

Success is...

logging on without
the long commute.

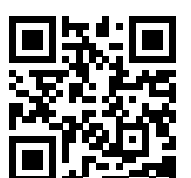


Claim back one of the most valuable resources you have – time. Regus flexible office spaces give you a local place to work, so you never have to give up the things that are most important to you. Discover an office that puts time back on your side today.



Part of the IWG Network

Offices
Coworking
Meeting Rooms



Oman to join GCC countries today in celebrating 44th anniversary

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik reaffirmed Oman’s unwavering support for the GCC in his Royal Speech upon assuming power on January 11, 2020

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman will join its fellow Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members on Sunday in celebrating the 44th anniversary of the council’s establishment on May 25, 1981.

It is a milestone marking the journey towards deeper integration among its six member states across various sectors, reinforcing common interests and fulfilling aspirations for stability, prosperity, and development.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik reaffirmed Oman’s unwavering support for the GCC in his Royal Speech upon assuming power on January 11, 2020, stating: “We will continue, alongside our brothers, the leaders of the GCC countries, to contribute to advancing coop-



eration among our nations, achieving the aspirations of our peoples, and pushing forward the council’s accomplishments.”

Oman remains steadfast in its commitment to the council’s principles and objectives, actively shaping its decisions and initiatives while supporting economic integration, coordinating political stances, and strengthening cultural and social cooperation.

This dedication stems from Oman’s belief that the council’s cohesion is key to the region’s resilience amid rapid global transformations.

Speaking to Oman News Agency (ONA), Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel Al-Maskari, Head of the GCC and



Regional Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign, emphasised the historic significance of the council’s founding, describing

it as a pivotal moment for Arab cooperation.

Since its inception, the GCC has made notable strides in fostering coordination and integration among its members, leveraging their shared history and common interests.

Key achievements and challenges

Among the GCC’s major political accomplishments is unifying member states’ stances in international forums and reinforcing regional peace and stability. Economically, the Customs Union, Gulf Common Market, electricity grid interconnection, and transport projects stand as significant

institutional successes.

Despite these advancements, Al-Maskari acknowledged that the council has encountered challenges, including differences in political perspectives, economic uncertainties, and fast-changing regional dynamics.

However, he stressed that the council’s mechanisms for dialogue and consultation have helped overcome many obstacles with responsibility and wisdom.

Looking ahead, the GCC’s ambitious vision demands accelerated implementation across various sectors—particularly in economic, social, and legislative integration—as the council remains a dynamic entity reflecting member states’ political will to enhance unity and cooperation.

GCC’s role in regional stability

Al-Maskari highlighted the GCC’s central role in collective security, addressing threats, and promoting peaceful resolutions for regional crises.

He emphasised its strategic partnerships with international powers and regional actors, ensuring a balance of interests and protecting Gulf security. The GCC follows a responsible foreign policy, respecting international law and non-interference in sovereign affairs.

Its diplomatic contributions include mediation efforts and support for conflict resolution, particularly advocating for Palestine’s cause and opposing foreign interventions in the region.

Oman’s influence in GCC diplomacy

Renowned for its balanced foreign policy, Oman has consistently worked to bridge divides and strengthen Gulf unity, reaffirming its dedication to supporting the GCC’s progress at all stages. It actively encourages initiatives fostering regional cooperation, particularly in matters requiring consensus and careful deliberation.

Looking to the future, Al-Maskari emphasised that the GCC must adapt to global shifts through modern mechanisms, enhanced integration tools, and unified policies—especially in areas such as cybersecurity, climate change, and sustainable development.

He stressed the need for an integrated economic framework to ensure security and prosperity for GCC citizens.

Future Gulf integration in key sectors

Al-Maskari identified digital economy, food security, and renewable energy as top priorities in Gulf collaboration.

These areas are expected to witness significant advancements through joint strategies and innovative initiatives.

He concluded by reaffirming Oman’s commitment to Gulf unity, emphasising that cohesion and shared destiny remain the foundation for regional security, stability, and development—a vision Oman is devoted to realising alongside its GCC counterparts.

BY 2030

Oman expected to deliver 62,800 new residential units

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is poised to deliver 62,800 new residential real estate units by 2030, with 5,500 coming to market this year in line with the country’s strategic vision, according to new insight from leading real estate and advisory consultant, Cavendish Maxwell.

According to Cavendish Maxwell’s Oman real estate market performance report, published this week during Oman Design and Build Week, Oman is set to add

5,800 hotel rooms to its current inventory over the next five years, with 35 new hotels and resorts scheduled to open by 2030.

The new rooms will boost current inventory by around 25%. Oman’s residential real estate inventory grew by 3.6% in 2024, with 38,400 new homes delivered, taking the current supply to around 1.1 million units, the report shows. Most of the residential supply is in Muscat, followed by Al Batinah North and South, and Dhofar.

Expansion of the real estate, infrastructure, hospitality and

tourism sectors is part of Oman Vision 2040, which aims for non-oil sectors to account for 90% of the economy by 2040. By then, Oman’s population - currently 5.3 million - is expected to reach 7.7 million, driven by rising numbers of nationals and expats. More than 80,000 new homes are projected to be delivered between now and 2040. However, Oman’s rapid population growth could mean a shortfall in residential property supply in the future, despite tens of thousands of new properties in the pipeline.

SECURITY SERVICES

SSC protects natural resources

< FROM Coastal monitoring

A1 In addition to its labour enforcement and corporate security services, SSC also contributes to the protection of Oman’s natural resources.

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the corporation monitors coastal zones to prevent illegal fishing activities.

“Using advanced tools such as drones and specially equipped surveillance vehicles, our teams work to safeguard fish stocks and marine life,” said Al Asmi.

“So far, more than 400 citizens have been trained in this domain

through joint initiatives between our two entities.”

Looking ahead, SSC is planning to expand its services further by embracing innovation in security technology.

“We aspire to broaden our expertise in industrial firefighting and occupational health services, with a focus on artificial intelligence in firefighting technologies,” said Al Asmi.

He added that the corporation is working on a strategy to establish regional branches across Oman by 2030, further enhancing its reach and readiness to meet the growing demands of both public and private clients.

Al Asmi reiterated SSC’s unique role as a national model for integrated safety and security services, powered by Omani talent. “We provide a safe and stable environment for institutions, and we do this with trained Omani cadres who perform their duties with a high degree of professionalism,” he said.

He described the corporation as a “supportive umbrella” for young Omanis in the private sector and a cornerstone of sustainable national development. “Our path forward remains rooted in service excellence, national employment, and our responsibility to uphold the law.” - (WITH ONA inputs)

JOINT OPERATION

Consumer authority seizes units manufacturing chewing tobacco

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In an ongoing effort to regulate markets and eliminate banned substances that pose risk to public health, the Consumer Protection Authority in South Al Batinah, Rustaq, has successfully confiscated over 1,400 units of chewing tobacco and raw materials used in its production.

The CPA said in a statement: “The operation, carried out in coordination with the Royal Oman Police and the Public Prosecution, followed a report indicating that a group of expatriate workers were engaged in manufacturing, distributing, and selling chewing tobacco in three locations in Al Musannah.

Upon verifying the report, law enforcement officers conducted thorough investigations and managed to seize 1,408 items, including ready-to-sell chewing tobacco and its raw ingredients.



The violators admitted to the charges, leading authorities to confiscate the illegal products and impose administrative fines.

The Consumer Protection Authority emphasised that trading such banned products violates Article 7 of the Consumer Protection Law, which strictly prohibits the circulation of adulterated, counterfeit, or

unauthorized goods, as well as their advertisement.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to taking legal action against violators to protect consumer safety. It urged the public to remain vigilant, adhere to consumer protection laws, and report any illegal practices observed in local markets through official communication channels.

KARWA MOTORS

Enhanced Omani vehicle presence in market

< FROM A1 He added in a statement to the Oman News Agency that this type of vehicle enhances the presence of Omani industries in regional and global markets, contributes to achieving economic diversification goals, and increases the added value of national industry.

He emphasised that vehicle production represents an important step in the company’s path toward industrial and technological expansion, and enhances the Sultanate of Oman’s position as an advanced centre for manufacturing specialised vehicles and equipment, benefiting from the inte-

grated infrastructure provided by the Special Economic Zone in Duqm.

Karwa Motors is a strategic investment between the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Oman Investment Authority, and the State of Qatar, represented by the national transport company, Mowasalat Qatar.

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Workshop to address challenges facing tourism sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in cooperation with the Oman 2040 Vision Implementation Follow-up Unit and a number of government and private entities, will organise a national workshop on Muscat on Monday.

Titled ‘Addressing the Challenges of Governance of Heritage and Tourism Development Management with Governorates’, the four-day workshop aims to enhance institutional integration with governorates, achieve decentralisation in the heritage and tourism sector and address the challenges facing the governance of these two sectors.

The workshop also aims to find



comprehensive and sustainable solutions for the development and financing of service and tourism facilities, contributing to achieving sustainable development goals,

raising the efficiency of institutional performance, and activating public-private partnerships.

It will address a number of vital aspects that fall within four main



pillars: governance and institutional integration, investment and tourism development governance, public tourism and service facilities, and two pillars of general

enablers related to employment, localisation, legislation, capacity building, common performance indicators, statistics and data, tourism promotion, and media

communication.

Representatives from 11 governorates, along with 17 other relevant entities, will participate in the session, along with a number of experts and specialists in the fields of governance, planning, and tourism development.

Series of initiatives

This session is part of a series of initiatives implemented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in cooperation with strategic partners as part of a programme to address the challenges facing the heritage and tourism sectors, with the aim of achieving balanced and comprehensive development across the Sultanate of Oman’s governorates and fulfilling the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Solutions as advanced as you are

Innovation inspired by you

بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

Visit bankdhofar.com

COMMENTARY

Oman’s new Wage Protection Law guarantees timely salaries for private sector workers

In a significant move to protect workers’ rights and bring greater transparency to their salary payments, Oman has introduced a new mandatory system for all private sector employers.

Speaking to the Times of Oman, a representative of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, a leading law office in Oman, explained “how the new Wage Protection System (WPS) will impact both companies and employees across the Sultanate. The system aims to ensure that every worker in the private sector is paid on time.

Employers are now required to pay salaries directly into employees’ bank accounts within 03 days after the wage period ends.

This amount must match exactly what has been agreed in the employment contract,” said Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Chairman of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm.



DR. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL ZADJALI, Chairman of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm



strengthen trust between workers and their employers,” the chairman said.

He added, however, not all workers are immediately included in the system, for example, if a worker has been newly hired and is still within the first 30 days of employment or if they are on unpaid leave, the employer is temporarily exempted from transferring their wage through



the system.

“Similar exemptions apply to workers involved in unresolved disputes or those who have been suspended for reasons beyond the employer’s control,” Al Zadjali said.

Another spokesperson of the law firm said that “to deal with unique situations not already covered, a Special Committee will be formed to assess exemp-

not just a number but a right that must be respected, protected, and delivered without delay,” the message is clear.

In Oman, every wage matters. And now, with WPS, every payment will be watched, recorded and delivered as promised, the expert said.

(Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established 18 years ago and is serving clients through its offices in Muscat and Sohar, as well as operating on a request basis in other areas. It offers legal representation across a wide range of practice areas that include Labour Law, Corporate, Commercial, Contracts, Banking and Finance, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Insurance, Maritime Law, Construction and Engineering Contracts, International Arbitration, Intellectual Property and more).

Anti-dumping duties slapped on porcelain, ceramic tile imports

The decision is part of the unified anti-dumping, countervailing, and safeguard measures law adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council



Director General at the Centre for Competition and Anti-Monopoly at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, highlighted that the decisions issued by the GCC’s Permanent Committee for Combating Harmful Trade Practices, based on the Gulf unified trade law, represent a strategic step towards maintaining a fair and competitive trade environment within GCC markets.

These measures ensure protection for domestic industries against harmful dumping practices.

He stressed that imposing anti-dumping duties on ceramic and porcelain tile imports from China and India is a vital step to safeguard the local market from price distortions caused by imported products sold at unfair prices that do not reflect actual production costs.

He added that these measures will enhance the ability of local producers to compete, improve

quality, and expand production lines, positively impacting industrial performance, employment rates, and price stability between domestic and imported products.

Al Rasbi noted that these regulations will provide long-term benefits to consumers, offering greater choices and higher quality by encouraging local investments while preventing monopolistic risks that could arise from domestic industry withdrawal.

He described these measures as part of a broader framework designed to protect both the market and consumers.

Meanwhile, Khalid bin Issa Al Amri, Director General of Consumer Services and Market Surveillance at the Consumer Protection Authority, stated that the authority is closely monitoring the implementation of the anti-dumping duty decision on ceramic and porcelain tiles imported from China and India.

He affirmed that the authority has established a clear plan to track and analyse the pricing of these imported products and is intensifying periodic inspection campaigns at retail outlets specialising in their sale, ensuring market price stability.

Al Amri emphasised that the Consumer Protection Authority will take strict legal action against violators, applying existing regulations and laws.

He urged suppliers to comply with trade laws and encouraged consumers to report any observed violations in local markets through official communication channels.



Some progress in US-Iran talks, says Foreign Minister

Times News Service

ROME: The fifth round of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America concluded in the Italian capital, Rome on Friday.

