IOSH, NEBOSH-certified professional with 15+ yrs experience in imports, logistics & HSE seeking opportunities in HSE/operations. Strong MNC retail background. Contact: 96473117

MBA HR & marketing, Indian female, looking for a suitable job, Currently in Oman Contact 72851131, Email: teenavalen01@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

Female diploma Architect having 10yrs exp engineering consultancy in Oman. Contact 96683293

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

DRIVER

Looking for suitable job (driving) 10 yrs experience, knows Arabic, English Hindi. Contact: 97133246

Looking light driving job. Contact: 96091045

Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job . Contact 99116288

Looking for driving job. Contact: 78137708

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

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

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

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

Sr. Project Engineer MEP 18 yrs experience in MEP GCC Construction Contact 97135658

Indian M (35) MBA in Oman, 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma with D/L. Contact: 79755795

Indian Electrical engineer more than 20 yrs experience in MEP construction field in Oman seeks job. Contact: 92919281

Procurement Engineer with 19 yrs experience construction and trading, whatsApp: +96895839964

Civil engineer diploma, total 20 yrs above experience in construction projects with 15 yrs in Oman, valid D/L.looking for job. Contact: 91227974. Email mohammadtoslim@gmail.com

IT

Female Software Test engineer 6 yrs experience in GCC & India, seeking suitable position Contact: 72513355. Email bhagyamalu64@gmail.com

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LIFESTYLE

Jupiter's core

The study indicated that Jupiter did not form from a massive collision at the dawn of the solar system, but rather through a gradual accumulation of heavy and light elements, gathering diverse materials from its surroundings, including rocks, heavy minerals, and light gases, simultaneously during its formation

is not

solid as believed'

JUPITER'S core is not solid as commonly believed, but rather diffuse and scattered, formed through a more gradual accumulation process, unlike previous assumptions, a new British study has revealed. Published by the UK Royal Astronomical Society, the study indicated that Jupiter did not form from a massive collision at the dawn of the solar system, but rather through a gradual accumulation of heavy and light elements, gathering diverse materials from its surroundings, including rocks, heavy minerals, and light gases, simultaneously during its formation. It further clarified that instead of heavy materials settling into a separate solid core, they gradually mixed with the gaseous envelope, resulting in what is now known as a "fuzzy core" that extends over a wide area rather than forming a compact solid mass.

The study's findings are closer to reality and more consistent with gravity measurements from the Juno probe, which pointed out that the core's mass is not concentrated in a small solid center but distributed over a large region within the planet. According to previous conventional views, Jupiter's formation from a massive collision in the early solar system created a dense solid core surrounded by a vast gaseous envelope, which drew in surrounding gases, namely hydrogen and helium, to form this giant planet. Overall, Jupiter has maintained a special status in astronomy for decades, as the largest and most mysterious planet in the solar system. Despite space observatories such as Galileo and Juno providing astonishing images and information about its atmosphere and massive storms, the question of the formation of the core of this giant planet remained unanswered. — OMA

SPORTS

Sinner and Sabalenka move into US Open quarter-finals

Without breaking a sweat, Sinner clobbered Bublik with a 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 victory in a contest that lasted for an hour and 21 minutes

NEW YORK : World number one Jannik Sinner steamrolled past 23rd seed Alexander Bublik to qualify for the quarter-finals at the ongoing US Open, keeping his title defence alive and ensuring he remained unbeaten in Melbourne or New York since 2023. After shrugging off an unprecedented scare from Denis Shapovalov in the previous round, the Italian star returned to his flawless self. Without breaking a sweat, he clobbered Bublik with a 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 victory in a contest that lasted for an hour and 21 minutes. "Overall, I'm very, very happy. [It was] the first time this year that I can play the night match here, and it makes [such] a big difference. I



wanted to say thanks to everyone for coming, for cheering. This is a very special occasion for us players, so thank you so much," Sinner said as quoted from ATP.com. Bublik marched into the Arthur Ashe Stadium after not dropping a single service game through three rounds. However, Sinner posed an entirely different challenge of a different magnitude. Sinner effortlessly won the opening two games and never looked back.