His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman, said: “The fifth round of Iran-US talks concluded in Rome on Saturday with some but not conclusive progress. We hope to clarify the remaining issues in the coming days, to allow us to proceed towards the common goal of reaching a sustainable and honourable agreement.”

Thanking the city of Rome he said, “I wish to thank our Italian friends for hosting us again for the



Iran-US talks on Saturday and for their strong support for peace and security.”

The talks, the highest-level contact between the two countries, are being mediated by Oman. Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US special envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff are leading the delegations.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion announced that from May 29, anti-dumping duties will take effect at all customs entry points in Oman on ceramic and porcelain tile imports originating from or exported by China and India.

The decision is part of the unified anti-dumping, countervailing, and safeguard measures law adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Nasra bint Sultan Al Habsi, Director General of Commerce at the Ministry and a member of the Permanent Committee for Combating Harmful Practices in International Trade for GCC states, explained that the decision was based on complaints filed by Gulf-based ceramic and porcelain tile manufacturers, alleging that imports from China and India were being dumped into local markets.

She stated that the GCC Secretariat, through its technical office, initiated an investigation into the complaints with the participation of all relevant parties.

The investigation and related procedures lasted over 12 months, from the announcement of the probe until official notifications were issued to enforce the measures.

Following the findings, technical reports were submitted to the GCC Permanent Committee and the Industrial Cooperation Committee, which ultimately decided to impose anti-dumping duties for five years.

Ahmed bin Salem Al Rasbi,

راس الجبل
Ras Ajlun
TURTLE RESERVE
محمية السلاحف

خليها نص بالنص
ندفع عنك يوم
STAY A NIGHT GET ONE FREE
T&Cs APPLY | RESERVATION
+968 96550707

MEETING

Oman affirms support to WHO programmes



GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman has affirmed its support for the World Health Organization (WHO) in implementing various programmes and activities that enhance the health of individuals and communities in member states, particularly in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

This came during a meeting between the Sultanate of Oman's delegation, headed by His Excellency Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, and Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, on the sidelines of the 78th General Assembly meeting in Geneva.

The Minister of Health discussed with the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) some proposals to facilitate the organisation's mission in the Sultanate of Oman and at the regional level by utilising existing national expertise and specialised centres and institutions. -ONA



OMANI IDENTITY

Al-Khuwair Square Project opened in Ministries District



MUSCAT: The inauguration of the Al-Khuwair Square project in Muscat Governorate's Ministries District was celebrated on Thursday under the patronage of Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat. Spanning over 12,000 square metres, the project features modern and sustainable elements.

The development includes more than 9,000 square metres of green spaces, along with dedicated walking and cycling paths extending over 435 square metres.

It also offers multiple public seating areas, a café with an open-air upper lounge managed by Omani entrepreneurs, public facilities, and parking spaces—making the square an ideal destination for leisure, recreation, and outdoor sports activities.

The square's design incorporates architectural elements that reflect Omani identity.

A standout feature of the project is a 126-metre-high flagpole, constructed using 141 tonnes of steel, topped by the Omani flag measuring 25 metres in length and 44 metres in width.

In a press statement, Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, emphasised that this project represents a qualitative addition to the governorate's public

facilities, carrying both symbolic and cultural significance.

"We hope this square becomes a vibrant gathering place and an attractive landmark that enriches Muscat's urban landscape while enhancing the quality of life for its residents and visitors. This aligns with the governorate's ongoing efforts to humanize the city and strengthen social ties across its neighborhoods," he added.

In his turn, Ahmed Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, noted that the inauguration of this distinguished urban project marks a significant addition to the capital, reflecting the ambitious vision of creating lively public spaces that meet community aspirations.

This is achieved through sustainable public areas that integrate natural elements and Omani identity.

He pointed out that the project is the result of constructive collaboration between the public and private sectors, through a strategic partnership between Muscat Governorate (represented by Muscat Municipality) and Jindal Steel Company, underscoring the importance of national partnerships in achieving sustainable urban development goals. -ONA





HONGQI

THE ALL-NEW H6.

RESERVE YOURS TODAY.



Azaiba

80080777

CABLES

HM sends greetings to Jordan, Argentina



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq has sent a cable of congratulations to King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on his country's Independence Day anniversary.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and congratulations to the king

and his country's people on this glorious national occasion, wishing this brotherly country to secure continued achievements and prosperous growth in all spheres under his leadership.

Argentina

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq has also sent a cable of con-

gratulations to President Javier Milei of the Argentine Republic on his country's National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere congratulations and wishes to the president and his country's people, wishing the joint interests between the twocountries progress and development in all sectors.-ONA

HOLY LAND

Omani Hajj mission departs

MUSCAT: The Omani Hajj Mission for this year's 1446 AH departed the country on Friday, for the Holy Land.

The mission was seen off at Muscat International Airport by Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs.-ONA

GCC

Statistical Centre affirms strong progress for alliance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Statistical Centre for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) affirmed that the GCC's presiding over the 44th anniversary of its establishment comes as it stands as a leading model of regional cooperation.

The Council continues to contribute to strengthening fraternal, economic, and developmental ties among member states, reinforcing coordination and joint developmental action across the region.

Intisar bint Abdullah Al Wahabi, Director General of the GCC Statistical Centre, stated that the Centre is one of the most notable outcomes of this cooperation, reflecting the advancement of joint Gulf action. It provides accurate and standardised data and indicators that support decision-making, inform policy formulation based on reliable data, and contribute to the realisation of



sustainable development goals across the GCC.

She noted that the GCC has achieved significant progress as a globally recognised economic bloc, now ranking 11th worldwide with a total GDP of \$2.1 trillion.

The foreign reserve assets of GCC states stand at \$748 billion, while the total assets of their sovereign wealth funds are estimated

at \$4.9 trillion, representing 37% of the assets held by the world's top 100 sovereign wealth funds.

The GCC also holds 30% of the Middle East's renewable electricity production capacity, in line with its transition towards clean energy. Furthermore, GCC capital markets represent 4.3% of the total global market capitalisation, ranking 7th worldwide.

Artificial intelligence is expected to contribute 34% of the GCC's GDP by 2030. Additionally, five GCC countries are ranked among the world's top 50 economies in government readiness for AI, significantly exceeding the global average.

Shereaffirmed the Centre's commitment to advancing the statistical infrastructure, building national capacities, enhancing transparency and information accessibility, and supporting joint Gulf efforts to empower policymakers and shape a prosperous future.

جامعة الشرقية

A' SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee at A'Sharqiyah University is pleased to invite companies with experience in providing laboratory equipment to participate in this tender.

Tender details:

Tender No.	Description	Document Collection Deadline	Bids Submission Deadline	Document fees
ASU/36/24/25	Providing Lab Equipment for College of Applied and Health Sciences at A'Sharqiyah University	29/05/2025	12/06/2025	100 OMR

- Specialized companies interested in this assignment can obtain the tender document from the Procurement and Contracts Department at A'Sharqiyah University in Ibra during working days **from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.
- Bids must be submitted in closed, sealed envelopes with red wax, addressed to the Tender Committee at A'Sharqiyah University, Ibra. The envelopes should clearly indicate the tender subject and reference number but must not display the bidders' names.
- The main submission envelope should contain the following:
 - A separate sealed envelope with the technical proposal (1 original copy, 1 copy, and 1 soft copy on a USB flash drive).
 - A separate sealed envelope with the commercial proposal (1 original copy, 1 copy, and 1 soft copy on a USB flash drive).
 - A separate sealed envelope containing the tender bond.

ASU general terms and conditions of tenders shall apply on all submitted bids. http://www.asu.edu.om/downloads/purchase_terms_conditions.pdf

- A'Sharqiyah University is not obligated to accept the lowest bid.
- For further details, feel free to contact us via **phone at 25401115/25401116**, or by email at **azza.rashid@asu.edu.om/yousuf.alsaadi@asu.edu.om**



Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عُمان

وزارة التراث والسياحة

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism

Announcement of an Internal tenders

Tender No.	71/2025/MHT/HQ-13	Tender Name	Maintenance of Al Radidah House, Barakat Al Mouz Building, Nizwa Governorate.
	71/2025/MHT/HQ-13		Provision of Engineering Consultancy Services for the Restoration and Rehabilitation of Bait Bahr in Al Buraimi Wilayat.
Fees of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)	71/2025/MHT/HQ-13	25 O.R	
	72/2025/MHT/HQ-14	37.500 O.R	
Tender Document Sales End Date	9/6/2025		
Last Date for Bid Submission	2/7/2025		
Grade	71/2025/MHT/HQ-13	Second & Third	
	72/2025/MHT/HQ-14	First & Second	
E-Tendering Portal	https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om		
- Interested Companies registered with Tender Board (in the mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E.Tendering website: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om, against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. - The Tenderers must acknowledge commitment to the bid. - The Ministry shall not be obligated to accept the lowest or any other bids - The bid submission period starts after the end of the inquiry period shown in the e-tendering system, until the last date for submitting bids before (10:00 am, Oman time).			
Support and inquiries	For more information, related to the tender, kindly communicate through the website of the e-tendering system: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om		
	For inquiries related to the technical support for the e-tendering system, kindly communicate through etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om or 24402200		
For further information	Email : sotic@mht.gov.om Phones : 22088348 - 22088085		



THE ROYAL GUARD OF OMAN

Tender Advertisement

The Royal Guard of Oman, invites tender for the following:-

Tender Reference	Subject	Grade	Tender Document Fee (Non-refundable)	Submission Date
03/2025	Cleaning and Pest control Services from (01/01/2026) to (31/12/2028)	I & above	SME R.O30/- L.O R.O. 150/-	15th July 2025
04/2025	Supply of Vehicles for the year 2025	I & above	R.O. 50/-	30th June 2025

Specialized companies registered in the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with the above-mentioned Grade and the Procurement and Contracts Directorate of the General Directorate of Finance, Royal Guard of Oman, can collect the tender document from the Tender Committee Secretariat, Royal Guard of Oman, Seeb during working hours from **Sunday 25th May to Thursday 29th May 2025**.

Wax-sealed Tenders addressed to the Chairman - Tender Committee should be submitted to RGO before 1200 hours on the submission date along with a Tender Bond the name of the Royal Guard of Oman equivalent to 1% (One Percent) of the value of the Tender from any registered Bank in the Sultanate of Oman,. The tenderer shall not reveal his identity other than the tender title and the address mentioned below.

No Tender will be accepted after the submission date. The Royal Guard of Oman reserves the right to accept or reject any Tender without giving reasons.

Tender Committee

P.O Box 381C.P.O

Postal Code 111

Ukraine, Russia swap hundreds more POWs

The prisoner swap is the first stage of the “1000-for-1000” exchange agreement reached during the Russian-Ukrainian talks in Istanbul

KYIV: Russia and Ukraine on Saturday said another 307 prisoners of war (POWs) had been swapped in the second day of the largest exchange since the start of the war.

“Among those who returned today are soldiers from our army, the State Border Service, and the National Guard of Ukraine,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on his official Telegram channel.

Meanwhile, Russia’s defence ministry added that it expected the exchange of prisoners to continue, without offering more details.

On Friday, Ukraine’s president and Russia’s Defence Ministry said they had each handed over 390 POWs.

How many POWs will Ukraine and Russia release?

Saturday’s early morning attack has come just hours after Zelenskyy announced the return of 390 prisoners of war to Russia. The Russian Defence Ministry added each side released 270 soldiers and 120 civilians.

The prisoner swap is the first stage of the “1000-for-1000” exchange agreement reached during the Russian-Ukrainian talks in Istanbul, Zelenskyy wrote on X.

After more than three years of fighting, both countries are hold-



ing thousands of prisoners of war. Russia is believed to hold the larger share, with an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Ukrainian captives.

The swap comes amid renewed diplomatic initiatives to end the war. Russian and Ukrainian officials held face-to-face negotiations in Istanbul last week for the first time since 2022, the year Moscow launched its invasion.

Prisoner exchange follows drone attack on Kyiv

The news came hours after Kyiv came under a large-scale Russian drone and missile attack on Saturday morning that left at least 15 people injured, according to local officials.

Explosions and anti-aircraft fire were heard throughout Kyiv as many sought shelter in subway stations.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko took to Telegram, explaining fragments from one drone hit the top floor of an apartment block in the Solomyanskyi district of the Ukrainian capital, with at least two requiring hospital treatment.

According to Al Jazeera, Rus-

sia’s Ministry of Defence said on Saturday that it released 307 Ukrainian POWs in exchange for as many Russian servicemen, who are being cared for in Belarus before their return to Russia. The two sides released 270 servicemen and 120 civilians each on the Ukrainian border with Belarus on Friday, as part of the biggest prisoner exchange since the start of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Both sides have agreed to exchange 1,000 prisoners.

The development comes following the Russian drone and missile attack in Kyiv on Friday, targeting civilians and causing widespread damage and casualties.

Sharing a post on X on Saturday, Zelenskyy said, “Fragments of Russian missiles and drones are being cleared in Kyiv. Rescue and emergency operations are ongoing at the sites of strikes and debris impacts -- wherever they are needed. There were many fires and explosions in the city overnight. Once again, residential buildings, cars, businesses have been damaged. Sadly, there are injuries.”

The post added, “It was a difficult

night for all of Ukraine -- 250 strike drones, the absolute majority of them Iranian “Shaheds,” and 14 ballistic missiles. The Odesa, Vinnytsia, Sumy, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kyiv, Dnipro regions suffered damages. All strikes targeted civilians. There are fatalities. My condolences to the families and loved ones.”

Zelenskyy further emphasised that Ukraine has repeatedly proposed ceasefires and called for sanctions steps from the United States, Europe, and its allies.

“With each such attack, the world becomes more certain that the cause of prolonging the war lies in Moscow. Ukraine has proposed a ceasefire many times -- both a full one and one in the skies. It all has been ignored. It is clear that far stronger pressure must be imposed on Russia to get results and launch real diplomacy. We are awaiting sanctions steps from the United States, Europe, and all our partners. Only additional sanctions targeting key sectors of the Russian economy will force Moscow to cease fire. I thank everyone who helps and supports us,” Zelenskyy said. — Agencies



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



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

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

FRANCE

Power outage hits Cannes region during film fest

CANNES: A major power outage hit the area around the French Riviera resort of Cannes on Saturday, the final day of the Cannes Film Festival.

The power cut began just after 10:00am local time (8:00 a.m. GMT) due to a fire in a substation in the nearby village of Tanneron. Police assume the cause was probably an arson attack.

However, the police spokeswoman was unable to say whether there was a connection between the incident and the film festival.

The French media reported that a pylon also fell onto a high-voltage power line in the morning. It is not yet clear whether the incident had a criminal background.

According to grid operator RTE, the power outage affected 160,000 homes in Cannes and the surrounding area.

The glitzy holiday destination has been hit by a power outage, causing traffic lights to fail and leading to traffic jams. The shops were closed on one of the main streets.

Teams from RTE and supplier Enedis are working to restore the network. It is still unclear when the power will be back on, French



media reported, citing RTE.

Festival is not affected by outage

The Cannes Film Festival organisers said the closing ceremony would not be affected by the power outage.

The festival announced it had “switched to an alternative electricity power supply, which enables us to maintain the events and screenings planned for yesterday in normal conditions, including the closing ceremony.”

However, morning screenings at the festival’s cinemas were briefly interrupted while the supply switched to generators.

At the closing ceremony, French actress Juliette Binoche and her jury will announce the winners of the festival’s top prizes. Twenty-two films are competing for the Palme d’Or this year.

— DW

ZHEJIANG PROVINCE



4th China-CEEC Expo & International Consumer Goods Fair opens in Ningbo, with estimated import purchases from CEECs exceeding 10 billion yuan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: On May 22, the 4th China-Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) Expo & International Consumer Goods Fair opened in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province. With the theme “New Visions for the Future,” the event attracted over 15,000 professional visitors from 72 countries and regions. Import purchase intentions from CEECs are expected to exceed 10 billion yuan (about \$1.39 billion).

The 80,000-square-metre exhibition space is divided into two main sections: the CEEC exhibition zone and the export consumer goods zone.

Covering 20,000 square metres, the CEEC zone features over 400 exhibitors showcasing more than 8,000 unique products, including Czech beer, Slovenian honey, Hungarian down products, and Slovenian ski gear.

Meanwhile, the export consumer goods zone features over 1,000 Chinese enterprises presenting high-quality offerings such as

consumer goods and smart technologies, giving global buyers an immersive technological showcase. A highlight of the Expo is the “Digital and Intelligent CEEC” show, where nearly 100 cutting-edge technologies and products from China and CEECs present a visual feast for visitors.

During the Expo, a number of events such as business matching activities and intergovernmental exchange activities will be staged. Besides, conferences such as the China-CEEC Joint Chamber of Commerce Meeting and the 7th China-CEEC Dialogue on Customs, Inspection and Quarantine Cooperation will be held to deepen the alignment of rules. Another side event, the 2025 China-CEEC Mayors Forum, focuses on shaping a new paradigm of urban governance, and the China-Central and Eastern Europe International Regatta will set sail for promoting people-to-people exchanges. In addition, interactive activities such as the “Hi-Go” CEEC Product Shopping Festival will be held in an online-offline hybrid

form, and exclusive consumption vouchers of 1.5 million yuan (about \$208,560) will be issued to allow consumers to share the dividend of opening up.

This year, Slovenia and Slovakia serve as the Guests of Honor. In addition to full participation from all 14 CEECs, exhibitors from nine other countries—including the UK, France and Germany—are attending the Expo for the first time.

Moreover, international organisations such as the World Bank, international business associations and chambers of commerce such as the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, and world-renowned enterprises such as Sanofi, Novartis, and Morgan Stanley have been invited to attend the event.

Looking ahead, the Expo aims to unlock greater potential and expand the scope of cooperation. By promoting a regularised mechanism for exchanges and collaboration, it seeks to capitalise on new opportunities in industrial transformation and investment.

YUNUS WON'T QUIT

Bangladesh Advisory Council holds meeting

DHAKA: Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh’s interim government, will not resign, nor is he leaving the country amid political unrest.

Quashing all such rumours, an unscheduled meeting of the Advisory Council was held yesterday, after the National Economic Council meeting. The meeting discussed the three primary responsibilities—elections, reforms, and justice—assigned to the interim government.

“The interim government will listen to the statements of political parties in this regard and clarify the government’s position,” the Advisory Council said in a statement after the meeting.

The meeting was held at the Planning Commission in the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area of the capital under the chairmanship of Chief Advisor Professor Muhammad Yunus.

The meeting discussed in detail how the normal working environment is being disrupted and doubts and suspicions are being created in the public mind by making various unreasonable demands, motivated and extra-judicial statements and programs in the discharge of these responsibilities, the statement said.

“The Advisory Council believes that greater unity is needed to keep the country stable, advance the election, justice and reform work and permanently prevent the arrival of dictatorship in this country,” it added.

The statement said that the interim government will listen to the statements of political parties in this regard and clarify the government’s position.

“Despite hundreds of obstacles, the interim government is fulfilling its responsibilities, ignoring group interests. If the government is made unable to fulfill its responsibilities due to the influence of defeated forces and as part of a foreign conspiracy, the government will raise all the reasons in public and take the next decision”, the statement said.

Amid ongoing political unrest



and the interim government’s failure to announce a clear roadmap for the next parliamentary elections, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman has expressed desire that national elections should be held by December this year, local media reported on Thursday.

“Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman believes that national elections should be held by December. Regarding the elections, he said that his position on the matter is the same as before. An elected government has the right to determine the future course of the country”, the daily Prothom Alo reported.

The Army Chief mentioned some other issues in his officers’ address at the army premises of Dhaka Cantonment on Wednesday. Officers of various levels of the army stationed in Dhaka participated in it, and many other officers joined virtually, the report said.

Several political parties, including Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), have been demanding parliamentary elections by December.

However, the National Citizens Party (NCP), a new party led by students who led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, wants fundamental reforms before

the elections.

The interim government, led Muhammad Yunus, is allegedly supporting the NCP. The BNP activists have taken up a protest in front of Jamuna, the residence of the Chief Adviser, in Dhaka, demanding the removal of two student advisers from the interim government’s cabinet.

General Waqar-uz-Zaman also spoke about the discussions on the humanitarian corridor in Myanmar’s Rakhine State. Responding to a question on the issue, he said, “The decision on the humanitarian corridor in Rakhine State must come from an elected government and it must be taken following a legitimate process. National interest must be considered here”, the report said.

General Waqar-uz-Zaman also gave a strong message against “mob violence” or organised chaos or attacks by unruly crowds. He said that the army is now taking a stricter stance on the law and order situation. Chaos or violence in the name of organised crowds will no longer be tolerated, the report said.

Sheikh Hasina was ousted as Prime Minister in a student-led uprising in August last year. Hasina fled to India and an interim government led by Muhammad Yunus was formed. **ANI**

HEALTH EXPERTS

No COVID-19 surge, only sporadic cases reported in India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government issued an advisory on COVID-19 and asked for necessary preparedness, but there is no cause for concern after 23 COVID-19 positive cases were reported. However, according to the experts, the situation is under control.

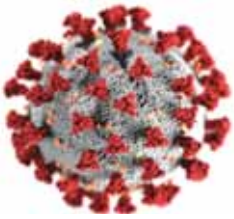
Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, Senior Consultant in Internal Medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said on Friday, "At the moment, the situation is under control. There are, at most, sporadic cases, which are also rare. Even the present cases are being managed very easily."

"They are not being hospitalised. This is what we were expecting: that when COVID happened, it would remain a seasonal flu which could be treated very easily. The situation is not one of panic..." He further said.

"We haven't seen any hospitalised or ICU Covid-19 cases in the hospital. Only hype has been created, but there is no need to panic," he said.

Additionally, Dr Dhiren Gupta, Co-Director, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, Sir Gangaram Hospital explained, "We have come to know that COVID is increasing, especially in Southeast Asia. But many patients are coming with body aches, nonspecific, fever, cold, so off late, we may start testing. But presently, you know that screening is being done with 257 cases testing positive. I think this is just the tip of the iceberg. There must be many cases."

"I think it's been 2022 onward. We have never seen major problem in any age group, except for those less than one year old. When Omicron started, it created a little bit of a problem in babies less than one year old, not beyond that," he said.



Given the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in various parts of the country, the Delhi government has issued an advisory directing all hospitals to ensure preparedness for the availability of beds, oxygen, and medicines.

According to the Office of the Health Minister of the Delhi government, the Health Department of Delhi has released a precautionary advisory stating that this was for routine surveillance and there is no cause for concern. The health department assured that they are committed to monitoring the situation.

The advisory urged all health institutions to send positive samples for genome sequencing to Lok Nayak Hospital to facilitate early detection of any new variants.

"In view of the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, it is reiterated that all medical directors, medical superintendents, administrators of all government and private hospitals should ensure hospital preparedness."

It also said that all the equipment, such as ventilators, BiPAP, oxygen concentrators, psa et, etc., must be in functional condition and refresher training of dedicated staff must be conducted. The advisory said that Influenza-like illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases in all health facilities (OPD/IPD) must be reported daily on the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) portal. — ANI

‘Aid going into Gaza Strip now is a needle in haystack’



A meaningful and uninterrupted flow of aid is the only way to prevent the current disaster from spiralling further. The least needed is 500-600 trucks every day managed through the UN, including UNRWA, Commissioner-General said

GAZA: The aid entering the Gaza Strip now is a needle in a haystack, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said.

"No one should be surprised, let alone shocked, at scenes of precious aid looted, stolen or 'lost'."

The people of Gaza have been starved and deprived of the basics, including water and medicines, for more than 11 weeks.

Mothers and fathers have run out of food for their children. Older people died because of lack of medicines. The aid going in now is a needle in a haystack," Lazzarini posted on X, at a time when Israel has been fully closing Gaza crossings since March 2.

He stressed that "a meaningful and uninterrupted flow of aid is the only way to prevent the current disaster from spiralling further."

He pointed out that "the least needed is 500-600 trucks every day managed through the UN, including UNRWA."



The supplies got stuck at distribution points because of a lack of security clearance. Martin Frick, the head of the World Food Program (WFP) Global Office for Germany, told DW that it had been able to distribute the first lot of humanitarian aid. "That is a small glimmer of hope, but far too little in view of the need. Hundreds of trucks would be needed each day. They are ready behind the border," he said.

Trucks of aid queue in the buffer zone

A huge buffer zone has been created behind the border. For weeks, the WFP has had more than 116,000 tons of food assistance ready at different aid corridors in Egypt, Jordan and Israel — enough to supply one million people for around four months. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), there are also almost 3,000 fully loaded aid trucks ready to go.

However, movement to the distribution points is slow. At Kerem Shalom, the only border crossing into Gaza that is currently open, all supplies have to be loaded onto other trucks. The convoys then

wait at an assembly point until the supplies and the planned route get the green light from the Israeli military. The go-ahead can also be revoked at any time, meaning they have to wait again. Thus, pallets of flour and baby food pile up, while the soup kitchens have nothing to cook or distribute.

Who is responsible for distributing aid?

UNRWA plays a major role in Gaza. It manages the emergency shelters, and it has filled 3,000 trucks with aid. The WFP, meanwhile, procures flour, organizes convoys and operates 25 bakeries, which it had to close at the end of March due to a lack of fuel. Some of them resumed their work on May 22. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) contribute special food, vaccines and surgical instruments and equipment. They are supported by the Egyptian, Jordanian, Qatari, Emirati and Turkish Red Crescent societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and dozens of international NGOs, such as Islamic Relief.

Bilateral aid supplies from EU members or the US are subjected

to the same inspections by the Israeli military and thus also likely to be delayed before entering Gaza.

The Israeli government has said it plans to work with private US security and logistics firms to set up what it calls "secure hubs" to help agencies distribute humanitarian aid supplies to Palestinians in Gaza. The UN has criticised the plan, warning that it would set a dangerous precedent and arguing that it already had all the distribution networks in place, as well as the necessary experience.