to this one. From an Italian point of view, it's great to have, for sure, one Italian player in the semis," he said. Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus dominated Spain's Cristina Bucsa 6-1, 6-4 to advance into the women's singles quarterfinals, while 38-year-old Novak Djokovic sailed past Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 in the men's singles fourth round at the US Open on Sunday. Defending champion Sabalenka, 27, won 84 percent on first serve against Spaniard Bucsa who showed resilience in the second set but still lost the match in 73 minutes. Three-time Grand Slam winner Sabalenka will confront Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic in the quarterfinals, after the 2023 Wimbledon champion overcame ninth seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan 6-4, 5-7, 6-2. In other men's singles matches, second seed Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated France's Arthur Rinderknech 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-4, while home favorite Taylor Fritz beat Tomas Machac of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-3, 6-3. Women's doubles 12th seed Zhang Shuai of China and Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova claimed a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victory over British pair Katie Boulter and Sonay Kartal. -Agencies

MASSIVE SETBACK

Back issue returns to haunt Australia captain Cummins

CANBERRA : Australia captain Pat Cummins has faced a massive setback as his Ashes preparations have been compromised after a scan revealed lumbar bone stress in his lower back, which has left him on the sidelines for the three white-ball series against New Zealand and India. Following the recent whammy, Cummins won't captain the Baggy Greens in a series that will feature batting stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who are returning after their Test retirements, in three ODIs starting on October 19. Australia's Test and ODI skipper Cummins hasn't played a single game since competing in the three Tests in the Caribbean, where his bowling rate was significantly lower than usual. He sat out of the five T20Is against the West Indies and both white-ball series against South Africa, which was presumed to give Cummins a 10-week gap to build his physical strength for the Ashes, which will kick off on November 21 in Perth. After the West Indies tour concluded, Cummins experienced back soreness that lingered for much longer than anticipated. He went for a routine scan on his lower back on Monday, which confirmed that Cummins was suffering from lumbar bone stress that will require further management over the coming months. "Cummins was rested from the recent T20 series against the West Indies and South Africa. Despite this planned de-load period, Cummins has experienced some ongoing lower back



pain following the West Indies Test tour," a Cricket Australia statement said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo. "Further investigation has identified a level of lumbar bone stress that will require further management over the coming months. Cummins won't be considered for the upcoming limited-overs series against India and will continue his rehabilitation plan with a return to bowling to be determined as part of his Ashes preparation," the statement added. In the first six years of his international career, Cummins was plagued by stress fractures and didn't play a single Test between his debut in 2011 and his second game in the format in India in 2017. Since 2017, Cummins has been extremely durable, with various minor issues, including hamstring and ankle injuries, which have been managed without him missing a significant amount of on-field action. In each of the last three years, Cummins has bowled 400-plus overs. However, in nine months of 2025, he has managed 175.1 overs, indicating a drop in his workload. -ANI

AGGRESSIVE BATTER



Pakistan batter Asif Ali quits cricket

NEW DELHI : Pakistan's batter Asif Ali on Monday bid adieu to international cricket. Asif, 33, played 21 ODIs and 58 T20Is, mainly as a finisher in the middle order. An aggressive batter, his most renowned knock is likely the seven-ball 25 he scored in a tense win over Afghanistan in the 2021 T20 World Cup. "Wearing the Pakistan jersey has been the greatest honour of my life and serving my country on the cricket field has been my proudest chapter," he said in a social media post. Asif confirmed that he will continue to play domestic cricket and in franchise leagues around the world. He was part of the Pakistan squad that reached the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2022 and the semi-final in 2021. After assisting Islamabad United in winning the PSL in 2018, Asif played his first T20I match against the West Indies in the same year. Two months later, he made his ODI debut. Nevertheless, he was forced out of the team due to a lack of shape and consistency, and his final international match was in the 2023 Asian Games for a second-string Pakistani team. In 21 ODIs, he slammed 382 runs at an average of 25.46 with three fifties under his belt. In T20S 58 fixtures, he has made 577 runs at an average of 15.18, a strike rate of 133.87. -ANI

SURPRISE DECISION

Australia's prolific speedster Mitchell Starc bids adieu to T20Is, will focus on ODIs