Risk of famine in the coming weeks

Even before Israel's total blockade of humanitarian aid, more than two-thirds of Gaza's population were dependent on international aid. The past 11 weeks have only exacerbated an already dire situation. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 93% (1.95 million people) were classified as being in "crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)" between 1 April and 10 May. Of these, 12% (244,000 people) were in "IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe / Famine)" and 44% (925,000 people) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)." — Agencies

كاسابيللا

casabella

SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE

تخفيضات الصيف الكبرى

Enjoy Massive Discounts from

استمتع بخصومات هائلة

20% إلى 80%

On a Wide Range of Products!

على مجموعة واسعة من المنتجات

Valid from April 20th to June 12th, 2025

يسري العرض من تاريخ: 20 ابريل حتى 12 يونيو 2025

@casabella.oman

@casabella.oman

@casabella_oman

SPORTS

Oman beat Canada in rain-affected tie for hat-trick of wins in League 2

Duleep Mendis' men rode on disciplined bowling to win by 18 runs on DLS method in Lauderhill, USA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman continued their impressive form in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 with their third consecutive victory, defeating Canada by 18 runs via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method at the Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium in Lauderhill, USA, on Friday.

The result not only reinforced Oman's growing momentum but also helped them solidify third place in the standings with 24 points from 19 matches — level with the second-placed USA but trailing on net run rate, while the Americans still have a game in hand.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Canada struggled to build momentum against a disciplined Omani bowling attack and were bowled out for 212 in 48.4 overs.

Captain Navneet Dhaliwal anchored the innings with a patient 73 off 120 balls, while Mansab Gill chipped in with a solid 59 from 65 deliveries.

Oman's bowlers shared the spoils, with Shakeel Ahmed impressing with 2 for 21 in his nine overs.

Mujibur Ali also picked up two key wickets, while Mohammad Nadeem struck twice in the death overs to prevent any late surge. Canada lost their last three wickets for just one run, slipping from 211 to 212 all out.

In response, Oman looked composed in the chase, reaching 108



for 3 in 23.1 overs before heavy rain forced a premature end to the game. At that stage, they were ahead of the DLS par score (91), securing an 18-run victory.

Top scorer Hammad Mirza struck 31 off 33 balls, including five boundaries, while skipper and previous match centurion Jatinder Singh added 27.

Mujibur Ali remained unbeaten on 23, playing a steady hand in the middle. Debutant Aryan Bisht was unbeaten on 11 when match was called off.

This marked Oman's second win over Canada this week, having already beaten them by 15 runs on Monday. Mendis' men will play hosts USA in the concluding match of the tri-series on May 27.

League standings heat up
The result leaves Oman on 24 points (W11, L6, NR2) from 19 matches — tied on points with the

second-placed USA, who have a superior net run rate (+0.731) and a game in hand. Oman have a NRR of +0.065.

The Netherlands lead the table with 26 points from 20 games. Scotland are fourth with 20 points (W9, L5, NR2) from 16 matches while Canada remain fifth with 20 points (W9, L8, NR2) from 19 outings.

The top four teams in League 2 will qualify directly for the 10-team ICC World Cup Qualifier, with the remaining four having to compete in the Cricket World Cup Qualifier playoff.

Brief scores: Canada 212 all out in 48.4 overs (Navneet Dhaliwal 73, Mansab Gill 59; Shakeel Ahmed 2/21, Mujibur Ali 2/35, Mohammad Nadeem 2/9 lost to Oman 108/3 in 23.1 overs -D/L target: 91 runs from 23.1 overs (Hammad Mirza 31, Jatinder Singh 27, Mujibur Ali 23*).

Welcome to the Kia Family
With an exclusive Welcome Bonus & Much More this summer



Welcome Bonus*
of RO 500/-
on all models

Welcome Bonus*
of RO 3000/-
only on EVs

Service®
50,000 Kms to
100,000 Kms

Insurance &
Registration##

• Win iPhone 15
256GB in raffle**
(5 Nos)

This summer, Kia welcomes you to their family with an exciting bouquet of Welcome Benefits. Visit Kia showrooms to know more. Scheme Period: 18th May 2025 to 16th July 2025
Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579846/47; Al Mawelah: 93204360; Barka: 93201347; Nizwa: 99874368; Sohar: 92837722; Sur: 25546190/98235042; Rustaq: 92869449; Salalah: 23211460/99884217. Saturday Showroom Timing: Muscat, Al Mawelah, Barka, Sohar & Salalah from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM

* Welcome Bonus amount can be adjusted in the deal as a part of down payment. This Welcome Bonus is in addition to the normal Cash Gift offer applicable on the models. Welcome Bonus of RO. 500/- is applicable on all models & a Welcome Bonus of RO. 3000/- is applicable only on EV Models. ** Total applicable Service benefit will be from 5 Years/50,000km to 10 years/100,000Kms whichever is earlier. 50,000Kms/ 5 years' Service, On K3, K8 stocks of (24MY), Picanto, Pegas, K3, K5 PE, Sorent, Seltos, Sportage RVC, Sorento PE, Telluride, Carens, Carnival stocks of (25MY), K4, K5 PE, Seltos, Carnival stocks of (26MY), K4, K5 PE, Seltos, Carnival stocks of (25MY), K4, K5 PE, Seltos, Carnival stocks of (26MY). The Service Benefit applicable on EV vehicles is 105000 kms / 7 years whichever is earlier. #1 year insurance & 1 year registration (as applicable) would be given on all models except Picanto, Pegas, Sportage RVC, (25MY) & Carnival (26MY). For models where Insurance is offered as a benefit, additional cash gift can be offered to customer in lieu of Insurance, if opted. ** iPhone 15 (256GB) - 5 Nos. Winnings are through Raffle coupons on all models. Raffle coupons to customers will be provided only after the finalization & approval of their standard deal by their FC companies/Banks. Raffle Date : 05/08/25 at the end of campaign. Subject to full payment of purchased car. The handover of the Raffle prize will be done after 10th Aug 2025 upon completion of all legal & financial documents towards purchase of new vehicle such as formal delivery note & invoice and new vehicle ROP registration. All the above benefits are not applicable on Ministry, Bulk fleet, Corporate & RAC deals. Scheme Period: 18/05/2025 to 16/07/2025 Vehicles may also include some Dealer Installed Accessories. Pictures & Colors are indicative. For further details, please visit your nearest Kia showroom.

FINANCING SUPPORT
Bank Nizwa has announced its participation in a syndicated financing agreement supporting the development of Oman's largest integrated copper concentrate project, led by Mazoon Mining—a subsidiary of Minerals Development Oman.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX RECORDS NEW GAINS
The Muscat Stock Exchange's main index posted new gains in the week, approaching the 4,500-point level, rising for the fourth consecutive week, benefiting from increased liquidity, increased purchases by local investment institutions, and improvements in most local and global economic indicators.

Oman's non-oil exports rise by 8.6% to OMR1.61 billion

This increase reflects the efforts made to develop Oman's non-oil exports, encourage Omani industries, provide numerous facilities to attract foreign investment and localise projects

MUSCAT: Oman's non-oil exports rose by 8.6 percent to OMR 1.618 billion in the first quarter of this year compared to OMR 1.49 billion during the same period last year. This increase reflects the efforts made to develop Oman's non-oil exports, encourage Omani industries, provide numerous facilities to attract foreign investment, localise projects, and provide numerous incentives to the private sector. This increase is also in line



with Oman Vision 2040 and the Sultanate's efforts to diversify the economy, reduce dependence on oil, increase exports, develop the industrial and logistics sectors, achieve financial stability, and enhance the performance of productive sectors. Non-oil exports represent 28.6 percent of Oman's total exports, amounting to OMR5.659 billion. The list of Omani non-oil exports

includes numerous industrial products, metals, plastics and their products, machinery, mechanical devices, electrical equipment, and products from the chemical industry and related industries. The United Arab Emirates topped the list of countries importing non-oil Omani products, with the value of non-oil Omani goods exported to it in the first quarter of this year reaching OMR292 mil-

lion, representing 18 percent of the total Omani non-oil exports. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came in second place with OMR259 million, while the Republic of India came in third place with OMR172 million, while South Korea came in fourth place with OMR154 million, and the United States of America came in fifth place with OMR88 million. The first quarter of this year

witnessed a decline in Omani oil exports, coinciding with a decline in oil prices, falling to OMR3.69 billion compared to OMR4.39 billion in the first quarter of last year. The average price of Omani oil in the first quarter of this year reached \$75.3 per barrel, compared to \$79.7 per barrel in the first quarter of last year. The first quarter of this year also witnessed a decline in Omani

exports under the re-exports item, falling to OMR351 million compared to OMR434 million in the first quarter of last year. The United Arab Emirates topped the list of countries importing Omani products exported under the re-exports item with OMR126 million, accounting for 35.8 percent of the total. Iran came in second place with OMR63 million, while Kuwait came in third place with OMR24 million. Saudi Arabia came in fourth place with OMR22 million, while Germany came in fifth place with OMR10 million. The first quarter of this year witnessed an increase in recorded commodity imports, which rose to OMR4.312 billion, registering a growth of 10.9 percent compared to the first quarter of last year, which amounted to OMR3.889 billion. The United Arab Emirates topped the list of countries exporting to the Sultanate of Oman, with imports amounting to OMR995 million, representing 23 percent of the total recorded commodity imports in the first quarter of this year. Kuwait came in second with OMR466 million, followed by China in third place with OMR437 million, India in fourth place with OMR338 million and Saudi Arabia in fifth place with OMR306 million. - OMA

DATA



Oman's inflation increases by 0.9%

MUSCAT: Oman's inflation rose by 0.9 percent in April 2025 compared to the same month in 2024, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCISI). The data indicated that the prices of the personal goods and miscellaneous services group topped the list of increases, at 7 percent, followed by the health group at 3.2 percent, and then the transportation group at 3.1 percent. Prices of the restaurants and hotels group also rose by 1.5 percent, while prices of the clothing and footwear group rose by 0.6 percent, the culture and entertainment group rose by 0.3 percent, and the education group recorded a slight increase of 0.1 percent. In contrast, prices of the food and non-alcoholic beverages group decreased by 0.3 percent, and the furniture, household equipment, and maintenance group decreased by 0.1 percent. Meanwhile, prices of the housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels groups, the communications group, and the tobacco group remained stable with no significant change. In the food and non-alcoholic beverages group for April 2025, compared to the same month of the previous year, the prices of the food products group not classified under another item rose by 3.5 percent. The prices of the sugar, jam, honey, and sweets group rose also rose, along with the milk, cheese, and eggs group by 3.1 percent. The oils and fats group recorded a 1.1 percent increase, followed by the fruits group by 0.7 percent, and the meat group by a slight increase of 0.1 percent. While vegetable prices decreased by 6.1 percent, followed by fish and seafood by 3.0 percent, bread and cereals prices

The data indicated that the prices of the personal goods and miscellaneous services group topped the list of increases, at 7 percent, followed by the health group at 3.2 percent, and then the transportation group at 3.1 percent

decreased by 0.7 percent, and non-alcoholic beverages prices recorded a slight decline of 0.1 percent. The data showed that Al Dakhiliyah recorded the highest inflation among the Sultanate's governorates with an increase of 1.8 percent by the end of April 2025 compared to the same period in the previous year. Musandam Governorate came in next with an inflation of 1.5 percent, followed by Al Dhahirah and South Al Sharqiyah Governorates with 1.3 percent. Muscat, Al Buraimi, and Al Wusta Governorates recorded an inflation of 0.9 percent. Dhofar witnessed a 0.6 percent increase in the index, followed by North Al Batinah Governorate with 0.5 percent, and North Al Sharqiyah with 0.4 percent. In contrast, South Al Batinah Governorate witnessed a 0.1 percent decline in its inflation rate. - OMA

GLOBAL HUB FOR ENERGY LOGISTICS

Ras Markaz terminal exports 17 million metric tonnes of petroleum derivatives

MUSCAT: Oman Tank Terminal Company (OTTCO) has successfully handled 491 vessels through its Ras Markaz terminal in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) since its launch in 2023 until the end of April 2025. OTTCO imported more than 950 million barrels of crude oil and exported nearly 17 million metric tonnes of petroleum products. Engineer Salem bin Marhoon Al Hashmi, CEO of OTTCO, emphasised the Sultanate of Oman's readiness to become a global hub for energy logistics. These achievements are the result of the company's commitment to the highest standards of safety and operational excellence, which reinforces its role as a key hub in ensuring energy security for the Sultanate of Oman and regional and international markets, based on its strategic location that connects the Sultanate of Oman to maritime shipping lines in the Indian Ocean, reaching markets in Asia, Africa, and Europe. In a statement to the Oman News Agency, he said that the current storage services meet the needs of the local market, which is driving the focus on growth in global storage operations. He explained that the company signed a strategic agreement with the Dutch company Vopak, one of the world's leading companies in the field of storage, to transform



Duqm into a global centre for attracting storage operations. This is in line with the OQ Group's plan to establish a company specialising in the storage and handling of particles. He added that this partnership contributes to connecting the company to global markets, localising international best practices, enhancing the capabilities of Omani talent in the energy logistics sector, and strengthening the company's sustainability identity by supporting ammonia and green hydrogen storage and handling projects, in line with the global trend toward clean energy. He pointed out that the company's operations focus on the transition to clean energy, particularly in the areas of green ammonia



storage and export. Several preliminary studies have been completed to establish an advanced infrastructure for storing, handling, and exporting green ammonia. The company is also working to develop a shared smart infrastructure for storage services and establish global partnerships that will enable the exchange of expertise and enhance development efforts, in line with the Sultanate of Oman's vision to become a leading regional hub for clean energy exports. The Ras Markaz terminal currently serves the Duqm Refinery via an 80-kilometre pipeline, transporting crude oil from Ras Markaz to the refinery. The oil storage facilities include eight large oil storage tanks, floating

platforms for importing and exporting oil, seven kilometres of subsea pipelines for receiving and exporting oil, and a station for pumping oil into the tanks. In addition, the terminal houses control rooms, administrative offices, and other facilities related to security and safety equipment. The technical specifications of the terminal enable it to blend different types of crude oil and load and unload ships in record times. The terminal aims to store all types of crude oil in large quantities outside the Strait of Hormuz, allowing international companies to store their oil at the terminal for any period. The terminal covers an area of 40 square kilometres and can store approximately 200 million barrels of oil. - OMA

REPORT

Credit granted by Oman's banking sector rises 8.5% to OMR33.4 billion

MUSCAT: Total credit granted by the banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 8.5 percent to OMR33.4 billion by the end of March 2025. A report issued by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) indicated that credit granted to the private sector grew by 6.9 percent, reaching OMR27.7 billion by the end of March. The data indicated that the non-financial corporate sector accounted for the largest share of credit granted to the private sector, at 46.5 percent, followed by the individual sector at 44 percent. The remaining share was distributed between the financial corporate sector at 5.8 percent and other sectors at 3.7 percent.