CANBERRA: Australia's one of the most prolific quicks, Mitchell Starc, announced his retirement from the T20I format months before the format's next edition, the World Cup in India and Sri Lanka in early 2026, to focus on Tests and ODIs. Starc, on Tuesday, left the world of cricket in shock with his surprise decision to retire from the shortest format of cricket, a decision that stems from his decision to prolong his career and keep his hope alive of defending Australia's crown in the 2027 ODI World Cup. Since bursting onto the scene in September 2012, Starc has spearheaded Australia's bowling attack with his scorching pace. The 35-year-old left-arm-er didn't make a single T20I appearance in the shortest format of cricket since the conclusion of the 2024 World Cup. Starc's swansong comes after more than a decade of dominance, which includes his contribution to Australia's 2021 T20 World Cup-winning campaign. He bows out as the highest T20I wicket-taker with 79 scalps in 65 appearances, the most by any pacer for his country. His tally is only bettered by spinner Adam Zampa's 130. "Test cricket is and has always been my highest priority. I have loved every minute of every T20 game I have played for Australia, particularly the 2021 World Cup, not just because we won but the incredible group and the fun along the way," Starc said in a statement. "Looking ahead to an away Indian Test tour, the Ashes and an ODI World Cup in 2027, I feel this



is my best way forward to remain fresh, fit and at my best for those campaigns. It also gives the bowling group time to prepare for the T20 World Cup in the matches leading into that tournament," he added. Chair of selectors George Bailey said, "Mitch should be incredibly proud of his T20 career for Australia. He was an integral member of the 2021 World Cup-winning side and, as across all his cricket, had a great skill for blowing games open with his wicket-taking ability." "We will acknowledge and celebrate his T20 career at the right time, but pleasingly, he remains focused on continuing to play Test and ODI cricket for as long as possible," he added. Starc's announcement came as Australia unveiled their T20I squad for the white-ball series against New Zealand in early October. The ramifications of Starc's decision will be massive

for Australia as they begin to hunt for his replacement before the 2026 T20 World Cup in the subcontinent. Australia will be bereft of Cameron Green, who is focusing on returning to his bowling duties in the Sheffield Shield and will miss the Tasman tour. Nathan Ellis, who has earned a reputation as a specialist in the format, will also be absent due to paternity leave. Matt Short returns to the squad after missing out on the West Indies and South Africa due to a side injury. Marcus Stoinis also returns after not being selected in the T20I squad. Australia T20I squad vs New Zealand: Mitchell Marsh (capt), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matt Kuhnemann, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, and Adam Zampa. -ANI

AFGHANISTAN SKIPPER

Rashid Khan cements his place in history after becoming leading T20I wicket-taker

SHARJAH : Afghanistan's captain and premier spinner Rashid Khan etched his name in the history book by shattering former New Zealand pace spearhead Tim Southee's record to become the player with the most T20I wickets, following his exploits against the UAE in the ongoing tri-series. Rashid cemented his credentials as a modern-day T20I great by leaving an indelible mark in the format. He soared to the summit of the top wicket-takers in T20Is by scalping a three-wicket haul during Afghanistan's emphatic 38-run

victory over the UAE. He was the prime architect behind the UAE's collapse after returning with figures of 3/21 in his four-over spell. He dethroned Southee and his tally of 164 from the top and bettered it with his 165 from 98 appearances at 13.75, conceding runs at an economy of 6.07, including eight four-wicket hauls and two five-fors. Rashid wreaked havoc in Sharjah alongside Sharafuddin Ashraf, clearing Afghanistan's path to victory while defending their total of 188/4. He opened his account by dismissing Ethan D'Souza (12).



He then removed heavy-hitter Asif Khan, who brought the thunder down at the same venue by tormenting Pakistan's experienced bowling unit, cheaply on 1(4) and went level with Southee. Dhruv Parashar became the record-breaking scalp after Rashid lured him to pick up a thick outside edge, which carried to substitute-fielder Mohammad Ishaq, forcing his return on a mere score of one. The 38-run success was Afghanistan's first in the tri-series, after floundering against Pakistan in the opener and surrendering to a 39-run defeat.

With the Asia Cup less than a week away, Afghanistan had plenty of positives to take away from the contest across all facets. In the first innings, Rahmanullah Gurbaz continued to misfire, but Sediquallah Atal (54 off 40) and Ibrahim Zadran (63 off 40) staged an all-out onslaught and fuelled Afghanistan's innings to 188/4. While on the bowling front, apart from Rashid, left-arm orthodox spinner Sharafuddin Ashraf played a starring role with 3/24. Fazalhaq Farooqi and seasoned Mohammad Nabi chipped in with a wicket each. -ANI

Hawana Salalah Hotels offer the best hotel experience during Khareef season in September

With its cool climate, scenic landscapes, and wide range of upscale accommodations and family-friendly activities, Hawana Salalah provides an unforgettable getaway for Omani citizens, GCC nationals, residents, and global travellers alike



MUSCAT: As the rain continues in Salalah, Oman, the amazing waterfalls and lush green landscapes of the Khareef season enhance the beauty of Salalah. Juweira Boutique Hotel, Fanar Hotel & Residences, Rotana Salalah Resort, and The Club by Fanar invite travellers to enjoy a breathtaking escape along Oman's stunning southern coast.