Total deposits in the banking sector grew by 6.7 percent to OMR32.3 billion by the end of March. Within this total, private sector deposits in the banking system rose by 5.9 percent to OMR21.3 billion.

The total private sector deposit base was distributed across various sectors, with the individual sector accounting for the largest share, representing 50.7 percent, followed by the non-financial corporate sector and the financial corporate

sector, with shares of 30.5 percent and 16.5 percent, respectively. The remaining 2.3 percent was distributed across other sectors. Meanwhile, total deposits at conventional commercial banks increased by 3.6 percent to reach OMR25.3 billion by the end of March 2025. Total government deposits with commercial banks rose by 4.9 percent to approximately OMR5.4 billion, while deposits with public sector institutions decreased by 5.9 percent to approximately OMR 2.4 billion. Private sector deposits increased by 3.8 percent to OMR16.7 billion in March 2025, representing 65.8 percent of total deposits at conventional commercial banks. - OMA

MARKET

MSX records new gains in weekly trading

Sectoral indices also registered notable gains, with the industrial sector index rising 203 points to 6,200 points



MUSCAT: The Muscat Stock Exchange's main index posted new gains in the week, approaching the 4,500-point level, rising for the fourth consecutive week, benefiting from increased liquidity, increased purchases by local investment institutions, and improvements in most local and global economic indicators.

The main index rose 87 points last week, closing at 4,497 points, its best level since February 11. Sectoral indices also registered notable gains, with the industrial sector index rising 203 points to 6,200 points. The financial sector index rose 161 points, while the services sector index climbed to 1,588 points, recording a weekly increase of 23 points. The Sharia index rose by about 15 points, closing the week at 427 points.

During the week, the Muscat Stock Exchange benefited from the buying interest of local investment institutions, who accounted for 63.4 percent of the total trading value, compared to 54.9 percent of sales. This interest pushed trading value up to OMR41.2 million, compared to OMR25 million the week before. Number of deals executed rose from 6,348 to 9,369, registering a 47 percent increase.

OQ Basic Industries topped the most traded companies in terms of trading value, with transactions worth OMR8.6 million, ac-

counting for 20.9 percent of the total trading value. Bank Muscat came in second with transactions worth OMR5.6 million, while OQ Exploration and Production came in third with transactions worth OMR5.4 million, representing 13.1 percent of the total trading value.

During the week, the prices of 49 securities rose, while prices of 17 securities declined, and 15 securities remained stable. These increases led to a rise in the market value of securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange by the end of the week to OMR277.735 billion, recording weekly gains of OMR75.2 million.

Al Maha Ceramics recorded the highest increase, closing at 269 baisas, up 26.2 percent. International Financial Investments Holding Company's share rose by 14.4 percent, closing at 95 baisas. Al Jazeera Services' share rose to 187 baisas, recording an increase of 11.3 percent.

Salalah Mills topped the losers, falling 11.6 percent to close at 448 baisas. Muscat City Desalination Company's share price fell to 66 baisas, recording a 7 percent decline, while Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company's share price fell to 950 baisas, a 5 percent decline.

In corporate news, Al Maha Pe-

MSX rally continues fuelled by domestic confidence

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market registered its fourth consecutive week of gains, continuing a rebound that has erased nearly half of the downward correction experienced since October of the previous year, according to an industry watcher.

"While regional markets faced pressure from US developments and potential Opec+ oil production increases in July, the Omani market remained resilient, underscoring its focus on domestic drivers this week," said Mahfoodh Al Wahaibi, Coach and analyst in global financial markets.

"In this regard, OQ Exploration and Production announced an extension of its Term Agreement for Block 53 (Mukhaizna) to 2050. This amended Production Sharing Agreement is expected to deliver significant value to



the company and contribute substantially to Oman's Vision 2040," said Mahfoodh Al Wahaibi. "The extension entails an increased investment of OMR 11.5 billion during its period, poised to bolster Oman's economic growth, improve the company's financial conditions, enhance the investment sector's appeal, and consolidate Oman's status as an energy hub," he further added.

During the week, Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest) announced its inclusion in the MSCI GCC Standard Indices effective May 30, 2025, according to the company's semi-annual review. MSCI is one of the world's leading providers of equity indices and decision-making support tools used by institutional investors worldwide, and inclusion in its indices is based on several criteria related to market value, liquidity, and investor accessibility. - ONA

SYNDICATED FINANCING AGREEMENT



Bank Nizwa extends strategic financing to Oman's largest integrated copper concentrate project

MUSCAT: Bank Nizwa has announced its participation in a syndicated financing agreement supporting the development of Oman's largest integrated copper concentrate project, led by Mazoon Mining – a subsidiary of Minerals Development Oman.

Bank Nizwa's contribution of \$35 million, to the total syndicated financing of \$270 million, reinforces the bank's commitment to support transformative national projects through Sharia-compliant financing.

Formalized during the prestigious Rawabit Forum, hosted by the Oman Investment Authority, the agreement underlines the bank's strong confidence in Oman's mining sector as a driver of sustainable growth for the nation and its broader objective in continued promotion of Sharia-compliant investments contributing to Oman Vision 2040.

Commenting on the bank's involvement, Saif Al Rawahi, Acting DGM – Wholesale Banking at Bank Nizwa, stated, "Our participation in this pivotal financing agreement is a reflection of our strategic intent to be at the

forefront of Oman's economic transformation. At Bank Nizwa, we view mining as a vital industry in Oman's diversification agenda, offering scalable investment opportunities with strong value multipliers across the national economy. Our financing of this project illustrates our dedication to providing Islamic banking solutions that facilitate industrial growth while upholding principles of sustainability and transparency. This initiative also underscores our outlook on Oman's emergence as a competitive player in the global minerals market, particularly in sectors propelled by clean energy transition and technological advancement. As a pioneering Islamic financial institution, we continue to structure forward-looking financing solutions that align with national priorities and elevate the nation's position within the global economic landscape."

Bank Nizwa's participation in this landmark transaction underscores its growing reputation as a trusted partner for transformative, high-impact initiatives across priority sectors.

ANNIVERSARY

SADAD International celebrates 2 years of excellence in debt collection

MUSCAT: SADAD International, one of the fastest-growing and most trusted debt collection firms in the GCC region, announced the celebration of its second anniversary. This milestone marks a significant chapter in the company's journey of providing efficient, ethical, and technology-driven debt recovery services across Oman, UAE, KSA, and Bahrain. In just two years, SADAD International has grown into a symbol of reliability and professionalism in the credit management and collections landscape.

Empowering businesses through financial recovery
SADAD International was established with a clear and purposeful mission – to help businesses maintain a healthy cash flow by recovering debts in a manner that preserves business relationships and adheres to the highest legal and ethical standards.

The company operates with the understanding that cash flow is the lifeline of any business. When debts remain unpaid, the financial stability of enterprises is compromised. SADAD steps in as a strategic partner, acting not merely as a collector, but as a financial recovery consultant, helping clients regain control of their receivables while allowing them to focus on core operations.

ISO 9001:2015 certified – Testament to quality
In a remarkable achievement that distinguishes it from many others in the industry, SADAD International is ISO 9001:2015 certified, underscoring its commitment to quality, consistency, and continual improvement. This certification affirms that the company's processes – from client onboarding to final recovery – meet global standards and are regularly audited for compliance and performance.

"Achieving ISO 9001:2015 certification is not just a badge of honor. It reflects the culture of excellence that defines everything we do at SADAD," said Tom Cyriac, COO of SADAD International. "We believe that quality is not by



chance but it is an organisational philosophy."

Comprehensive debt collection solutions

SADAD International offers a wide range of professional services tailored to meet the needs of a diverse client base, including SMEs, large corporations, and semi-government and government entities. Services include:

Domestic and International Debt Collection: Utilizing local expertise and global reach through a partner network in USA, UK, Europe, India, Pakistan and key regions in Asia.

Legal Collections: Collaborating with top legal firms to pursue collections through judicial channels when needed.

Credit Evaluation Services: Helping clients assess the creditworthiness of potential customers before extending credit.

Call Center & Recovery Agents: A state-of-the-art call center and field team trained in Consumer Protection Regulations, ethical negotiation, persuasion, and legal compliance.

Debt Collection Training & Consultancy: Educating client teams on how to manage receivables and reduce bad debt risks.

Recovery Software Solutions: Offering access to cutting-edge debt recovery software that provides real-time dashboards and status updates.

Several unique selling propositions (USPs) differentiate SADAD International in the market:

Multilingual Expertise: The team is fluent in Arabic, English, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam, and oth-

er regional languages – enabling a culturally intelligent approach to collections.

Local Knowledge, Global Reach: With operational bases in the GCC and strategic partnerships abroad, SADAD can recover debts across borders.

Ethical Collection Practices: The company abides by a strict code of conduct, focusing on respect, transparency, and compliance with all applicable laws.

Customized Recovery Plans: Each client's case is reviewed individually to design a tailored strategy, ensuring a higher success rate.

Client-Centric Reporting: Clients have access to real-time dashboards, detailed reporting, and regular updates through dedicated account managers.

Performance-Based Fees: SADAD operates primarily on a "No Recovery, No Fee" model – aligning their success with their clients' success.

In its short span of operations, SADAD International has achieved several significant milestones:

- Recovered millions in unpaid receivables across 4 countries
- Established operations in Oman, UAE, KSA, and Bahrain
- Launched a proprietary recovery and reporting system
- Awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification within the first year of operations

At the core of SADAD's success lies its team – a diverse, dedicated group of professionals who bring rich experience, and a solutions-driven mindset. The team believes in the core values of integrity, ownership, passion and excellence.

Elevate Your Business and Events with Us!



EVENT MANAGEMENT

- Corporate Events
- Weddings & Celebrations
- Product Launches
- and more

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

- Custom Website Design
- E-commerce Solutions
- User-Friendly Interfaces

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLING

- Strategy & Campaign Management
- Creative Content Creation
- Analytics & Performance Insights
- 24/7 Online Presence

BRANDING

- Logo & Visual Identity Design
- Marketing Collaterals
- Brand Strategy Development
- Consistent Brand Messaging

The New 4th Dimension LLC
Po Box 86, Postal code 115
Sultanate of Oman

+968 92839679 +968 99321290





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

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email to classifieds @ timesofoman.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY

RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email: classifieds@timesofoman.com

REEFER / ISO DRY CONTAINER SALES, MODIFICATIONS & RENTALS

OFFICE, WORKSHOPS, PLANT ROOMS, TRAINING FACILITIES, TOILETS, ACCOMODATION & ANY CUSTOM BUILT CONTAINER

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



For High Impact Professional | Oman Web Award Winner

WEBSITES GULFCYBERTECH E-Solutions

Designing & Maintenance
E-Commerce Solns.
Domain & Hosting
Mobile Applications
Email Ads & Promotions

Tel: 99818819 Email: 24130929 info@gulfcybertech.com
www.gulfcybertech.com

WJ Towell Group Company



- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9679 0594 9679 0684 | Sohar 9731 6218 9429 9325 | Salalah

www.orbit-oman.com



JOB WANTED

GENERAL MANAGER

Dynamic professional with 16+ years of progressive experience in Financial Strategy, Business Consulting, Operational Excellence, and Growth Leadership across Civil Construction, RMC Production, and MNCs. Open to strategic senior management opportunities.

Contact: 97403883 / 92022786.
Email: gm_seekers.2025@gmail.com

Engineer

Engineering graduate with over 5 years of experience as a consultant, skilled in SAP Material Management, Warehouse Management, and Procurement, seeking IT job opportunities. Open to transitioning to new domains.

Contact: abhin4nd@gmail.com / +968 95997016

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Experienced **CHEF/COOK** (Arabic & Indian Dishes) for a reputed family in Muscat.

Contact: 99735820

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Well established company in Muscat, seeks a qualified and experienced **Business Manager**. Ideal candidate would be an engineer with 6-8 years of Oman/AGCC experience in industrial equipment and project sales with consistent revenue generation above 1 million USD per annum. A very high level of proficiency in English with DL is a must. Tech-savvy individuals with ability to join in 2 months only need to apply to m.oman@mis-intl.co

FOR RENT

RENT

Semi furnished office space for rent in Bank Melli Iran Building, MBD Area, Ruwi, Opposite Center Point.

GSM 99011352

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

Indian Male MBA (Finance) having 5 yrs Exp. in Accounts, Finance, Admin upto finalization, well versed with software's, ERP, Tally, Microsoft Dynamics, with Oman D/L. Available in oman. Looking for suitable position.

GSM +968 78647611/95171197
Email: shaikmansoor782@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (29), with 5 yrs experience at Amazon and InsertV, holds a Master's from Canada, valid Oman D/L & 2yrs visa. Seeking roles in HR, admin, sales co-ordinator, accounting or management.

Contact: 98234945

RENT

Commercial Plot for Rent - Ideal for Garage / Workshop / Warehouse.

27m x 16m (450 sqm).

Location: Mabella Sannaya, Road No. 4, Street No. 7720.

Interested parties, please contact: 94750700 / 79659160 / 97231815

ENGINEER

Omani Offshore Onshore senior field engineer well integrity and well interventions, 14 yrs experiences in oil and gas global, IWCF certificate, Bachelor Degree mechanical engineering).

Contact: 92518399
Email: murshid9493@hotmail.com

PROJECT ASSISTANT

Female, well-versed in Project Administration with 13 years of proven experience in training, recruitment, administration, finance, and secretarial support. As an Executive MBA holder, I can contribute effectively to your organizational goals and looking forward to an interview call and the opportunity.

Contact: 98260708 | meena.v24@gmail.com

MANAGER

HR manager 15 yrs experience in the Gulf looking for a suitable position. NOC available, valid D/L. Qualification: MBA in HR & Certifications. Available to join immediately.

Contact: 95323264
Email: deep.vg9@gmail.com

SALES/ MARKETING

Indian male, Masters in International business, with 19 yrs of experience in sales, marketing & administration. Field of interest insurance. Currently residing in Muscat and looking for suitable positions.

Contact: 76381960
Email: ragunath.avalon@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Planning Engineer, Project Manager with minimum 10 years experience in Oman for a reputed construction company. Project manager candidates with driving license are preferable.

Interested candidates can send cv's to hr@oasisgrace.com. contact/ whatsapp: 00968-99881459.

SERVICE

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

Pest control, Contact: 92326955 Gulfa international LLC.

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Estimation Engineer: Indian, Btech Mechanical Engineering holder having 12 years of experience in Oman as Estimation Engineer. Holding Oman driving licence and can join immediately.

Mobile: 95945230
Mail id: mearung@gmail.com

IT Professional

Experienced IT Professional (Indian) with 15+ yrs in IT service delivery, cloud, system administration, project management. Certified ITIL®, Prince2®, Available in Oman.

Contact: +968 76312054
Email: hadizeni123@gmail.com

MEP PROJECT MANAGER

Seeking for a job opportunity with solid background in MEP Project management with 21 years of professional experience in managing MEP projects across GCC (Bahrain, Saudi, Oman).

Contact number: +968 76861551,
E-mail: karthi.engr2004@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

FMCG Business Manager with exceptional sales management skills. Qualified Marketer. 10+ years of FMCG sales & business management. MNC experience in Oman. NOC/DL available.

Email: oswaldrsilva@yahoo.com, Contact: 96223114

SALE

LAND FOR SALE

- Residential Plot in Bidiyah- Wilayat of Sharqiyah- Area: - 96,847m².
- Three Farms located at Bidiyah – Wilayat of Sharqiyah;
 - Area: - 15751m² (Villa inside)
 - Area: - 45000m², (with well & Tourism permit)
 - Area: - 22619m².
- Residential/Commercial Land with an area of 2934 m² in Ghala Heights.
- Four Industrial plots in Duqum, Total Area: - 30,000m² (Near Free Zone).
- Five Agricultural Plots in Barka; Total Area: - 84,000m², each plot with well.

Contact: 92822040, 97365922, Email:- info@alsakhaya.com



CARGO AND LOGISTIC

PROMOTE YOUR SERVICE WITH US

Send email to classified@timesofoman.com or Call: 24 72 66 66 (Ext: 815 / 462 / 354)

Email: dailyguide@timesofoman.com
classifieds@timesofoman.com
Tel: 24726666
Ext: 815 / 462 / 354

CONNECT

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant with 16 year exp, worked in OMAN & UAE available with NOC / DL - Contact: 92194086 [Indian].

Sri Lankan accountant having 7 yrs of experience available for immediate join. Contact:97092478

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

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

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

Senior Accountant ACCA , CA Inter, MS finance. 12 yrs Gulf experience.Ready to join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 77258382

Indian male, Accountant, M.com (finance), 12 yrs experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently & D/L available. Contact: 99859141

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

Indian male, Accountant, 9yrs experience of accounts & finance, looking for job, available in Oman. Contact: +96894713034

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

Indian male MBA, 13 yrs experience looking for a job in Oman. Contact: 98311186. Email: veeramani.jagdish@gmail.com

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

Indian (M), excellent English, projects, corporate & marketing communications, purchase & secretarial experience. Contact: 99283938

Gulf experienced person looking job. Contact: 79809947

ARCHITECT

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

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD D/MAN

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

DRIVER

Looking for driving job. Contact: 97942847, 92968558

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

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

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job. Contact: +968 99532361

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

ENGINEER

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

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

Indian (M), 22 graduate mechanical engineer, fresher . Contact: 98070822, 91977187. Email: hariphenix465@gmail.com

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

B.E Electrical engineer 14 yrs exp (6yrs exp in Oman) with D/L. Contact: 77405954 Email:michaelmathu@gmail.com

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

Looking for job, Quantity surveyor (pre & post contracts) with experience of 12+ yrs. Contact: +968 91795965.

MANAGER

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

MISCELLENEOUS

Building caretaker, electrician & plumber with D/L. Contact 95870540

HOSPITALITY

Looking for a placement in QSR restaurant with relevant exp of 3 yrs. Contact: 92810566

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

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

MEDICAL

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

PROCUREMENT/ PURCHASE

Highly skilled Senior purchase executive with 17+ yrs experience in Oman, specializing in MEP procurement, office appliances, FM service equipment, hospital. Ability to lead team seek placement. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 93662030

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

15 yrs exp in sales, mktg, hosp, acct's & purchase. Seeks suitable placement. Contact: 78871239

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

Sales and marketing manager is available for immediate induction. Indian, having DL and NOC. Experienced in various products such as Industrial, retail, wholesale, hypermarkets, chemicals, foodstuff, manufacturing, agricultural items, etc. Contact: 78501743.

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

Indian young MBA with Canadian passport & experience of 12 yrs in digital marketing in Gulf seeks placement. Contact: 91391343

Indian male (29 yrs) - 2 yrs experience as Sales consultant, 4 yrs and 10 mts as Sr. Trainer in retail. Looking for suitable placement and currently in Oman. Contact: 94559796.

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Send email to classifieds@timesofoman.com

Let Your Brand Grow

with our Creative Services

NEXUS NOVEL ADVERTISING

LOGO DESIGN

CREATIVE CAMPAIGNS

BRANDINGS

PACKAGING

PRINT COLLATERALS

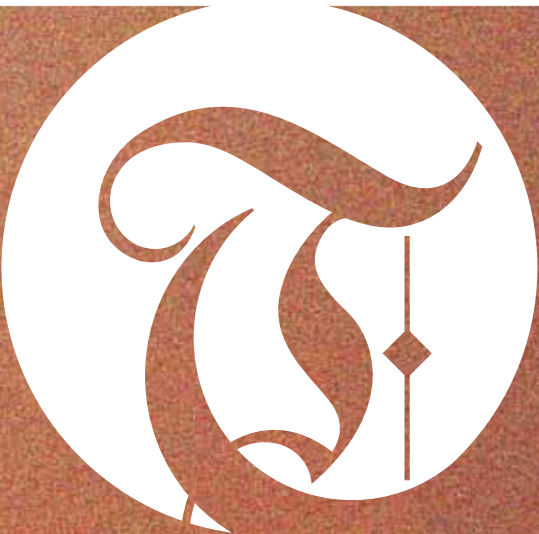
99440826

media@nexusnovel.com

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

RENT OR SALE?

Send email to [classifieds@ timesofoman.com](mailto:classifieds@timesofoman.com)



LIFESTYLE

COASTLINES IN DANGER
EVEN IF CLIMATE TARGET
MET, SCIENTISTS WARN

Nearly 200 countries have pledged to try to keep the planet’s warming to 1.5C, but the researchers warn that this should not be considered “safe” for coastal populations

The world could see hugely damaging sea-level rise of several metres or more over the coming centuries even if the ambitious target of limiting global warming to 1.5C is met, scientists have warned.

Nearly 200 countries have pledged to try to keep the planet’s warming to 1.5C, but the researchers warn that this should not be considered “safe” for coastal populations.

They drew their conclusion after reviewing the most recent studies of how the ice sheets are changing - and how they have changed in the past, BBC news reported.

But the scientists stress that every fraction of a degree of warming that can be avoided would still greatly limit the risks.

The world’s current trajectory puts the planet on course for nearly 3C of warming by the end of the century, compared with the late 1800s, before humans began burning large amounts of planet-heat-

ing fossil fuels. That’s based on current government policies to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels and other polluting activities.

But even keeping to 1.5C would still lead to continued melting of Greenland and Antarctica, as temperature changes can take centuries to have their full impact on such large masses of ice, the researchers say.

“Our key message is that limiting warming to 1.5C would be a major achievement - it should absolutely be our target - but in no sense will it slow or stop sea-level rise and melting ice sheets,” said lead author Prof Chris Stokes, a glaciologist at Durham University.

The 2015 Paris climate agreement saw the world’s nations agree to keep global temperature rises “well below” 2C - and ideally 1.5C.

That has often been oversimplified to mean 1.5C is “safe”, something glaciologists have cautioned against for years.

The authors of the new paper, published in the journal Communications Earth and Environment, draw together three main strands of evidence to underline this case.

First, records of the Earth’s distant past suggest significant melting - with sea levels several metres higher than present - during previous similarly warm periods, such as 125,000 years ago.

And the last time there was as much planet-warming carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as today - about 3 million years ago - sea levels were about 10-20m higher.

Second, current observations already show an increasing rate of melting, albeit with variation from year to year.

“Pretty dramatic things [are] happening in both west Antarctica and Greenland,” said co-author Prof Jonathan Bamber, director of the Bristol Glaciology Centre.

East Antarctica appears, for now at least, more stable.

“We’re starting to see some of those worst case scenarios

play out almost in front of us,” added Prof Stokes.

Finally, scientists use computer models to simulate how ice sheets may respond to future climate. The picture they paint isn’t good.

“Very, very few of the models actually show sea-level rise slowing down [if warming stabilises at 1.5C], and they certainly don’t show sea-level rise stopping,” said Prof Stokes.

The major concern is that melting could accelerate further beyond “tipping points” due to warming caused by humans - though it’s not clear exactly how these mechanisms work, and where these thresholds sit.

“The strength of this study is that they use multiple lines of evidence to show that our climate is in a similar state to when several metres of ice was melted in the past,” said Prof Andy Shepherd, a glaciologist at Northumbria University, who was not involved in the new publication.

“This would have devastating impacts on coastal com-

munities,” he added.

An estimated 230 million people live within one metre of current high tide lines.

Defining a “safe” limit of warming is inherently challenging, because some populations are more vulnerable than others.

But if sea-level rise reaches a centimetre a year or more by the end of the century - mainly because of ice melt and warming oceans - that could stretch even rich countries’ abilities to cope, the researchers say.

“If you get to that level, then it becomes extremely challenging for any kind of adaptation strategies, and you’re going to see massive land migration on scales that we’ve never witnessed [in modern civilisation],” argued Prof Bamber.

However, this bleak picture is not a reason to stop trying, they say.

“The more rapid the warming, you’ll see more ice being lost [and] a higher rate of sea-level rise much more quickly,” said Prof Stokes. - ONA

SPORTS

Gill takes over as India’s Test captain for England series

BCCI chief selector
Ajit Agarkar also
named Rishabh Pant
as the team’s new
vice-captain

MUMBAI: Shubman Gill was on Saturday named India's new Test captain following Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format.

The 25-year-old opener will begin his leadership tenure with the high-stakes five-Test series against England starting June 20 at Headingley, Leeds.

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been appointed vice-captain, ahead of Jasprit Bumrah, who led India in Rohit's absence previously but has been overlooked this time due to workload management.

"Obviously you don't pick captains for one or two tours," said Ajit Agarkar, chairman of the selection committee, announcing the decision at the BCCI headquarters.

"It's a big role, but we're investing in a long-term vision. Gill is young but mature beyond his years, and we're backing his leadership ability."