From 1 September to 20 October 2025, guests can take advantage of exclusive seasonal offers for bookings made before September 15, 2025. The promotion includes a 20% discount on base rates, with an additional 5% off for members, along with full access to various meal plans across all properties.

With its cool climate, scenic landscapes, and wide range of upscale accommodations and family-friendly activities, Hawana Salalah provides an unforgettable getaway for Omani citizens, GCC nationals, residents,



and global travellers alike. From mist-covered mountains to vibrant local culture, Salalah is the perfect destination this season, and Hawana Salalah is your gateway to it all.

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Lusail City to host 2025 Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship final organised by Visit Qatar and Professional Triathletes Organisation



DOHA: Visit Qatar, together with the Professional Triathletes Organisation (PTO), World Triathlon and Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation, has unveiled that Lusail City will host the 2025 Qatar T100 World Championship Final, scheduled for 10–13 December 2025.

Lusail will set the stage for the championships, featuring a 2km swim in the Arabian Gulf, an 80km cycle through the city's landmark streets, and an 18km run across Lusail Plaza and Boulevard. The race will showcase Lusail City's waterfront, iconic landmarks, and world-class sporting venues, including Lusail Stadium, site of the 2022 FIFA World Cup™ Final.

The Qatar T100 weekend will conclude the T100 Triathlon World Tour season, bringing together the world's top male and female triathletes to compete for the coveted World Championship title.

The event weekend in Lusail will combine professional racing with opportunities for amateur of all abilities. Participants can take part in the inaugural T100 Age Group World Championships, the 100km open-entry race, or the sprint-distance triathlon. In addition, a mass 5k/1km fun run is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, designed to encourage residents and visitors to get active and join the festival.

Event highlights:

Wednesday, December 10: Mass 5k/1km fun run for the local community and visiting athletes

Thursday, December 11: Event and fan village opens with dining, entertainment, and expo across Lusail Plaza

The event weekend in Lusail will combine professional racing with opportunities for amateur of all abilities. The Qatar T100 offers triathlon fans worldwide an unparalleled experience

onship winners, will headline the elite field, joined by top athletes from 13 countries.

The Qatar T100 offers triathlon fans worldwide an unparalleled experience. This championship reinforces Qatar's growing status as a leading destination for international sporting excellence, and events such as the 2025 T100 Triathlon World Championship contribute to its sporting legacy. By hosting globally renowned events such as the Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix and the AFC Asian Cup, Qatar has proven its ability to captivate international audiences and inspire sports enthusiasts worldwide, solidifying its reputation as a premier destination for world-class sporting experiences.

For more information, please visit <https://visitqatar.com/int/en/events-calendar/t100-triathlon-world-championship> or contact Visit Qatar hotline at 106.

Visit Qatar is the main arm of Qatar Tourism. Visit Qatar's mission is to promote and expand tourism in Qatar by cultivating its rich culture, developing thrilling attractions, enhancing Qatar's calendar, becoming the leading MICE destination in the region, diversifying events and luxury experiences. Visit Qatar is rooted in Service Excellence, boosting the entire tourism value chain, and increasing local and international visitor demand in Qatar. Through Visit Qatar's network of international offices in priority markets, cutting-edge digital platforms, and marketing campaigns, Visit Qatar is expanding Qatar's presence globally and enhancing the tourism sector.

Web: www.visitqatar.com

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat to feature its cutting-edge role in enhancing digital banking services at Comex

This event allows the bank to introduce visitors to the mechanisms behind the major platforms and devices they use daily, enhancing their understanding and simplifying complex underlying processes

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced its participation in the 34th edition of Comex, which will be held from 8 – 11 September at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This year's edition will be attended by more than 300 local and international organisations, government entities and corporates. Bank Muscat will showcase its long-standing journey in advancing digital banking services, beginning with the optimisation of internal



processes and culminating in a diverse array of products and services that deliver direct benefits to customers.

The Comex Global Technology Exhibition serves as a premier platform for cutting-edge technology, offering local and interna-

tional companies and institutions the opportunity to showcase their latest advancements in innovation. This exhibition also acts as a vital forum for professionals and enthusiasts in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, featuring a range of engaging activities, including specialized workshops focused on advanced technologies.

Bank Muscat participates annually in the Comex Global Technology Exhibition, viewing it as an invaluable opportunity to highlight its pioneering role in advancing digital banking services.

thoughtfully designed to showcase its expertise and illuminate the key services developed to enhance customer experience and facilitate seamless financial transactions, wherever they are.

Digital transformation has significantly advanced financial inclusion. In parallel, the Bank's recent developments over the past few years have enabled customers to access services more quickly and conveniently through Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, and a dedicated Contact Centre, as well as over 900 ATMs and CDMs across the country. These enhancements have provided corporates with the tools to streamline transactions, boost productivity, reduce data entry errors, and improve security, delivering tangible benefits for customers.

CROSS-FUNCTIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Europcar Oman & Bahrain celebrates intern graduation

MUSCAT: Europcar Oman & Bahrain hosted a graduation ceremony at its Muscat headquarters to celebrate the achievements of interns Mahdi Mirza and Raghad Al Shidhany, marking the completion of their two-month cross-functional internship programme.

The event was attended by Europcar leadership, advisory board members, colleagues, and the interns' families and friends – making the celebration especially memorable. Guests enjoyed a lunch hosted at Europcar HQ, creating an atmosphere of warmth and community.

gives them industry exposure alongside their final year of studies at GUtech.

“This program is about more than internships – it's about building confidence, broadening perspectives, and preparing young leaders for the future. We are proud of Mahdi and Raghad for their outstanding contributions and are excited to see them continue to grow through their extended engagement with Europcar,” said Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europcar Oman & Bahrain.

Shaping future workforce

This internship initiative builds on the success of the Oman Internship Fair 2025, presented by Europcar and powered by the Oman American Business Council (OABC), with strategic partners The Diplomatic Club, British Business Forum (BBF) Indo Gulf Chamber of Commerce, and Crowe Oman. The fair brought together 350+ students and 60+ companies, placing over 100 interns across Oman.

Planning is already underway for the Oman Internship Fair 2026, which will feature a new dedicated website, smarter student-company matching, and deeper university collaborations. Europcar remains committed to shaping the next generation of leaders by bridging academia and industry through impactful initiatives.

Extended opportunity: Remote project engagement

Recognising the value these interns bring, Europcar Oman & Bahrain has extended their program by three additional months, allowing them to contribute remotely to a live social media project – a unique opportunity that

MHD ACERE

Exclusive Hongqi summer offer launched

MUSCAT: Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD ACERE), the exclusive distributor of Hongqi in Oman, announced the launch of its much-anticipated Hongqi Summer Offer.

This special promotion is designed to reward customers choosing the brand's popular models – Hongqi Ousado, HS3, and HS5 – with a choice of exceptional rewards, reaffirming Hongqi's mission of combining luxury, innovation, and customer-centric value.

Hongqi, a prestigious name in the automotive industry, continues to inspire discerning drivers in Oman with its refined lineup that includes the Ousado, Hongqi HS3, HS5, HS7, H6, and H9. Each vehicle is a symbol of Hongqi's commitment to delivering unparalleled craftsmanship, advanced technology, and performance, redefining the driving experience in Oman.



Summer offer benefits

Customers purchasing a Hongqi Ousado, HS3, or HS5 can choose one of three exclusive rewards:

- iPhone + Travel Credit
- Hongqi Ousado 1.5T: Apple iPhone 16 Pro + holiday stay or travel credit worth OMR 300.

Hongqi Ousado 2.0T, HS3, HS5: Apple iPhone 16 Pro Max + holiday stay or travel credit worth OMR 500.

- 0% Finance – easing ownership with flexible payment options.
- Trade-in Support – Customers can bring their current vehicles for a third-party valuation. On verification, MHD ACERE will add a fixed OMR 1,500 to the valuation amount, which will be adjusted exclusively against the down payment of the new Hongqi vehicle.
- In addition to these rewards, Hongqi's signature 7-7-7 package

remains standard:

- 7 years unlimited mileage warranty
- 7 years / 105,000 km service package
- 7 years roadside assistance

The offer is valid from 10 August 2025 to 9 October 2025 and applies to retail customers purchasing Hongqi Ousado, HS3, and HS5 for personal use, subject to stock availability.