Gill has featured in 32 Tests since making his debut during the memorable 2020 Boxing Day Test at the MCG.

He has amassed 1,893 runs at an average of 35.05, but has struggled



outside Asia, averaging just 27.53 in away Tests.

His appointment marks a significant transition period for India, coming at a time when Rohit, Virat Kohli and R Ashwin have retired from the longest format.

"Everyone is going to be tested in England," said Agarkar. "But Gill has the temperament. He's also had some experience leading in the IPL and in T20Is."

Pant's promotion reflects his growing stature in the Indian Test setup after a remarkable return from injury earlier this year.

"He is one of our best batters over the past few years and will help Gill with his experience,"

Agarkar added.

As for Bumrah, the selection panel revealed he may not be available for all five Tests. "You want your best bowler fit," Agarkar stressed. "Captaincy takes a toll. We'd rather have him at his best with the ball than burdened with leadership."

"I don't think he's available for all five Tests. Again, that's what the physios and the doctors have told us. Whether it's four or three [Tests in England], we'll see how the series goes and how his body can take the workload," Agarkar said.

"Needless to say how important he is. Whether he is fit for three or

four Tests, he is going to win us a few Test matches. We're just glad that he is fit after the setback he had in Australia. He's back playing. I know it's T20 cricket at the moment, but we've seen what he is doing in the IPL. We're just happy he is part of the squad."

"I think he is more important to us as a player [than as a captain]."

India will begin their England tour with a four-day match against India A in Beckenham from June 13 to 16. The five Tests – at Headingley, Edgbaston, Lord's, Old Trafford and The Oval – will mark the start of India's campaign in the 2025-27 World Test Championship cycle. - Agencies

Sudharsan, Arshdeep earn maiden Test call-ups



MUMBAI: Tamil Nadu batter B Sai Sudharsan and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh have earned maiden Test call-ups as India announced their 18-member squad for the five-match Test series in England, starting June 20.

Middle-order batter Karun Nair and seam-bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur also return to the red-ball setup.

The selectors have turned to fresh faces as India begins its 2025-27 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. Mohammed Shami continues to miss out as he recovers from ankle surgery.

The batting unit is a blend of youth and experience, featuring captain Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, and Abhimanyu Easwaran, along with Sud-

harsan and Nair. Rishabh Pant, named vice-captain, will keep wickets, while Dhruv Jurel is the backup gloveman.

Notable omissions from the previous Border-Gavaskar squad include Sarfaraz Khan and Harshit Rana, while Devdutt Padikkal and Tanush Kotian, who were late additions during the Australia series, also miss out.

Squad: Shubman Gill (capt), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant (vc, wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Arshdeep Singh. - Agencies

IPL 2025

Kishan, SRH dent RCB’s hopes of top-two finish

LUCKNOW: Ishan Kishan found his lost form at the right moment, smashing an unbeaten 94 off 48 balls to lift Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to a formidable 231 for 6, before a disciplined bowling effort led by Pat Cummins and Es-han Malinga secured a 42-run win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Friday.

The defeat leaves RCB's hopes of a top-two finish in jeopardy, especially with Punjab Kings nipping at their heels and boasting a better net run rate.

The pitch at Lucknow looked challenging early, but Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma immediately flipped the script. Abhishek blasted 34 off 17 with three sixes before perishing while trying for a fourth. Head departed for 17, undone by a knuckleball from Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

But SRH didn't take their foot off the pedal. Heinrich Klaasen (24



off 13) and Aniket Verma (26 off 9) kept the tempo up, even if neither could carry on. SRH stood at 145/4 in the 12th over, and with wickets

tumbling, it was left to Kishan to anchor the innings.

Once a blazing opener, Kishan had struggled for consistency since his tournament-opening hundred. But here, he delivered a mature, calculated knock. He smashed five sixes and seven fours, expertly shepherding the lower order and accelerating when needed, especially in the death overs. He scored 54 of the last 86 runs SRH managed.

RCB's chase began brightly with Virat Kohli (43 off 25) and Phil Salt (62 off 32) keeping pace with the asking rate. However, once Mayank Agarwal fell in the 11th over to Nitish Kumar Reddy, the innings unravelled.

Brief scores: Sunrisers Hyderabad 231 for 6 (Kishan 94*, Abhishek 34, Shepherd 2-14, Krunal 1-38) beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru 189 (Salt 62, Kohli 43, Jitesh 24, Cummins 3-28, Malinga 2-37). - Agencies

PSL FINAL 2025

Lahore Qalandars set up title clash with Quetta Gladiators

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars produced a ruthless all-round display to hammer Islamabad United by 95 runs in the PSL eliminator on Friday, securing their place in the final against Quetta Gladiators. The final is scheduled to be played on Sunday.

Powered by rapid half-centuries from Kusal Perera (61 off 35) and Mohammad Naeem (50 off 25), Qalandars posted an imposing 202 for 8. Then, their left-arm pace pair—Shaheen Shah Afridi and Salman Mirza — shattered United's top order and hopes, bundling them out for just 107 in 15.1 overs.

Despite finishing fourth in the table, Qalandars have hit peak form at just the right time, winning three in a row to book a berth in the final.

Their batting never lost momentum, with boundaries coming in every phase. After Fakhar Zaman fell early, Naeem played



with stunning fluency—stroking six boundaries and a six inside the powerplay, racing to 34 off 14. Naeem's aggression didn't let up after the field restrictions eased, eventually departing for 50 in the ninth over.

Perera, meanwhile, launched

two glorious sixes off Naseem Shah in the final over, propelling Qalandars past the 200 mark.

Brief scores: Lahore Qalandars 202 for 8 (Kusal 61, Naeem 50, Mills 3-42) beat Islamabad United 107 (Salman 33, Afridi 3-3, Mirza 3-16). - Agencies

2025 FIA MIDDLE EAST RALLY: ROUND FOUR

Al Rawahi targets glory in Jordan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Rally Team star Abdullah Al Rawahi is eyeing a second outright victory in the Jordan Rally as he returns to action in Round 4 of the 2025 FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), to be held in the searing heat of the Dead Sea region from May 29 to 31.

The reigning regional champion will be reunited with his regular co-driver Ata Al Hmoud, with whom he won the rally in 2023 during their championship-winning campaign.

The Jordanian co-driver missed the previous round in Saudi Arabia due to the birth of his twins, during which Al Rawahi drove alongside British navigator Ross Whittock and secured a fifth-place finish in his Autotek Škoda Fabia RS.

With three rounds remaining—Jordan, Lebanon, and Cyprus — Al Rawahi currently sits third in the Drivers' Championship and is aiming to close the gap on front-runners Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah and Rakan Al Rashed.

"The Jordan Rally means a lot to me. This is where my rallying jour-



ney began - it's like a home rally," said Al Rawahi ahead of the two-day reconnaissance.

"We have a good chance to fight for the win. Last year, we were leading before we went off track and couldn't continue. This time, I feel more prepared. Ata is back and that adds immense value.

"We've been together since I started rallying. The stages are tough - narrow, slippery, and un-

forgiving. But we're ready to push." Co-driver Al Hmoud is equally determined to aim for the top step of the podium.

"We're going in with one goal: to win. Competing against drivers like Nasser in the Škoda RS, Rakan in the Toyota Yaris, and Abdulaziz in the Citroën - who all showed strong performances in WRC2 in Portugal won't be easy," Al Hmoud said.

"But we have the local experience. Weather will be a factor - it's scorching near the Dead Sea this time of year.

"I missed the Saudi round for a special reason - my wife gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl. Now, with more motivation, we'll give it everything."

Al Rawahi's Oman Rally Team is supported by Al Manar Investments, the Oman Automobile Association, WMS, Zamakan, OQ, Strike, Size, the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture of Oman, and National Finance.

The 2025 Jordan Rally features 12 special stages covering 196.30 competitive kilometres across the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley terrain. The terrain is known for its unforgiving gravel tracks, elevation changes, and soaring temperatures.

Championship leader Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah will start as the man to beat, having won the opening three rounds in Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

The Qatari driver enjoys a 31-point lead over Saudi Arabia's Rakan Al Rashed, while Al Rawahi trails in third with 66 points.

MERC: GROUP N

Al Zubair aims to close gap on Al Amri as duel heats up

MUSCAT: A fierce intra-Omani contest is set to unfold in the MERC2 (Group N) category of the Jordan Rally, with Zakaria Al Amri and Abdullah Al Zubair locked in a tight championship battle.

As the fourth round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC) kicks off this Friday, all eyes will be on the two Omani drivers who currently sit atop the MERC2 standings — Al Amri leading, with Al Zubair trailing by 15 points.

The rally, known for its punishing terrain and high attrition rate, will feature 12 demanding stages stretching across nearly 200 kilometres in the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley regions.

Against this dramatic backdrop, Al Zubair is looking to mount a serious challenge and chip away at Al Amri's lead.

Driving a Subaru Impreza N14 alongside experienced co-driver Taha Soomar, Al Zubair arrives in Jordan buoyed by a strong showing in the Saudi Rally.

Determined to carry that momentum forward, he's targeting



a top finish and valuable championship points.

Al Amri, partnered by Mohammed Al Mazrui in another Subaru Impreza (N14), is looking to maintain his slender advantage.

"Jordan's stages are challenging, but we're focused on staying ahead and managing our lead," said Al Amri.

He expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Oman Automobile Association, and Al Fayhaa Real Estate Development for their support.

Alongside Al Zubair and Al Amri, the third Omani driver, Abdullah Al Rawahi, completes the national trio taking part in this prestigious rally, marking a strong presence for the Sultanate in the MERC season.

IN PICTURES

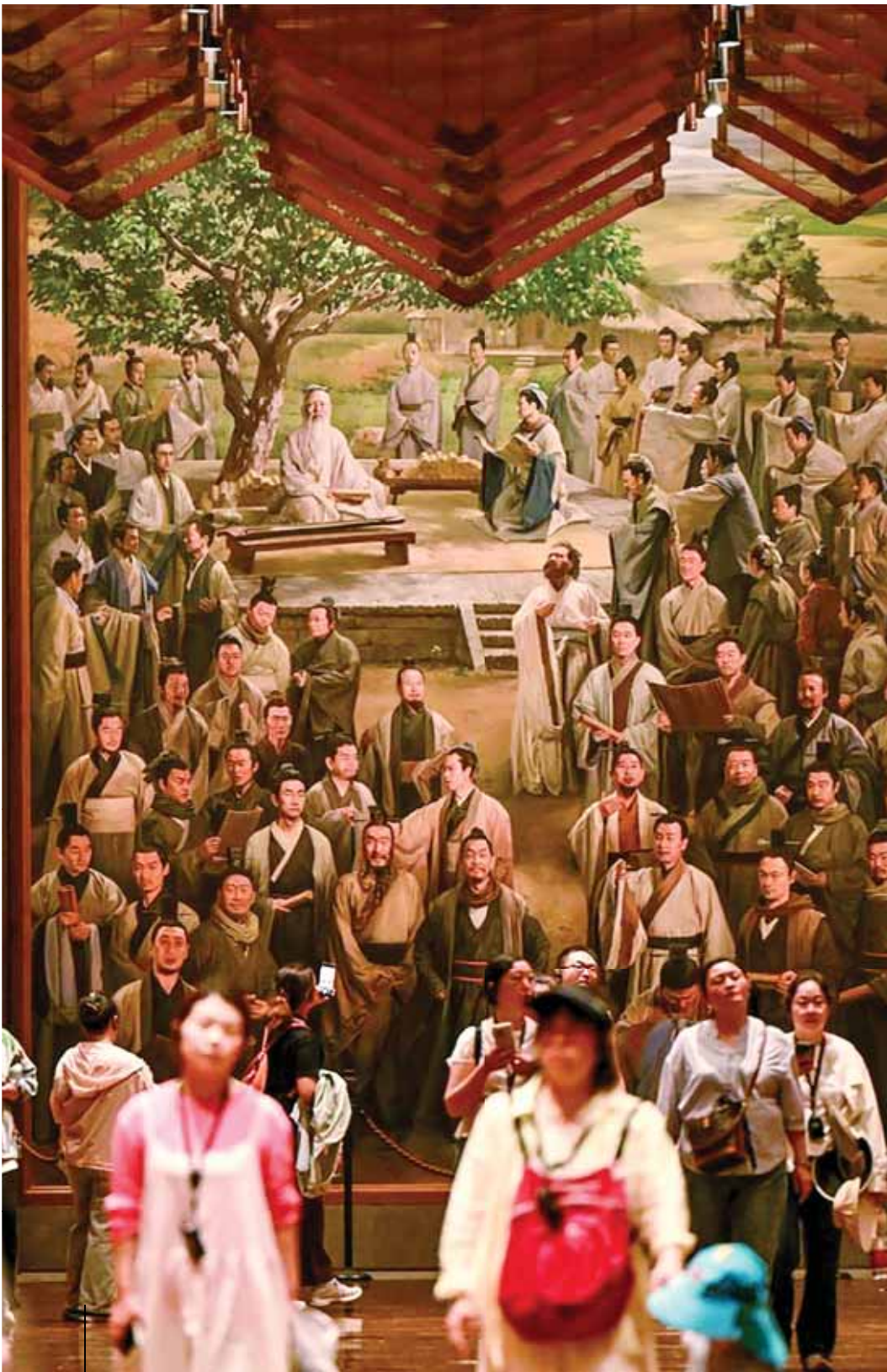


“Heavenly Melody: Echoes from the Grasslands” concert held in Benin
Members of the Nair Band perform in the Chinese Cultural Center of Benin, in Cotonou, Benin. A concert titled “Heavenly Melody: Echoes from the Grasslands”, featuring artists from north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Benin, in Cotonou. *Xinhua*



2025 International Cooking and Pastry Competition held in Seoul, South Korea
Visitors look at contestants’ works at the 2025 International Cooking and Pastry Competition in Seoul, South Korea. *Xinhua*

Three killed in police helicopter crash in Thailand
This picture shows the site of a police helicopter crash in Prachuap Khiri Khan province, Thailand, which killed three people, the Thai police said. *Xinhua*



Cultural tourism thrives in Confucius hometown
Tourists visit Nishan Sacredland scenic spot in Qufu, east China’s Shandong Province. Qufu, the birthplace of the renowned philosopher Confucius, has been blending Confucian culture with tourism, featuring a variety of art performances, exhibitions and folk culture activities, which attract many visitors each year. *Xinhua*



Pelicans fly over Diyawanna Lake in Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
Pelicans are seen flocking around the Diyawanna Lake in Battaramulla, Sri Lanka. *Xinhua*



Tourism year with special cultural performance launched
Artists perform during the official launch of Cambodia-China Tourism Year 2025 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Cambodia and China officially launched tourism year 2025 with a joint special cultural performance titled “Charming Jiangsu, Colorful Cambodia”. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Ministry of Labour honours Bank Muscat

This accolade acknowledges the bank’s outstanding efforts in facilitating the ministry’s electronic collection operations, which have streamlined and expedited banking transactions

MUSCAT: In recognition of its significant contributions to advancing digital transformation within the government services sector, the Ministry of Labour has honoured Bank Muscat.

This accolade acknowledges the bank's outstanding efforts in facilitating the ministry's electronic collection operations, which have streamlined and expedited banking transactions. The e-collection project, implemented by the government, aligns with the digital

transformation policy aimed at enhancing government performance and delivering high-quality, efficient services to beneficiaries.

On this occasion, Mohsen Bin Saif Al Maamari, Director General of Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Labour, expressed gratitude for Bank Muscat's pivotal role in executing the electronic payment collection project. He highlighted the success of this collaboration in saving time and effort, in line with contem-



porary digital trends. Al Maamari also praised the longstanding partnership between Bank Muscat and the Ministry of Labour, emphasizing their joint efforts to facilitate financial operations and improve service quality.

Abdulnaser N. Al Raisi, General Manager of Personal Banking at Bank Muscat, extended his appreciation to the Ministry of Labour for this recognition. He emphasized the Bank's commitment to investing in digital technology and modern information systems to

deliver optimal banking services and solutions to customers. Al Raisi reaffirmed the Bank's dedication to enhancing the readiness of its electronic channels and banking devices, enabling customers to conduct transactions swiftly and efficiently. He expressed pride in the honour bestowed by the Ministry of Labour and valued the ongoing collaboration with various government and private entities. He also thanked individual and corporate customers for their trust in Bank Muscat and its services.



SICO’s fixed income strategy wins Best MENA Fixed Income Fund Strategy

BAHRAIN: SICO BSC (c), a leading regional asset manager, broker, and investment bank, with direct presence in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, announced that it has been awarded the prestigious award of Best MENA Fixed Income Strategy over 1 Year for 2024 by Global Banking & Markets Middle East Awards. The strategy achieved a remarkable net return of 5.4% in 2024, significantly outperforming the FTSE MENA Broad Bond Index, which recorded a return of 3.4%. This recognition marks the second time that SICO has received this esteemed award, following their recognition in 2022.

As of March 2025, SICO has USD 7.9 billion in assets under management including six main GIPS Composites, alongside other customized management portfolios and three public funds in fixed income and money market strategies.

Ali Marshad, Group Head of Fixed Income Asset Management at SICO expressed his pride in receiving the award, saying, “We are honoured to have once again received this prestigious recognition, which reflects our commitment to excellence in delivering value to our clients. This achievement is a testament to our investment philosophy, strong trading infrastructure, and dedicated team, especially in a year that proved challenging for this asset class. Additionally, our strategic presence in Saudi Arabia through SICO Capital further enhances our ability to support clients in the region and drive impactful investment outcomes. Our goal is to build on this success by helping our clients achieve consistent and sustainable above-average returns, ensuring they benefit from our expertise in the evolving market landscape, while offering better protection on the downside.”

Manuel Al Mutawa, Vice President of Fixed Income Asset Management at SICO, highlighted the strategic approach that led to this success, commenting, “What helped us last year despite the market volatility was that we focused on maintaining a neutral duration with a skew towards non-investment grade assets, an overweight position in Egypt and Saudi, as well as particular security selection in high-yield corporates. Our regional diversification and active management allowed us to capture attractive opportunities across both sovereign and quasi-sovereign and corporate issuers, while maintaining a strong risk-adjusted return profile for our clients.”

“Congratulations to SICO on this well-deserved recognition,” said Victoria Behn, Managing Director of Global Banking & Markets. “In a year defined by volatility and uncertainty, SICO Asset Management’s Fixed Income Fund has stood out as a beacon of stability and skill. SICO proved its tactical excellence across MENA’s complex debt landscape. With active positioning across sovereign and corporate bonds, a sharp focus on liquidity, and rigorous credit discipline, SICO managed to protect capital while capturing upside. In a market where preservation and performance rarely align, SICO’s Fixed Income strategy is the clear choice for Best MENA Fixed Income Fund, 1 Year.”

LUCKY WINNER

Ramadan Kia EV6 raffle winner announced

MUSCAT: Recently, Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the official distributor of Kia in Oman, announced the winner of the EV6 grand raffle.

The raffle winner announcement concludes Kia's Ramadan Campaign. Hailing from Nizwa, Ghusan Saleh Khamis Al Busaidi, the lucky winner is a proud owner of the EV6 – Kia's All-electric crossover utility vehicle.

Set inside the Kia Showroom, the Raffle draw winner was selected from various customer entries across Oman.

“Kia offers modern, intelligent and premium vehicles that meet the diverse needs of today's customers,” An official from RIA commented “The Kia EV6 is one of Kia's first all-electric utility vehicles. Based on Kia's advanced Electric-Global Modular Platform, the EV6 offers ultra-fast

charging capabilities that make long trips and everyday use easier than ever.” He shared.

“This was unexpected. I purchased a Kia vehicle during the Ramadan Campaign and participated in the lucky draw,” the winner exclaimed “This is the beginning of a new journey for us as a family. Electric Vehicles are just gaining momentum in the market, and I'm beyond excited to be a part of such a revolution. The support received from the Kia team has been overwhelming,” he shared.

Kia offers Manufacturer's warranty of 5 years/100,000 kms on the EV's conventional parts and an 8-year or 160,000km (whichever is earlier) on the EV battery.

Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman, provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers.



INDIAN SCHOOL BOUSER



Investiture ceremony marks commitment and courage

MUSCAT: In a solemn and dignified event held in the school auditorium, Indian School Bousher organized its Investiture Ceremony 2025–2026, marking the official induction of the newly elected Student Council. The ceremony was attended by Captain Harish Srinivasan, Defence Advisor, India to Oman, as the Chief Guest, a distinguished leader known for his discipline, vision, and unwavering commitment to service.

The ceremony commenced with the reverberating notes of the Royal Anthem of Oman followed by the National Anthem of India, setting a tone of pride and unity. This was followed by Radiant Reverence, the ceremonial lamp lighting and a soulful prayer song, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and the ushering in

of wisdom and knowledge.

In a vibrant interlude titled “Leading the Rhythm of Change”, the students presented a spirited dance performance, celebrating the dynamism and energy of youth stepping into leadership.

The highlight of the ceremony was the Induction of the Student Council Members from both the Secondary and Middle Sections. A heartwarming segment followed—the Induction of Class Blossoms from the Preparatory Stage—an initiative that aims to sow the seeds of leadership early, empowering even the youngest learners to take pride in responsibility. With firm voices and resolute minds, they took the Student Council Oath, solemnly pledging to uphold the values of leadership, service, and integrity.

HEALTHCARE

Burjeel Cancer Institute opens new centre in Oman to expand advanced cancer care

MUSCAT: As part of expanding its advanced cancer care services, Burjeel Cancer Institute (BCI), one of the largest cancer care networks in the UAE, has launched its first center in Oman. The new center at Burjeel Hospital Al Khuwair, Muscat, marks a major milestone in Burjeel Holdings' ongoing commitment to making specialised oncology services more accessible across the GCC.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr Adil Saleh Al Ansari, MD, Assistant Director General Private Health Establishments at the Ministry of Health, Oman; Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, Founder and Chairman of Burjeel Holdings; John Sunil, Group CEO of Burjeel Holdings; Prof. Humaid Al Shamsi, CEO of BCI; Dr. Suad Alkharusi, Senior consultant Medical oncologist, Director of the National Oncology Center, Royal Hospital; Dr Abeer Anwar Abdullah Al Saegh, MD, Senior Consultant in Medical and Cancer Genetics In-Charge of Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre, University Medical City; Dr. Taha Mohsin Juma Al Lawati, Vice President of the Oman Medical



Association, and Founder of the Oman Society of Oncology; Dr. Ismail Al Abri, Consultant Interventional Electrophysiologist, Deputy Director for Medical Affairs, Royal Hospital; Dr. Mohammed Al Lamki, Senior Oncology Pharmacist, Head Of Department of National Oncology Centre Pharmacy, Senior Oncology Pharmacist at the National Oncology Center, Royal Hospital; Dr Adil Al Jarrah Al Ajmi, Senior Consultant and Head of the Breast Program at SQCCCRC; Dr. Nihal Afifi, Senior Specialist Family Physician, Ministry of Health, Head of School for the University and Adolescent Health Section; and Dr. Ibrahim Abu Gheida, Med-

ical Director of BCI.

During the launch, Dr Sultan Salim Al Harthy, Director of Treatment Abroad at Ministry of Health emphasized the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors in developing unified cancer management policies. He noted that this initiative will improve patient care and contribute to building a sustainable healthcare system in Oman.

The new center complements BCI's integrated network in the UAE, which includes its flagship facility at Burjeel Medical City (BMC) in Abu Dhabi and recently launched centers in Sharjah and Al Ain. Equipped with state-of-the-art

diagnostic and treatment technologies and staffed by a multidisciplinary team of specialists, the Muscat center is designed to provide advanced cancer diagnostics, treatment, and procedures, eliminating the need for patients to travel abroad. Global experts at BMC will support in handling complex cases.

Prof. Humaid Al Shamsi added that the launch reflects Burjeel's mission to make high-quality care accessible to all cancer patients. “We aim to provide timely, advanced, and compassionate care to ensure that every patient has access to world-class treatments closer to home. By expanding our network, we are bringing cutting-edge oncology services to more communities and supporting patients at every stage of their journey with expertise, compassion, and hope.”

Core services include adult and pediatric oncology, surgical oncology, hematology-oncology, bone marrow transplantation, plastic surgery, and breast reconstruction. The center also provides comprehensive support through dedicated teams for chemotherapy, psychological care, rehabilitation, and other specialized services.

OMR 50 ONLY

Hot & Cold Dispenser
+2 Full Bottles
+30 Refill Coupons

OMR 20 ONLY

White Tap Dispenser
or Tap Dispenser
or Manual Water Pump
or Cradle with Tap
+2 Full Bottles
+15 Refill Coupons

EXCLUSIVE
Ramadan and Eid Offer

Promotion duration: 1st March to 10th June 2025

800 71 222
9275 5522

Enroll Now

oman
OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Eid Al-Adha

SPECIAL PRICE OFFER

25 | 26 | 27 MAY 2025

Limited
Stocks



All new

T90

PREMIUM MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 158hp,
7-speed DCT

L x W x H (mm): 4800 x 1915 x 1685

NOW

OMR **7,700***



NOW

OMR **7,150***



T77 PRO

DELUX MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 168hp,
7-speed DCT

L x W x H (mm): 4718 x 1880 x 1710



B70S

PREMIUM MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 158hp,
7-speed DCT

L x W x H (mm): 4555 x 1850 x 1515

NOW

OMR **7,450***



NOW

OMR **7,150***



B70

COMFORT MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 165hp,
7-speed DCT

L x W x H (mm): 4810 x 1840 x 1455

MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY

6 YEARS or 250,000 KMS#

*Terms and Conditions Apply. #Whichever is earlier. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. Specifications & features are subject to change at the manufacturer's discretion. Voice & AI enabled features may not work in GCC. For more information, please visit the BESTUNE Showroom.

Gulf Great Sands LLC

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

SHOWROOMS: **Al Qurum 79999073, Sohar 95499001**

SALES CENTRES : Mawaleh 79913320, Barka 95332787, Sur 95500965, Ibri 79326176, Nizwa 94962202, Salalah 96562624

800 50800

bestuneoman
bestune-oman.com