Commenting on the launch of the campaign, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE,

said: “At MHD ACERE, we believe that owning a Hongqi should be more than just about driving a car – it should be about enjoying a truly rewarding journey. This Summer Offer reflects our gratitude to our customers by giving them not only the joy of driving one of the most luxurious and innovative vehicles, but also the added value of lifestyle rewards, finance ease, or trade-in support. Our aim is to make every Hongqi ownership experience as extraordinary as the vehicles themselves.”

BENEFITS

BankDhofar unveils new salary transfer campaign



MUSCAT: BankDhofar, the second largest bank in Oman by branch network size, has unveiled a new Salary Transfer Campaign offering an array of exclusive benefits to customers who transfer their monthly salaries to the bank.

Eligible customers will enjoy a suite of benefits for 12 months starting from the date of their first salary transfer. These exclusive benefits, available only through the Mobile Banking app, include three free mobile payments each month, three free transfers within Oman every month, and one free international remittance per month to India or Bangladesh.

In addition, all qualifying customers will receive complimentary Personal Accident Insurance providing coverage in the event of

accidental death or total disability. Insurance benefits are structured across three tiers:

- Customers with a monthly salary ranging from OMR 300 to OMR 700 will receive a monthly coverage amount of OMR 500, with a total coverage of OMR 6,000 over

a 12-month period. Those earning more than OMR 700 and less than OMR 3,000 per month will be eligible for a monthly coverage of OMR 1,000, with a total coverage of OMR 12,000 over 12 months. For customers with a monthly salary of OMR 3,000 or more, the monthly coverage will be OMR 2,000, providing a total coverage of OMR 24,000 across the same 12-month duration.

To qualify, customers must meet specific criteria: they should not have received salary transfers in their BankDhofar account during the past six months; salary or pension payments must be credited exclusively via the Wage Payment System (WPS); the minimum monthly salary should be OMR 300; and salary transfers must

continue for at least 12 consecutive months to maintain eligibility. The campaign is open until December 31, with benefits activated from the date the first salary is credited.

This latest initiative reflects BankDhofar's unwavering focus on raising customer service standards and enhancing satisfaction across both physical and digital platforms. Over the past two years, the bank has expanded its network significantly, to reach a total of more than 140 state-of-the-art branches nationwide. These branches cater to diverse customer segments—including women, youth, SMEs, and high-net-worth clients—while digital innovations such as Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, Dhofar Pay, and the Easy Biz platform extend seamless convenience.

EXCLUSIVE REWARDS

Bank Nizwa launches ‘NizwaPlus’ loyalty programme



MUSCAT: Reflecting, Bank Nizwa's – the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman – resolute commitment to enhancing customer experiences and fostering loyalty, the bank has announced the launch of ‘Nizwa Plus’, an innovative, Sharia-compliant loyalty programme tailored exclusively for its credit cardholders.

Designed to transform daily financial interactions into meaningful rewards, the programme aims to deepen customer engagement, increase transaction activity, and deliver exclusive lifestyle benefits. Nizwa Plus, relies on ‘Loyalty Points’, a versatile rewards system that enables customers to redeem points across a diverse portfolio of

offerings.

In his comment, Mohamed Al Ghassani, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Bank Nizwa, stated, “At Bank Nizwa, our approach to growth is rooted in purpose.

“Every innovation we introduce stems from a deeper understanding of our customers – what they seek, envision, and how we can add value to their banking journey. Bank Nizwa's Loyalty Program is not just a rewards system; it reflects our belief that banking should transcend transactions and foster relationships.

“By aligning rewards with Sharia principles and lifestyle aspirations, we reaffirm our promise of trust and enduring partnership

with every customer.”

Easy-to-navigate

Reinforced by a transparent and easy-to-navigate structure, Nizwa Plus Loyalty programme rewards customers for their everyday card usage, turning each transaction into an opportunity to gain lasting value. Travel and lifestyle redemption options provide exceptional flexibility, with points redeemable for flights on major airlines, real-time hotel bookings via global suppliers, and rental car services – all integrated into a seamless digital experience.

For everyday spending, customers can choose from a curated selection of store items, vouch-

ers, exclusive offers, and sustainable products that promote environmental responsibility. These redemption categories are continuously updated to ensure they remain competitive, relevant and locally accessible.

With the launch of Nizwa Plus, the bank reinforces its position as a pioneer in Islamic finance, delivering experiences that are both financially enriching and grounded in integrity, innovation, and transparency. This programme marks another step in the bank's ongoing journey to deliver modern banking solutions that meet evolving customer aspirations and help shape the future of Islamic finance in Oman.